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January 17, 2014



Speaking out for people with  
intellectual & developmental  
disabilities



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**Reminders:  
Help VOR Grow!**

## VOR Weekly News Update

*News and views for VOR Advocates*

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[Registration is now open for VOR's Annual  
Conference and Initiative. Details are  
available on VOR's Website.](#)

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## About VOR

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#### **7. Residential Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental**

**Disabilities: Status and Trends Through Fiscal Year 2011 - National Residential Information Systems Project (RISP)**

**Quotable**, by *William Simms*

**Coming soon:** A detailed overview and analysis of the recently released federal rule defining home and community based settings (see overview, below); and **Speaker Features** - more about the terrific speakers who will make [VOR's Annual Conference](#) great.

### **Calendar Reminders**

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#### **VOR and You**

**1. Registration now open for VOR's 2014 Annual Conference and Initiative: Please join us!**

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***Encouraging, inspiring, interesting, and empowering.***

These are just a few words used by past Annual Conference and Initiative participants to describe VOR's annual event in Washington, D.C.

Events for this year's Annual Conference and Initiative will begin on Saturday, June 7. To see a detailed event agenda, including overall schedule and conference speakers, or to register (online or print form), please visit [VOR's website](#).

Networking doesn't get any better than this. Please plan to join choice advocates in Washington, D.C. in June. We hope to see you there!

For more information, visit [VOR's Event Section](#) on our website, or contact Tamie Hopp at [thopp@vor.net](mailto:thopp@vor.net) or 605-399-1624 direct.

## About VOR

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2. Reminder: [VOR's Nominating Committee seeks individuals interested in serving on the VOR Board](#) - Deadline is January 20, 2013

### Federal News

3. Long-Awaited Medicaid Home and Community-Based Rules Finalized

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***Coming soon: A more detailed overview and analysis.***

On January 10, 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a long-awaited [final rule \(regulation\)](#) about home and community-based services (HCBS) provided through Medicaid's 1915(c) HCBS Waiver program, 1915(i) HCBS State Plan Option, and 1915(k) Community First Choice. The final rule is the result of multiple proposed rules and public comments over the past five years.

The rule and related CMS fact sheets are available at [www.medicaid.gov/HCBS](http://www.medicaid.gov/HCBS).

The rule defines what CMS considers characteristics of community living and vocational opportunities for people with developmental disabilities for the purpose of receiving Medicaid HCBS 1915(c),(i), and (k) funding.

Medicaid Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICFs/IID) are not *directly* affected by this rule. As noted by CMS in the preamble of the Rule, "Medicaid services are available in a variety of settings. This rule sets forth requirements that must be met for individuals to receive services under sections 1915(i),(c) and (k) of the Act." States still have the discretion to determine the number of ICFs/IID in their states.

The sets forth person-centered planning

requirements and states that, “[w]here state law confers decision-making authority to a legal representative, such as a guardian, that individual may direct the person-centered planning process on behalf of the individual.”

In addition to establishing HCBS criteria, the rule allows states to combine Medicaid beneficiaries based on functional need rather than diagnosis. This offers administrative convenience to states which can now have one HCBS program for mixed populations (e.g., serving aged, I/DD, physically disabled, and/or mentally ill with a single waiver).

### **State News**

#### **4. New Jersey: Plan to keep developmental center residents in Woodbridge may not be feasible if level of care can't be met, relatives say; Maintaining federal standards of care could be difficult at the site**

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***MyCentralNJ.Com* \* January 12, 2014**

WOODBIDGE — With New Jersey planning to close the Woodbridge Developmental Center, some state officials want the center’s developmentally challenged residents to continue to be able to call this 25-square-mile community home.

The state Senate recently approved a bill, sponsored by state Sen. Joseph F. Vitale, D-19th, designed to ensure developmental center residents transition into the community. The bill now goes to the Assembly for further consideration.

“The residents of the Woodbridge Developmental Center are valued members of the Woodbridge community, and it is important that we try to find housing for them in the town that many of them have lived in for years,” said Vitale, whose legislative district includes Woodbridge. “I have long advocated for the

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need to create integrated community housing for people with disabilities. It is my hope that this project will be developed in such a way as to become a model within the state.”

And while living near family members is key for relatives of the developmental center residents, so, too, is the federal level of care, something the president of the Woodbridge Developmental Center parents’ group isn’t assured can be provided in a community special-needs setting.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

## **5. Wyoming: Joint Labor and Health Committee opts not to support bill that would sell the current Wyoming Life Resource Center property and seek replacement site**

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**County 10 \* January 12, 2013**

(Lander, Wyo.) - The Wyoming Legislature’s Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Interim Committee declined on Friday to put its support behind a draft bill that would sell the current Wyoming Life Resource Center property near Lander and construct a new facility.

Rep. Lloyd Larsen, R-Lander, confirmed to County10.com that Committee Co-Chairman Rep. Elaine Harvey’s motion to approve the bill that she sponsored was not seconded and therefore not voted upon.

However, Larsen said there seems to be more support behind a plan to possibly consolidate the Lander facilities, remodel some buildings and construct other new ones.

Last year, the Legislature commissioned a facilities study of all of the Wyoming Department of Health’s locations across the state, including the WLRC.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

## 6. California: Can the Sonoma Developmental Center be saved?

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***Sonoma Valley Sun* \* January 9, 2014**

Recently, a woman entered the lobby of the Sonoma Developmental Center Administration Building to keep an appointment with the director. She noticed an elderly man standing there holding a small structure (a birdcage?) made of twigs. He saw her, put down the handiwork, rushed toward her, and folding her in a hug, exclaimed happily, "Mom! You've come!" Then, looking over her shoulder, he asked eagerly, "Where's my dad?"

The woman, to whom this man was a complete stranger, felt somehow compelled to hug him back.

[Read more, comment and share](#)

### **Research Resource**

## 7. Residential Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: Status and Trends Through Fiscal Year 2011 - National Residential Information Systems Project (RISP)

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For over 20 years, the National Residential Information Systems Project has been collecting and disseminating annually, national and state statistics on public and private residential services, Medicaid program utilization, expenditures, and more.

[Download Status and Trends through 2011 \(published in 2013\)](#)

[View/Download Older RISP reports](#)

### ***Quotable***

***"Our true acquisitions lie only in our charities; we get only as we give." ~ William Simms***

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**Calendar Reminders:**  
**Tuesday, March 25, 2014**

[AHCA/NCAL's fifth annual "ID/DD Residential Services Providers Hill Fly-In."](#) Questions? Dana Halvorson, [dhalvorson@ahca.org](mailto:dhalvorson@ahca.org).

**June 8, 2014**

**VOR 2014 Annual Conference and Initiative:**

*"Making it Happen: Reforming Policy and Law in Support of Person-Centered Quality and Choice"; Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C.*

**Register today!**

**Week of June 9, 2013**

**VOR 2014 Congressional Initiative:** Families and advocates visit Capitol Hill.

**Sunday, October 5, 2014**

American Health Care Association's 2014 ID/DD Residential Services Day during AHCA/NCAL's 65th Annual Convention & Expo at the Gaylord National Harbor just outside of Washington, DC. Registration will open in Spring 2014.

**Archives**

**\*Social Media Strengths: Using Facebook and Twitter to Advance Your Cause (VOR, July 2013).** [Visit VOR's website for a copy of the powerpoint presentation and an audio of the event.](#)

**\* How Congress Works Webinar:** [Recorded - Listen Here.](#) Tuesday, April 23, 2013 - 12:00 pm central / 1:00 pm eastern. How Congress Works: The Basics. Hosted by Peter Kinzler and Larry Innis.

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