

LOUISIANA STATE REPORT 2025

By Terry Lafleur and Casey Henry

So far Louisiana has not had any issues that affect our ICF. We do have support from our Governor and local state representatives and Senators.

We feel our trip to Washington this year for our VOR conference was productive. Our main concern, of course, continues to be proposed cuts to Medicaid. We were told cuts would not affect our ICF, focus is fraud and misuse of Medicaid by some. We invite every office to come visit our facility and take a tour to see what we offer.

Louisiana Congressman Cleo Fields, from Congressional district 6, wrote a letter to the New Orleans Times Picayune concerning how proposed cuts would be bad for our IDD residents and mentioned our facility, Pinecrest. He heard our concerns.

This adds to what we are always telling our parents--- stay in touch with our reps both in Baton Rouge and Washington D.C.

We are very fortunate we have an Administrator at Pinecrest who keeps finding activities for our residents to enjoy. She is open to suggestions from parents.

On **June 2nd, 2025**, Louisiana held its **first ever Disability Day at the State Capitol**, hosted by Governor Jeff Landry. It was an incredible and meaningful day, bringing attention to the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities across our state.

The **awareness of disability issues is growing** from medical needs to long term care options, behavioral supports, housing, and more. This day was a powerful opportunity to connect directly with legislators, educate new supporters, and advocate for the full continuum of care, especially the vital role of **ICFs** like Pinecrest.

While visiting **Washington, D.C.**, we were also met with **strong, supportive responses from both legislators and congressional representatives**, showing that momentum for disability advocacy is building on both the state and federal levels.

We are especially hopeful that **more people will get involved in the coming year**, particularly in areas that are often overlooked, like **dual diagnoses and rare diseases**. These complex needs require dedicated resources, and outreach efforts must continue to grow to ensure every individual has access to the right care.

A shining light in our efforts has been **State Representative Rhonda Butler**, who has been an absolute **jewel to our community**. As a fellow special needs mom, she understands the depth of what we face and has consistently fought to bring visibility, compassion, and action for our loved ones. Her leadership and presence at the Capitol made a lasting impact.

We hope this is just the beginning of a stronger, louder, and more united voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. **VOR's mission remains critical**, and we look forward to continuing to make it known across Louisiana and beyond.