

## Illinois State Report 2

### Mount Saint Joseph Home Federal and State Issues

By Arn Baranchik

Illinois has a severe debt crisis has not had a budget for over one year with no resolution in sight. This impacts the funding of all social service organizations including Mount Saint Joseph. Payments from the State to Mount Saint Joseph and other ICF DD's were mandated by the Court to continue to be made. The payments are averaging 3 months late, which is putting a strain on keeping up with operating expense. Many social services organizations have been forced to severely cut services or have shut down. The Governor of Illinois, Bruce Rauner also indicated in previous budget talks that he may cut funding to ICF DD's by 12.5%.

Members of the Mount Saint Joseph Board recently attended a local coalition meeting at Lambs Farm to discuss the status of services from the State of Illinois for the Developmentally Disabled. and The Federal government HCBS rule 1915 to States, targeted for compliance by 2019. The intent is to shift Medicaid funding from ICF DD's and other facilities to Group homes that reside in the community. This movement is a result of a belief that ICF facilities are institutions and restrict a person's right to live and work the community. The formulation of the rule is based on their belief that these actions are in alignment with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Supreme Court's decision in Olmstead v. L.C.

85% of the Mount Saint Joseph 125 residents are on the spectrum of moderate to profoundly disabled, with special care and medical needs that would not be provided for in a community group home. Their safety and well-being would be severely compromised. living in the community.

Mount Saint Joseph has a Day Workshop program which services DD individuals who would not be suitable to work in the community based on their high degree of disability. Mount Saint Joseph also sends many of their residents who are not suitable to work in the community to sheltered workshops such as Countryside Center and Riverside Foundation

The Mount Saint Joseph Association is also joining with Misericordia and other like intermediate care facilities as well as VOR, to provide a strong unified front to advocate for and to protect the rights of the Developmentally Disabled.