

## **LOUISIANA 2016 REPORT**

**By Mary Kay Cowen & Terry Lafleur**

**New Governor, Democrat John Bel Edwards.**

**At this time the new administration is working on huge budget deficit left by Bobby Jindal's administration. In speaking with Department of Health & Hospitals, no major cuts are expected to their budget this year for Pinecrest (the last State-run ICF). This ICF is to be fully funded until 2017 but, we are told 2017 could see some challenges.**

**Department of Labor mandates regarding overtime rules for hourly and salaried employees has become a real issue as Louisiana struggles with budget shortfalls. EVERYTHING is being looked at in all departments.**

**If the new budget being hammered out right now does not produce the funding needed for necessary services, a 2nd Special Session may be called to deal with the financial shortfall.**

**The population at our last State-run ICF, has changed to include some patients with mental illness, which is a concern for all parents. We have heard on TV, advocates are working to get funding to open new facilities to handle this issue.**

**Officials in Baton Rouge tell us Governor Edwards does not support Managed Care, so that is put on hold for now.**

**Resource Centers which used to be provided by the State-run ICF's have now been moved completely off all campuses as the closure of a previous State-run ICF is being completed. (The Hammond facility was privatized in 2012 with the agreement mandating closure in 5 years by the private provider taking it over. It will be closed by September 30, 2016 – a full year earlier than expected due to budget constraints.) Resource Centers are now consolidated into two hubs (Hammond and Alexandria) with workers in different areas moved to telework status.**