



# **VOR 2015 Annual Conference and Washington Initiative**

***“Advocating for Choice by  
Expanding Opportunities”***

**June 6 - 10, 2015  
Washington, D.C.**

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# Keeping Olmstead's Promise

By Ann Knighton, President

Throughout this issue of *The Voice*, you will see reference to the landmark Supreme Court *Olmstead* decision.

That's not so unusual. *Olmstead* often takes a prominent role in VOR's writing and advocacy because it supports the right of individuals to receive the care and supports they require in settings of their choice.

This year, however, is the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). *Olmstead* is the preeminent decision interpreting Title II of the ADA. Disability advocates of all perspectives will be celebrating the promise of the ADA and the Supreme Court's decision interpreting it. This natural spotlight is an opportunity for VOR to continue our efforts to set the record straight about what *Olmstead* requires and doesn't require. For example, the real meaning of *Olmstead* will figure prominently in our message to Congress during our 2015 Initiative (see pp. 5 and 9), building on our success last session (see page 9).

### ***Olmstead* settles the forced deinstitutionalization debate.**

With pride, I remind VOR members that the Court quoted VOR's brief in its decision: "Each disabled person is entitled to treatment in the most integrated setting possible for that person — recognizing on a case-by-case basis, that setting may be an institution."

That about sums it up, but advocates and organizations intent on undermining individual choice have misinterpreted *Olmstead* so successfully that the fiction of *Olmstead* as a closure mandate has become reality in the minds of some legislators and policymakers.

### **Celebrating *Olmstead* means celebrating choice.**

As disability advocates collectively commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the ADA, celebrations will undoubtedly focus on "how far we have come and how far we still must go."

### **VOR agrees.**

Many people with disabilities have experienced life in ways not imagined before the passage of the ADA, signaling an acceptance and celebration of human diversity. However, the full impact of the ADA as interpreted by *Olmstead* has not been met because advocates who purport to support the rights of individuals with disabilities have twisted the interpretation of *Olmstead* to fit a "one-size-fits-all" ideology that is not supported by the letter or spirit of *Olmstead*.

### **The *Olmstead* Promise.**

VOR will spend this year finding opportunities to celebrate *Olmstead* – its promise, its letter and its spirit. This is an opportunity to set the record straight and we will seize it.



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### **VOR MISSION STATEMENT**

VOR is a national non-profit organization that advocates for high quality care and human rights for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Cover and page 6 artwork:** The cover art was created by Carsten, a young man with autism who lives at the Sonoma Developmental Center. Starting in high school, Carsten started creating beautiful paintings and drawings. Carsten and his younger brother, Ben, have collaborated to create CAR-BEN clothing, some of which features Carsten's art. For more information visit, [www.carbenclimbing.com/](http://www.carbenclimbing.com/).

# Calling all Sponsors! “Advocating for Choice by Expanding Opportunities”

By Julie Huso, VOR Executive Director

This is the theme for VOR’s 2015 Annual Meeting and Initiative, to be held in Washington, DC. June 6 - 10, 2015.



VOR’s Annual Conference events are geared toward advancing unique and necessary principles that maximize opportunities for members to learn from VOR leaders, presenters and each other and bring those lessons back to their states.

**The VOR Conference and Initiative is a one-of-a-kind event hosted by an organization like none other:**

- VOR celebrates the diversity of people with disabilities and champions their right to receive services of their choice, unlike other organizations which advocate to eliminate programs according to their own definitions of what is right and wrong for every individual.
- **VOR is the only nonprofit advocacy organization supporting a full array of residential and employment services and supports**, from home and community based services to specialized facilities for people with severe and profound intellectual and development disabilities (I/DD) or severe behavior challenges, according to individual needs and choice. Founded in 1983-VOR is a national 501(C)(3) organization.
- VOR believes that **individuals and their families/legal guardians are primary decision-makers**. VOR works very hard to empower individuals and their families and legal guardians with information, training, and advocacy resources because we recognize that they know best. The law – including *Olmstead* – agrees.
- VOR works very hard to empower individuals their families and legal guardians with information, training, and advocacy resources because we recognize that they know best.
- Only VOR is working to correct misinformation about the true meaning of the landmark *Olmstead v. L.C.* Supreme Court decision. **Rather than a “one size fits all” mandate, *Olmstead* embraces individual choice according to need. We should know.** VOR’s *Amicus Brief* was quoted in support of that very principle: Providing services according to individual choice and need.

**We need your help! Be a Sponsor. Find a Sponsor.**

VOR would like to expand our Annual Conference sponsorship opportunities to a larger audience and are asking you to spread the word for this opportunity.

Once again VOR is privileged to be partnering with *EP Magazine*, a publication for children and adults with disabilities and special health care needs that reaches over 300,000 readers worldwide. You can visit them at [www.eparent.com](http://www.eparent.com).

All sponsors of VOR’s Annual Conference will receive marketing and outreach opportunities to thousands. Plus, if you are Platinum, Gold or Protecting Choice and Quality Sponsor your listing will appear in the June and July issues of the *EP Magazine*!

Please send your referrals to [jhuso@vor.net](mailto:jhuso@vor.net) or 605-370-4652.

We look forward to seeing you in Washington, DC!!

# What Tracy Has Taught Us

By Sharon (sister) and Shawn Humberson (niece)

## Sharon's Story

I was 25 years old and the mother of three very active little girls (including Shawn, age 7 at the time) when my parents came to me and asked if I would be embarrassed having a sibling at my age. I was thrilled for them. Although my dad had two grown daughters, my step-mother had never had a child. At 35 years old she had given up and was content to be the best grandmother there ever was to my children. The birth was difficult and my new sister, Tracy, was in the incubator for some time; and didn't come home from the hospital until she was about 2 weeks old. We knew there were problems but had no idea to what extent.

We all loved her, but the road, even then, was rocky. We couldn't understand why she cried so much. I began to resent her because she made my parents argue; which hurt my folks. In time, we all knew she was "retarded." When we, and I should say I, finally accepted her as she was (my kids were so much ahead of me), it changed the way I thought of her and other people like her. Every place you go, you look for avenues that can be used by the handicapped. You look to see if there is enough space for a wheelchair to turn. When you see other handicapped people, you go up and talk to them; not stare and whisper.

Our entire family has been taught by Tracy to be accepting of differences in people and situations. They are more open to new ideas, different cultures, and are more empathetic. My daughters who were student helpers to the DD students are now 30 years later still loved by those people. My grandchildren have been praised in their classes for being more open to learning a foreign language. They are quick to befriend anyone who is disadvantaged physically or mentally. Tracy has taught us all to be kinder and gentler people.

My parents were given a poem, "Heaven's Special Child" (author unknown) quite some time ago, which put it beautifully and I will include a portion: "... Please Lord, find the parents who will do a special job for You. They will not realize right away the leading role they're asked to play. But with this child sent from above comes strong faith and richer love. And soon they'll know the privilege given in caring for their gift from Heaven. Their precious charge so meek and mild is Heaven's Very Special Child."

We are so glad He picked this family.

## Shawn's Story



One might say I've been an advocate since I was seven years old; when my aunt, Tracy, was born. Tracy stole our hearts from the start. I was too young to truly realize the implications of cerebral palsy and profound mental retardation. I just knew she was a sweet, little baby, my aunt.

Early on, I would hold Tracy and rock her. I would help Grandma by entertaining Tracy. I remember thinking it wasn't fair that Tracy couldn't eat a candy bar so I chewed one up until it was soft enough to feed to her. My sisters and I would play with Tracy; giving her balls and toys that she would throw with her good arm. She was good! She would sometimes wait until one of us bent over and she would throw the item at our backsides! As she and I got older, we would help with her basic needs; feedings and changing.

Looking back, I realize that growing up having an aunt with profound disabilities instilled in me a deep respect for and acceptance of diversity which is not limited to persons with disabilities. While I may have been angry with God for not answering my prayers to make Tracy "normal," it occurs to me that she was meant to be the way she is. Tracy has taught me that everyone has a purpose in this life; regardless of the color of their skin, how much money they have, or whether or not they have a disability.

I started being Tracy's voice at a young age. Thanks to Tracy, I am involved with Friends of Wyoming Life Resource Center (founded by my parents in 2011) and VOR Co-State Coordinator for Wyoming. In the past two years, I've become a stronger, louder voice; not just for Tracy but for all persons with developmental disabilities.





## The *Olmstead* Right of Individual Choice and the Duty of Legal Guardians: Whose choice is it?

By Tamie Hopp, VOR Director of Government Relations & Advocacy

While the role of legal guardians in advancing the right of individual choice has been debated, the law clearly supports the right and duty of guardians to make decisions on behalf of, and in the best interest of, their individuals.

### The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and *Olmstead*

25 years ago, the ADA was passed to prohibit disability-based discrimination. The ADA's Integration Regulation states that a "public entity shall administer services, programs, and activities in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of qualified individuals with disabilities."

In *Olmstead v. L.C.*, the U.S. Supreme Court considered the scope of the ADA and its Integration Regulation and answered whether or not the ADA always required community placement. The Court held that the ADA *only* requires community placement when "the State's treatment professionals have determined that community placement is appropriate, **the transfer from institutional care to a less restrictive setting is not opposed by the affected individual**, and the placement can be reasonably accommodated, taking into account the resources available to the State and the needs of others with mental disabilities."

### Defining Individual Choice and the Role of Guardians

Although the right of individual choice with regard to community placement is clear, nowhere in the decision is the role of guardian discussed. Attorney Patricia G. Williams found the Court's silence on this point telling. "Absent some clear direction from the U.S. Supreme Court to the contrary," she wrote, "we must conclude that the laws pertaining to guardianship, conservatorship, durable powers of attorney and advance directives remain intact."

Since *Olmstead*, courts have indicated that it is the guardian's choice that matters. For example, in *U.S. v. Arkansas* (2011), a Federal Judge dismissed the Department of Justice's ADA claims that residents of Conway Developmental Center were not provided the choice of community placement pointing to the fact that "[a]ll or nearly all of those residents have parents or guardians who have the power to assert the legal rights of their children or wards . . . [and] so far as the record shows, oppose the claims of the United States." Likewise, in *People First of Tennessee v. Clover Bottom Developmental Center* (2010), the Court considered the right of individuals to reject a community placement and agreed with the Parent Guardian Association brief that "Conservators [and guardians] - who have the longest and most meaningful relationship with their loved ones and the greatest investment in their well-being - are in the best position . . . to make an informed decision as to whether to exercise the disabled person's right on his/her behalf to decline community placement."

Other federal courts have also considered favorably the role of families and guardians in petitions for intervention or lawsuits filed by families and guardians on behalf of their family members with profound developmental disabilities. Even Lois and Elaine, the plaintiffs in *Olmstead*, were represented by a *guardian ad litem* for the duration of their lawsuit.

### Conclusion

The role of guardians is increasingly under attack. Self-determination, person-centered planning and self-advocacy, when taken to the extreme, exclude of legal guardians, contrary to their legal-bound duty and rights afforded by law. Federal law has consistently supported the important decision-making role that families and legal guardians play in supporting their individuals with I/DD. *Olmstead* did not change that.

### VOR's 2015 Washington Initiative: Visits to Congress – PLEASE JOIN US!

The 2015 Washington Initiative – **visits to Congress** – begins on Monday, June 8, immediately following our Annual Conference (see pages 6-7 for details).

#### Our 2015 Initiative focus will be setting the record straight about *Olmstead*.

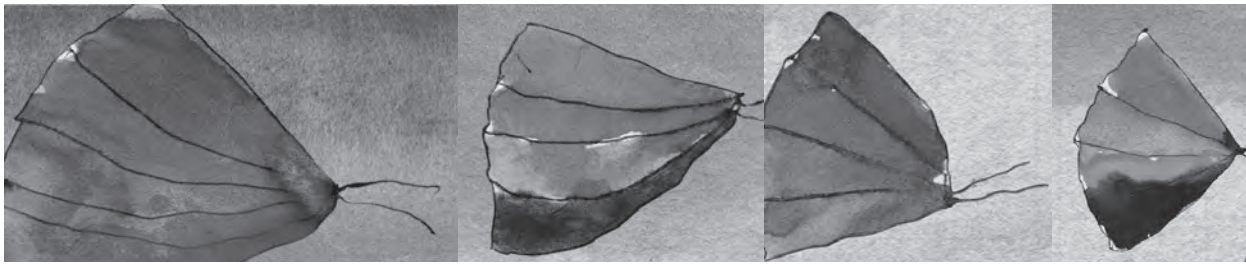
VOR was successful last Congress in securing federal Report language that urges the Department of Justice to follow ADA (see page 10). We will seek to build on this success and educate Congress about the real meaning of *Olmstead*:

- *Olmstead* does **not** mandate community for all.
- *Olmstead* protects the right of individual choice, urges consideration of individual needs, and cautions against imposing community placement on individuals who do not desire and cannot handle it.

Please help us set the record straight. Plan to attend VOR's Annual Conference and Initiative. Thank you!

**Questions:** thopp@vor.net; 877-399-4867

Read the *Olmstead* Decision at <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/527/581/case.html>



## VOR 2015 Annual Conference and Washington Initiative June 6 - 10, 2015

All VOR meetings will take place at the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.

### Saturday, June 6, 2015

**VOR Board Report to Membership** **1:00 pm**

Time will be provided for member comments and questions.

**Reports from the States** **3:00 pm**

Participants report on news from their states. Session is moderated by VOR Board Members.

**Networking and Hospitality Reception** **5:30 pm**

Join VOR board members and staff for an informal reception. Due to an overwhelming response in past years and hotel limitations, **only certain participants** will be invited to bring food. Everyone is welcome to attend. All Initiative participants will also receive their folders for Congressional visits at this time.

### Sunday, June 7, 2015

#### VOR 2015 Annual Conference, Legislative Briefing and Dinner Event *“Advocating for Choice by Expanding Opportunities”*

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**12:00 pm**      **Registration: Network with families from across the country.**

**1:00 pm**      **Welcome and Message to Attendees, by Ann Knighton, President and Julie Huso, Executive Director**

**1:30 pm**      **“National Disability Policy – Initiatives Impacting Employment Options for Individuals with Significant Disabilities,”** by Terry R. Farmer, President/CEO of ACCSES, representing more than 1,200 disability service providers across the country as the Voice of Disability Service Providers.



**3:00 pm**      **“Everyone Needs a little REST!”** by Lois Sheaffer-Kramer, Director of Government Relations and Community Support for Marklund ICF/IID and the Founder/Coordinator of Respite Education & Support Tools (REST), a respite training program for volunteers using national respite guidelines.

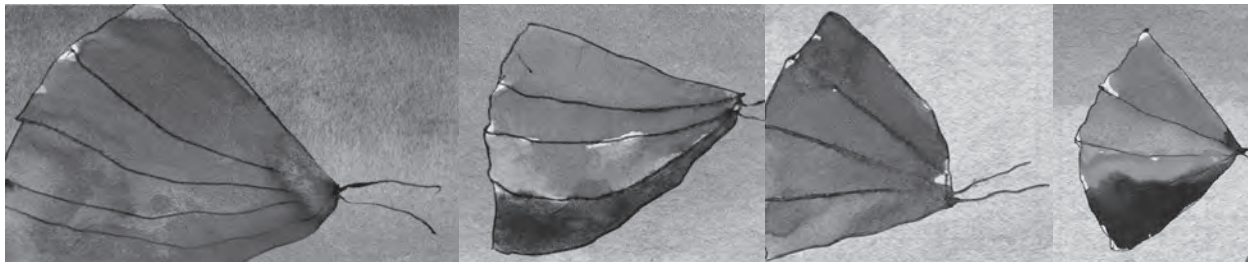
**4:00 pm**      **Legislative Briefing: Panel discussion and Issue Briefing**

**5:30 pm**      **VOR Reception with Cash Bar**

**6:30 pm**      **Installation of VOR FY 2016 Officers and Introduction of Board Members, Ann Knighton**

\* The 2015 VOR Voice Award

\* The 2015 VOR Advocacy Award



**7:00 pm:**

**Dinner**

Keynote: “A Bear Can’t DANCE while Hibernating,” a fun and inspirational message encouraging us to turn off “auto pilot” and proactively respond to life with the goal of making a difference, by Scott Osterfeld, Outreach Coordinator for Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities and the President of Osterfeld Consulting.



**The Week of Monday, June 8, 2015**



**The Washington Initiative**

Visits to Capitol Hill! Personal meetings with Members and Congress and their staff are the most effective way to educate and influence federal lawmakers. Join choice advocates from around the country as we work together to convey the importance of residential choice and family decision-making directly to Members of Congress. Plan time to cover your state’s Congressional Delegation.

**Monday, June 8, 2015**

**6:30 – 8 pm**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2015**

**6:30 – 8 pm**

**Informal De-briefing**

Reports by state spokespersons regarding Congressional visits.

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

**Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill**

400 New Jersey Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20001

**Reservations due by May 8, 2015**

All Conference, Dinner and VOR Meetings held at Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. Roommates will be arranged, if possible, upon request.

**To make your reservations:**

Call 1-888-421-1442 or Online (<https://resweb.passkey.com/go/VOR2015>)

The **VOR Group rate** is \$239 for single or double, plus tax, per night. Triple (\$264, plus tax) and Quadruple (\$289, plus tax) suites are also available. To receive group rate, **mention “VOR.”**



**TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

Taxis and “Super Shuttle” vans are available at Reagan International Airport, the closest airport to the Hyatt. “Super Shuttle” is \$14 per person (\$10 each additional passenger), one way. At airport, follow signs to “Ground Transportation.” Reservations are only required from the hotel to the airport (800-258-3826 or supershuttle.com). Union Train Station is just 3 blocks from the hotel.

**Ohio: Family advocates respond to calls for severe cuts**

The Strategic Planning Leadership Group (SPLG), a stakeholder group convened by the State, released recommendations calling for draconian cuts to services for citizens with disabilities.

With VOR’s help, the Disability Advocacy Alliance (DAA), comprised of volunteer family advocates, responded. “We have grave concerns,” wrote DAA. “The proposed SPLG recommendations will eliminate the right of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to receive person-centered services and supports in the settings of their choice, contrary to the Supreme Court’s Olmstead decision. In addition, these recommendations narrow rather than expand service options, which will unfairly nullify any effort to assist the more than 42,200 individuals waiting for necessary services.”

Within 10 years, the SPLG proposes reducing the population of private facilities (ICFs) by half (2,800 individuals); moving 1,500 people from ICF facilities of 16 + people to group homes with 4 or fewer people; increasing the number of people with disabilities competitively employed to 50% of those served; and closing all state-operated ICFs.

“SPLG’s recommendations made in the face of alarming facts and unanswered fiscal questions reek of placing political and ideological goals ahead of the health and welfare of Ohioans with intellectual

and developmental disabilities,” wrote DAA. For more information, visit [www.disabilityadvocacyalliance.org](http://www.disabilityadvocacyalliance.org).

**Intermediate Care Facilities Financially Benefit the Ohio Waiver System**

New research from Gary Brown, CPA, Brady Ware & Co., shows that Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs/IID) provide \$65 Million in financial benefits to the Ohio Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver system. Closing ICFs/IID to fund HCBS waiver expansion will not work. For more information, visit [vor.net/images/stories/pdf/ICFsBenefitCommunity.pdf](http://vor.net/images/stories/pdf/ICFsBenefitCommunity.pdf).

**Last residents move out of Lanterman and Woodbridge Developmental Centers**

VOR is sad to report the closing of two state-operated developmental centers. Lanterman in California and Woodbridge in New Jersey closed in late 2014. For VOR members and advocates, closures mean so much more than changing addresses and closing doors.

Joanne St. Amand, a VOR Board Member and president of the Woodbridge Developmental Center Parents Association (now the Association for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities) called the closure “a sad day, and a heartache for families.” She is in contact with many families whose adult children or siblings were moved hours away and lament they can’t visit as often as they used to. About 80 percent of displaced Woodbridge residents were transferred to the three centers in south Jersey, according to the state.

Brad Whitehead, a longtime VOR member, worked 37 years as a psychiatric technician at Lanterman. “I thought I’d work here three to five years and move on,” he said. “Then I realized, ‘Wow, I love what I do.’” Now, he says, “I’m planning to retire. I can’t imagine going somewhere else.” (Sources: NJ.Com and Sacramento Bee, December 11, 2014).

**Tribute**

Thank you to all individuals who requested or gave donations in honor of someone special, or in memory of a loved one.

For those who have lost someone special, please accept our deepest sympathy.

**IN MEMORY**

- Rosalind Alme
- Doris and Morris Dembo
- Anne Helme
- Amy Lawrence
- Carol Lindstrom
- Deirdre “Dee Dee” O’Donnell
- Marc Maden
- David Agetha Moll
- Paul Sutherland
- Paul and Lucille Yutesler

**IN HONOR**

- Matthew Capps
- Amy Legrand Childers
- Christopher Duffie
- Susan Fallis
- Tamie Hopp
- Paul Keipert
- Aidan Kelley
- Tommy Kuzma
- Kay Schodek
- Joe Don Teel
- Carol Toperzer

**Georgia: New data indicates continued tragedy in the wake of deinstitutionalization**

On October 29, 2010, the State of Georgia and the Department of Justice (DOJ) entered a settlement agreement calling for the closure of all facilities serving people with developmental disabilities (ICFs/IID) and the deinstitutionalization of 9,000 people with mental illness. Since then, two DD facilities have closed; two remain open.

In 2013, tragic outcomes in community settings prompted a court-approved moratorium on community transfers from DD facilities. Yet, for the second year in a row, Georgia reports an alarming number of “unexpected deaths” in 2014, along with thousands of other “critical incidents” such as hospitalization, injuries and interaction with law enforcement.

According to the State’s Annual Quality Management Report, in 2014 there were 141 unexpected deaths. The report also indicates high rates of hospitalizations (1,327), incidents requiring law enforcement intervention (376), significant injuries (326), elopements (293), and alleged physical abuse (258) of individuals with disabilities in community settings. In each category incidents increased as compared to 2013, ranging from an increase of 5.8% (elopements) to 22.9% (allegations of physical abuse).

Although the State’s report combines data relating to individuals with mental health and those with developmental disabilities, critical incidents impacting individuals with developmental disabilities in community settings account for 70% of all incidents in 2014.

**State news, continued**

**Defining Home and Community: Some State Transition Plans go too far**

January 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released a new Rule that defined what settings people with disabilities could use for their Home & Community-Based Service (HCBS) waivers. By March 2015, all states must submit to CMS “Transition Plans,” their proposals for how they will bring their HCBS program into compliance with the new Rule.

Some States are using this opportunity to advance their own agendas, going well beyond what the Rule requires. These States (e.g., Ohio, New Jersey, and Michigan) propose downsizing or closing congregate settings now serving people with profound disabilities, even though such settings are not automatically prohibited by the Rule. Most at risk by over-reaching states are campus-setting HCBS homes (e.g., farmsteads) or HCBS homes that are on or near ICFs/IID campuses.

Guidance released by CMS in January 2015 further confirms that the Rule does not limit the number of individuals living together and does not automatically prohibit facility-based or site-based residential and employment settings, as long as a State can demonstrate that those settings meet the Rule’s community criteria. Although certain settings may be subjected to “heightened scrutiny” by CMS, they are not automatically ineligible.

The Rule requires that States provide opportunities for public comment and a summary of all comments received must be included in the States’ transition plans.

The Rule also requires person-centered planning, with focus on individual needs, and preserves the role of legal guardians, where appointed, in determining service needs and exceptions to certain Rule criteria. “We note that where a legal guardian, conservator, or other person has the sole authority under state law to make decisions related to the individual’s care, the state must comply with the decisions of the legal surrogate,” wrote CMS in the preamble to the Rule.

CMS also made it clear that in those cases in which a state determines a current setting is not HCBS compliant with the new Rule, the state does not have to stop providing services in that setting immediately. States have until March 2019 to bring its HCBS programs into compliance with the rule, consistent with its State Transition Plan. States can claim for federal matching funds for these services during the transition period.

For more information, visit <http://theddnewsblog.blogspot.com/>.

## Congress “strongly” urges the Department of Justice to consider choice and needs in Olmstead enforcement actions

VOR is pleased to report that the following language relating to Department of Justice appropriations was included in the Conference Report to accompany the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015, passed in December:

*“Deinstitutionalization.-There is a nationwide trend towards deinstitutionalization of patients with intellectual or developmental disabilities in favor of community-based settings. The Department is strongly urged to continue to factor the needs and desires of patients, their families, caregivers, and other stakeholders, as well as the need to provide proper settings for care, into its enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.”*

VOR has long been concerned about the Department of Justice’s Americans with Disabilities Act enforcement actions, purportedly in furtherance of the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision. We have urged the Department of Justice to adhere to individual choice, according to need and family input, when enforcing *Olmstead* as required by *Olmstead*.

We brought these same concerns to Senate and House appropriators. The approved report language strongly urges the Department of Justice to consider individual need and choice - as required by *Olmstead* - and the input of families, in decisions impacting an individual’s ability to access necessary services and supports in proper care settings.

VOR is grateful to Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) for championing the report language. We are also grateful to Senator Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) and Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), who chaired the Senate and House Appropriations’ Subcommittees on Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies for their support of this necessary language.

VOR will continue to build on this progress in the next Congress.

### REPORT LANGUAGE – What it means

Committee and Conference Reports capture legislative history and provide valuable insight into the committees’ intent with regard to statutory language.

Specifically, a Congressional Committee Report “contains an explanation of the provisions of the measure, arguments for its approval, votes held in markup, individual committee members’ opinions, cost estimates, and other information.” A Conference Committee Report is the “document presenting an agreement reached by a joint temporary committee (a conference committee) appointed to negotiate a compromise between the House and Senate.” (Congress.gov).

#### **Olmstead: Getting it Right**

The misinterpretation of the *Olmstead* decision is prevalent among certain federal agencies.

#### **VOR’s 2015 Washington Initiative**

will seek to build on the Congressional Report language which urges the Department of Justice to use its federal funds consistent with *Olmstead* by “factoring the needs and desires” of individuals, their families and other stakeholders, as well as the need to provide “proper settings for care” in its *Olmstead* (“Americans with Disabilities Act”) actions (see related article this page).

Certain actions by Developmental Disabilities Act programs and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, which VOR deems contrary to *Olmstead*, also require Congressional attention.

Please plan to us in June 2015. Details are included on pages 6-7 and a registration form is on page 11.

**Questions: Tamie Hopp, 605-399-1624; thopp@vor.net.**

Annual Conference, Legislative Briefing & Dinner (Sunday, June 7, 2015)

## Registration Form – Return to VOR

836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351 • Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Fax: 605-399-1631 • thopp@vor.net • Phone: 877-399-4867 (toll free) or 605-399-1624

Register online at vor.net/events

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, St, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsoring Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

### INITIATIVE REGISTRATION

\_\_\_\_\_/I/We will attend the Washington Initiative and will be able to make Congressional visits through \_\_\_\_ [specify date(s)]

### ADDITIONAL DONATIONS APPRECIATED

\_\_\_\_ An Additional donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Fee includes all Sunday, June 7 events including conference registration and plated dinner.

### VOR Members:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 per member if paid by **April 1, 2015**.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$110 per member if paid by **May, 2015**.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$125 per member if paid after **May 1, 2015**.

### Non-VOR Members:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$125 per person for non-member if paid by **May 1, 2015**. Fee includes 1 year membership.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 per person for non-member if paid after **May 1, 2015**. Fee includes 1 year membership.

**Amount to Charge:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Charge card:**  MC  Visa  Discover

**Expiration date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Credit Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3-Digit Security Code (back of card)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank You Members and Donors for Supporting VOR!

According to the Foundation Center, there are 1.5 million nonprofit (501(c)(3)) organizations. With so many choices, we are grateful you chose VOR.

VOR is different than all the rest.

VOR is the **ONLY** national 501(c)(3) advocacy organization for people with disabilities that supports a full array of residential, employment and education options for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Only VOR expressly **OPPOSES** “deinstitutionalization”: the downsizing, reduction and elimination of specialized residential facility care, workshop employment, and education options without regard to individual need, demand and choice.

Only VOR expressly **SUPPORTS CHOICE** and the expansion of high **QUALITY** residential, employment and education options in small and large settings to accommodate the vast continuum of individualized need.

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### VOR CONTACT INFORMATION:

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*A national, non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer association  
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**Membership/Contribution Form:** VOR, 836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351  
 Elk Grove Village, IL 60007; by fax 605-271-0445 or donate online @ <http://www.vor.net/online-membership-form>

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**March15NL**

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