

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF SERVICE AT BELLEFONTAINE HABILITATION CENTER

This year, 2024, marks **100 years** of providing services to people with intellectual disabilities at the Bellefontaine Habilitation Center in St. Louis, Missouri!

The Parent's Association has been active for nearly 60 of those years advocating for the best services to meet the needs of their family members.

NO NEW ADMISSIONS POLICY IN MISSOURI

Missouri has had a policy of no new admissions to state run Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with and Intellectual Disability (ICFs/IID) (called habilitation centers in Missouri) since 2008.

Families, hospitals, and other social agencies do call habilitation centers for assistance with placement, but have to be directed to our Regional Office that only place persons in the community.

The current habilitation centers are: Bellefontaine, Higginsville, South County, St. Charles, and Southeast Missouri Resident Services at Poplar Bluff/Sikeston. The census of the habilitation centers continues to dwindle as older residents are passing away.

Family organizations continue to meet with the Missouri Department of Mental Health about opening up admissions, especially for older adults with intellectual disabilities so that they don't end up in nursing homes without the special care they need.

No new admissions in habilitation centers means that some people in need of services are suffering. They are stuck in hospitals, prisons, or are homeless on the streets not getting the help they need.

CRISIS CARE AT HABILITATION CENTERS

Habilitation centers do have some short-term admissions only. Currently, about 30 individuals needed crisis care as the community provider, Equilibrium, was shut down by the Department of Mental Health. They were placed in several different habilitation centers across the state until community placement is available.

STAFF SHORTAGE

Staff shortages in the Missouri Department of Mental Health means that some people in need of services are suffering. They are stuck in hospitals, prisons, or are homeless on the streets not getting the help they need.

In 2022 Department of Mental Health (DMH), Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD), developed *Missouri Talent Pathways*, a registered apprentice program to recruit and retain a highly skilled and dedicated workforce. Participants receive a certificate as a Certified Direct Support Professional

in 2023 state employees received an 8.7 percent increase in pay and in 2024 the increase was 3.5 percent. Although the raises are appreciated some Missouri lawmakers see the raises as a bare minimum of what's needed.

MISSOURI ADVOCACY TO RETAIN 14C CERTIFICATES of the FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

Many federal agencies are promoting the elimination of 14c certificates that allow paying wages based upon productivity. Eliminating these special wages would put many sheltered workshops out of business. Missouri continues to advocate for retaining 14c certificates. For more information, go to:

Missouri Association of Sheltered Workshops at <https://www.moworkshops.org/index.html>