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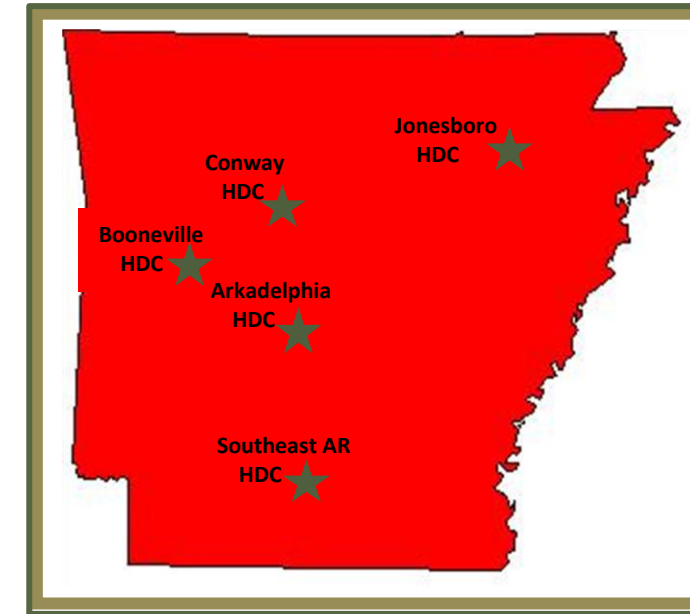
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Arkansas' Human Development Centers are in need of your attention!



"These specialized centers are absolute life-lines to many severely disabled individuals and they provide a foundational basis for Arkansas' human services system."

A Presentation to: ALC- Hospital & Medicaid Study Sub-Committee

January 8, 2014

By:
**Families & Friends of Care
Facility Residents (FF/CFR)**
In Support of Arkansas' Human Development Centers

*This material has been prepared and paid for with funds from Families & Friends of Care Facility Residents.
Neither State funds, nor HDC funds were used in the printing of this material.*

Together We Make A Difference!

What Legislators really need to know - Our loved ones depend on you!



WE ASK YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) Adoption of an Amended DHS Budget (2014-2015) to provide funds to address the physical plant needs at the human development centers and to begin the needed upgrades at Booneville HDC;
- 2) Review by the appropriate legislative committees of all federal incentive grants which the state has accepted or for which it plans to apply (2007- 2014). How will the federal grants' requirements affect Arkansas DHS policies, particularly what will be the effect of the grants on the human development centers and their vulnerable residents;
- 3) Transparency in the formulation of the state's human services policies and programs; HDC families want to be involved in the state's initiatives designed to bring changes in Arkansas' Medicaid programs for people with cognitive-developmental disabilities. In particular, we want an understanding of the role of the HDCs in the human services system.

FACTS ABOUT THE ARKANSAS HDC PROGRAMS:

- There are five state-operated Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities ("ICFs/IID") in the state of Arkansas. In our state, these Medicaid-certified licensed facilities are called Human Development Centers (HDCs). HDCs serve over 900 individuals who come from ALL counties in Arkansas for the specialized care which their severe and complex conditions require.
- HDC residents are the most medically fragile and vulnerable of the citizens with developmental disabilities. Over 65% function in the profound range of cognition; another 18% function in the severe range of cognition. These individuals have no self-preservation skills. Most residents are non-verbal or can only express their hurts and needs with great difficulty and in limited ways. HDC services include residential, habilitation, rehabilitation, medical, dental, prescription drugs, transportation, oversight and monitoring, social work, occupational, physical, and speech therapies, psychology, and community development & outreach services.
- HDCs are licensed by CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services); accredited by the Arkansas Office of Long Term Care; and are also accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), an independent, non-profit organization that provides accreditation services worldwide. HDC programs receive approximately \$3 federal dollars for every \$1 state dollar spent.
- Parents/Guardians/Friends work together through our statewide parent/guardian association to support HDC programs. We will forever be grateful for the life-saving HDC programs. We vigorously object and oppose activities which are designed to undermine and destroy these vital services.

SOLUTIONS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THE HDCS

In order for some of Arkansas' most vulnerable citizens to continue to receive needed services we ask Legislators to review the actual supports for Human Development Centers in our state. Currently, adequate funds for upgrades and replacement of buildings at the five HDCs are urgently needed. Particularly, the oldest center, the Booneville HDC, is in urgent need of attention and funding.

Families & Friends of Care Facility Residents (FF/CFR)

WHO WE ARE:

FF/CFR is a volunteer organization, comprised of families, guardians and friends of people with intellectual developmental disabilities, most of whom live in one of Arkansas' five HDCs. We are a 501c3 non-profit corporation, and have no paid staff (we advocate at our own expense). We do not employ a lobbyist, and we are dedicated to securing, maintaining and improving services for Arkansans with all levels of intellectual developmental disabilities. We advocate for a full range of services and a full continuum of living arrangements.

The parents, guardians, families, and friends of Arkansas' five Human Development Centers state our continued support of these vital centers. Our loved ones who reside in the Human Development Centers (HDCs) have critical needs that can only be met there. Many of the individuals living there are very health-fragile and need the intricate care and safety that only the HDCs can offer.

Families and guardians face a difficult decision when looking for the best possible care for their loved ones with developmental disabilities – it is a personal choice. Therefore, we have chosen the best care by choosing the HDCs.

Our families' interests are strongly rooted in common sense and personal experience, and we, therefore, advocate for our loved ones.

While many individuals in our local schools are learning calculus, literature, and speech, our loved ones are learning to hold a spoon, feed themselves, how to button a shirt, how to tolerate a crowd, and just to say the word "Momma".

Arkansas has accepted the responsibility of caring for some of its most vulnerable citizens in the State's Human Development Centers. Many of the residents not only have intellectual disabilities, but, also additional diagnoses. We trust their lives and care to the trained staff of the HDCs.

We appreciate Governor Mike Beebe's support, and our Legislators' support of our loved ones' homes and community. It is their life line!!

Arkansas Victory Over the U.S. Department of Justice!

On June 8, 2011, the DOJ lawsuit against the Conway Human Development Center was dismissed! In an 85-page ruling, Judge Leon Holmes found that the DOJ failed to prove its claims that the CHDC violated its residents' rights. He also noted that "community placement" is a term that implies a more integrated, less restrictive setting than does the term "institution," but it does not follow from the use of these terms that a resident automatically will have a greater degree of interaction in community placement, i.e., with a waiver provider, than in an institution such as a Human Development Center. The evidence established that residents of Conway Human Development Center do interact with nondisabled persons - the Center is not a prison with inmates barred from interaction with the outside world; and conversely, the evidence establishes that placement with a waiver provider does not guarantee any amount of interaction with nondisabled persons.

(page 81 of the ruling, citing *Olmstead*, "[DOJ] Failed to prove that Conway Human Development Center is not the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of any specific resident.")