

MISSOURI STATE REPORT

VOR 2019

Mary A. Vitale
mvitale50@charter.net

1335 Redbird Drive

Florissant MO 63031

NO NEW ADMISSIONS POLICY IN MISSOURI

Missouri has had a policy of no new admissions to state run ICFs/IID (called habilitation centers in Missouri) since 2008.

Families do call habilitation centers for assistance with placement, but have to be directed to our Regional Office that only places persons in the community.

The current habilitation centers are: Bellefontaine, Higginsville, South County, St. Charles, and Southeast Missouri Resident Services at Poplar Bluff/Sikeston.

Since 2010 the Nevada, Northwest and Marshall Habilitation centers have been closed.

With the no new admissions policy, the populations of the habilitation centers is becoming less and less as older residents are passing away.

Family organizations have met with the Missouri Department of Mental Health about opening up admissions, but have not yet been successful.

REVISIONS TO MISSOURI GUARDIANSHIP LAW

Missouri Senate Bill 806, relating to revisions of guardianship and conservatorship proceedings, was passed by the Legislature in May 2018 and signed into law on June 1, 2018.

The 2011 National Guardianship Summit Standards and Recommendations were used as a guideline to the Missouri revisions. Supported-decision-making as an option or as a replacement of guardianship is part of these recommendations. www.naela.org/NGN

The Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed SB806 updated guardianship law can be found at:
<https://www.senate.mo.gov/18info/pdf-bill/tat/SB806.pdf>

Included in the updated law is the consideration of alternatives to guardianship, including supported decision making agreements.

ALTERNATIVES TO GUARDIANSHIP PROMOTED IN MISSOURI

Organizations have been promoting the revised Missouri guardianship law that encourages the Supported Decision Making alternative to court appointed guardianship.

The Arc of Missouri held their Annual Educational Summit on Tuesday, September 11, 2018. Topics covered included guardianship and Supported Decision Making.

The Missouri Symposium on Supported Decision Making by UMKC Institute for Human Development was held on September 12, 2018. The symposium was part of statewide efforts to implement Supported Decision Making in Missouri.

The keynote speaker at each conference was Jonathan Martinis, Esq., J.D., the Senior Director of Law & Policy at Burton Blatt Institute, and Project Director for the National Resource Center for Supported Decision Making in Syracuse, NY. Mr. Martinis is a staunch proponent of Supported Decision Making, speaking at several events across the country.

FAMILIES ENCOURAGED TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT CURRENT ISSUES AND TO TAKE ACTION

As always Missouri families are encouraged to advocate for the residents of habilitation centers in Missouri.