# Closing Public Institutions The Clock Keeps Ticking



#### Subtitle:

Active Treatment, Unicorns, OMRP's, The Need for Institutionalization and other mythical creatures and concepts.



### Why is it?

We live in the age of



 But some still promote congregate care setting and even institutions as
 service models ......





#### Gone-RIP

- Alabama
  - Glenn Ireland
  - Alaska
  - Harborview
- Arizona
  - Phoenix
  - Tucson

- California
  - Camarillo
  - DeWitt
  - Modesto
  - Napa
  - Stockton



- Colorado
  - Pueblo
- Connecticut
  - Mansfield
  - New Haven
  - Waterbury
- District of Columbia
  - Forest Haven

- Florida
  - Orlando
  - Tallahassee
- Georgia
  - Brook Run
  - River's Crossing
- Hawaii
  - Waimano



- Illinois
  - Adler
  - Bowen
  - Dixon
  - Galesburg
  - Kiley
  - Meyer

- Indiana
  - Central State
  - Fort Wayne
  - Mascattatuck
  - New Castle
  - Northern Indiana
- Kansas
  - Norton
  - Winfield
- Kentucky
  - Frankfort
  - Outwood



- Maine
  - Pineland
- Maryland
  - Victor Cullen
  - Great Oaks
  - Henryton
  - Highland Health

- Massachusetts
  - Belchertown
  - John T. Berry



- Michigan
  - Alpine
  - Coldwater
  - Fort Custor
  - Hillcrest
  - Macomb-Oakland
  - Muskegon
  - Newberry
  - Northville
  - Oakdale
  - Plymouth

- Minnesota
  - Fairbault
  - Moose Lake
  - Owatonna
  - Rochester



- Missouri
  - Albany
  - Hannibal
  - Joplin
  - Kansas City
  - Kirskville
  - Poplar Bluff
  - Rolla
  - Sikeston
  - Springfield

- New Hampshire
  - Laconia
- New Jersey
  - Edison
  - Johnstone
  - North Princeton



- New Mexico
  - Fort Stanton
  - Los Lunas
  - Villa Solano

#### **North Dakota**

San Haven



- New York
  - J.N. Adam
  - Bronx
  - Craig
  - Gouverneur
  - Letchworth
  - Long Island
  - Manhattan
  - Newark

- Rome
- Sampson
- Staten Island
- Syracuse
- Valatie
- Westchester
- Wilton



- Ohio
  - Broadview
  - Cleveland
  - Orient

- Oklahoma
  - Hissom
- Oregon
  - Columbia Park
  - Eastern Oregon
  - Fairview



- Pennsylvania
  - Cresson
  - Clark Summit
  - Embreville
  - Holidaysburg
  - Laurelton

- Marcy Center
- Mayview
- Pennhurst
- Philadelphia
- Somerset
- Western



- Rhode Island
  - Dix Building
  - Ladd Center
- South Carolina
  - Clyde Street
  - Live Oak[

- South Dakota
  - Custer
- Texas
  - Fort Worth
  - Travis



- Vermont
  - Brandon
- Washington
  - Interlake

- West Virginia
  - Colin Anderson
  - Greenbrier
  - Spencer
  - Weston



#### What have we learned?

- These have all been publicly operated facilities
- Some privately operated facilities has closed, both voluntarily and involuntarily.

Closure must not be the goal! Closure is about buildings.



# We have learned that <u>All</u> people benefit from pursuit of their dreams

- Fixing-improving institutions cannot be an option.
- They are a nightmare, not a dream!
- Why try to do a good job doing the wrong thing?



### Ask yourself...

In what other industry can you provide something people do not want, force them to buy it, charge a lot for it and act surprised when they do not like it?

## Closure is the vehicle.

The goal is to let every person pursue the American dream.



# All people can experience the American Dream

You cannot pursue the American dream when surrounded by a lot of other people 24/7

# Closure is the vehicle, not the goal.

- Resistance to closure is growing stronger.
- The organized resistance does not play by the same rules as we do.
- We are selling, albeit poorly, freedom, opportunity and the promise of a better life.
- They are selling fear, lies and someone else's agenda.



#### **Medicaid Institutional Context**

- Because of Medicaid, people need to demonstrate the need for Institutionalization and Active Treatment to live in the community.
  - There is no such thing as the need for institutionalization.
  - No one has ever actually seen active treatment.
  - The number of people in state institutions continues to decline.



#### What have we learned?

- In 38 large scale studies in western nations, people with all levels of intellectual disability were shown to do better in the community in 35 of them!
- Bricks and mortarbuildings-have nothing to do with helping people with intellectual disabilities to thrive, grow and live their lives.
- Buildings are obstacles

#### Closure is the vehicle, not the goal.

- The challenge is both political and programmatic
- The decision to close an institution is political
  - It is about resistance to change
  - It is about fears
  - It is about jobs
  - It is about the economic impact on local communities
  - It has nothing to do about what is wanted by or best for people with intellectual disability



# We need a much more aggressive to market the promise for community inclusion

- Must be sold on benefit, not price.
  - Talk about outcomes, not costs.
  - Focus on how people live and deemphasize how much it costs to support them.
  - Once you get into the argument of price, then people with significant disabilities who may cost more to support, loose.
  - It is about the cohort cost, not individual cost.



- Not about deinstitutionalization
  - ... but about developing
     community capacity for <u>all</u> people
- Show inequity of resources between those in institutions and those at home with families
  - Same people, different support
  - Incentives in the wrong place



- It is honest and proud.
- It is counterintuitive.
- It needs to be sold on benefit, not price.
- It is pro-family, pro-community, proindividual freedom.
- The ICFMR program is anti-family, anticommunity, big-government and antifreedom.



# We need to do a better job in the community...

- Growing community based leadership
- Developing infrastructure
- Fighting apathy
- Educating the public(s)
- Fighting disinformation

- Acknowledging the problems we have
- Working with the health care community
- Fixing what's broken
- Speaking with one voice



#### It is not automatic

- We need to build infrastructure.
- We need to change the existing system of services and supports.
- As long as institutions exist, state government turns to them first... to fix buildings, to give staff salary increases, to replace funds lost due to decertification.

# Reminder

- A waiting list is not a support or a service.
- To fully implement the community imperative we cannot stand by while so many struggle in desperate situations with inadequate supports.

## The Community Imperative



The Time Has Come

http://thechp.syr.edu/community\_imperative.html

# If not us, then who?







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