

Wyoming State Report 2018

By Shawn Humberson, State Coordinator

The demolition of older building has begun on the campus of the Life Resource Center. Construction is expected to be finished in two years. There are still concerns about turnover in direct care, nursing, and behavior analysts. More administrative positions are being created. These turnovers are adversely affecting our loved ones. Health, safety, and active programming are all at risk. The Department of Health vehemently denies any correlation between staffing levels and the quality of care for our loved ones residing there.

The addition of new cohorts from the state psychiatric hospital is a huge concern we share with other states making the same changes to their Intermediate Care Facilities for I/DD. The State now openly admits our campus is now a part of the State Psychiatric Hospital. We were assured the new cohorts would be vetted and no one with sexual predatory or violent behaviors would be moved in. A reliable source has confirmed at least one person transferred had sexual charges pending before admission.

We are cautiously optimistic by assurances from the Governor and Director of the Department of Health that the WLRC will continue to be an ICF-I/DD and will continue to serve those who require the higher level of care offered there. In addition, the State of Wyoming has signed a contract with the Greenhouse Project which includes piloting the very first Greenhouse ICF. The structure of this model of care combined with building specifications (making more home-like cottages) may just be what we need to stop the closures and the tragedies which ensue.