



Speaking out for people with
intellectual and developmental
disabilities

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VOR Weekly News Update

News and views for VOR advocates

VOR is a national organization that advocates for high
quality care and human rights for people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities

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*Official press release re: Cristy Dwyer's academic
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VOR and You

1. Holiday shop early and benefit VOR!
Celebrating Home – Bringing Families Together
Fundraiser

VOR is a national, 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to advocate for high quality care and human rights for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD).

We are pleased to announce a partnership with *Celebrating Home*, a company which sells candles, candle holders, gift wrap, cookbooks, and more. Celebrating Home products make great gifts for family and friends.

Here's the best part: VOR will receive 50% of all sales!

Here's how to get started with the Celebrating Home – Bringing Families Together online fundraiser:

a. [Visit the Celebrating Home/VOR Awareness Event website](#)

b. Register as a Participant (lower left on page)

c. After you register, you will have access to the VOR Awareness Campaign shopping page to begin shopping and also to share with friends, family, staff, advocates and others via email, Facebook, twitter and more. You'll receive an email from Celebrating Home with the same link and information to make sharing with friends and family very easy.

d. Start shopping! When you and your friends purchase from VOR's link, **VOR will receive 50% of all sales!**

The Holidays are right around the corner. Start shopping and benefit VOR at the same time. VOR's Celebrating Home – Bringing Families Together is a terrific revenue and awareness opportunity for VOR and a great VOR Awareness tool.

As a VOR member, you know that VOR is the only national voice for residential choice and have been for 29 years. Without adequate funding, VOR would not exist. **Help us remain a strong and effective voice.**

Please participate in [Celebrating Home – Bringing Families Together](#) by shopping for yourself and spreading the word.

Our goal is to raise \$5,000 towards the work of VOR. With your help we'll meet and exceed this goal.

Thank you for supporting VOR and happy shopping!

Sincerely,

Julie Huso

Executive Director

2. Make a Lasting Impact with a Will Bequest

Will bequests are the most popular and personal way to making a difference beyond your lifetime. A bequest is a charitable gift to be delivered when you pass. You can direct a will bequest by simply providing the sample language below:

"I give to VOR, an Illinois corporation, Arlington Heights, Illinois, the sum of \$_____ (or _____ percent of the remainder of my estate) to be used by VOR for its unrestricted purposes."

If you would like additional information please contact Julie Huso at jhuso@vor.net or 605-370-4652

ELECTION YEAR OPPORTUNITY

3. Presidential Forum To Address Disability Issues

***Disability Scoop* * September 13, 2012**

The event sponsored by more than 50 disability organizations from across the country is being billed as the only one of the presidential campaign to look exclusively at the candidates' views on issues pertaining to Americans with disabilities.

[Read more](#)

STATE NEWS

4. MASSACHUSETTS: Rep. Haddad endorses independent study for Glavin Center

COFAR Blog (by David Kassel) * September 12, 2012

House Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad, who just spearheaded a successful effort to block the immediate closure of Taunton State Hospital, supports undertaking an independent study prior to the closure of the state-run Glavin Regional Center in Shrewsbury for persons with intellectual disabilities.

Speaking at a meeting Tuesday at the State House attended by Glavin family members, legislators and their staffs, and officials of the Department of Developmental Services, Haddad said the independent study should cover "the entire DMH (Department of Mental Health) and DDS system."

"Someone has to be the first to say we're not afraid to have an outside study done to tell us what's wrong and what's right," Haddad said. She maintained that

internal studies done by the administration that showed a savings in closing Glavin and other developmental centers in Massachusetts "are asking people to trust the results."

[Read more and comment](#)

5. VERMONT. sees growing hospital emergency room use for psychiatry

***Associated Press* * September 11, 2012**

The number of mentally ill Vermonters being held in hospital emergency rooms for lack of a mental health bed is "heading in the wrong direction," the state's top mental health official told lawmakers Tuesday.

Mental Health Commissioner Patrick Flood told the Legislature's Joint Mental Health Oversight Committee that instances in which mental health beds weren't available and patients were held in hospital emergency rooms grew from 15 in June to 22 in July and 24 in August.

A shortage of places for people in mental health crisis to stay and get treatment has been a big problem for the state since flooding from Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011 forced the closing of the 52-bed Vermont State Hospital in Waterbury.

Since then, state officials have been scrambling to tool up a new system to include a new, 25-bed hospital in Berlin and smaller psychiatric units in regional hospitals around the state. But the smaller units are coming on line gradually; six beds in Rutland are expected to be available by February, and the Berlin hospital's opening is likely at least a year away.

[Read more](#)

RESEARCH NEWS

6. National Study: Dangerous Caregivers - Agencies place unqualified, possibly criminal caregivers in homes of vulnerable seniors

Northwestern University News Center * July 10, 2012

A troubling new national study finds many agencies recruit random strangers off Craigslist and place them in the homes of vulnerable elderly people with dementia, don't do national criminal background checks or drug testing, lie about testing the qualifications of caregivers and don't require any experience or provide real training.

The study was published in the July 13 issue of the Journal of American Geriatrics Society.

[Read press release](#)

[Read study abstract](#) (The scope of the study was a cross-sectional cohort of agencies supplying paid caregivers to older adults in Illinois, California, Florida, Colorado, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Indiana).

VOR Note: We will encourage the study's authors to consider a similar study of caregivers for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ICFs/MR as Inclusive Communities

7. MASSACHUSETTS: 32nd Annual Cracker Barrel Fair Returns

Wrentham Patch * September 14, 2012

For the 32nd year, the Cracker Barrel Fair has returned to Wrentham at the fairgrounds at the Wrentham Developmental Center.

Throughout the entire fair, there will be hayrides pulled by an antique tractor. Norfolk Country 4-H clubs will host various agricultural exhibits. There will be craft displays by local artisans, magicians, animal shows, jugglers and face painters throughout the weekend as well as opportunities to enjoy a variety of cuisine as the foot booths.

[Read more](#)

Related: [ICFs as Inclusive Communities](#) (VOR)

QUOTABLE

"There is no traffic jam on the extra mile." ~ - Zig Ziglar

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