



800 Case Avenue  
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650  
Ph: 217-245-7145 • Fax: 217-479-0103

12-074

October 9, 2012

To the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board Members:

As a business leader and member of the Jacksonville community, I would ask you to please consider postponing the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC). This facility is a mainstay of this area and exemplary in the model care that it provides to the residents.

We ask that you would consider the following key points about JDC:

- Maintains a solid certification record
- Remains in good standing with the federal government
- Had \$2 million in Life Safety Code construction recently
- Has a Health Care Center with a setup similar to a doctor's office which trains residents to go to a doctor's appointment in preparation for life in our community
- Provides a Short Term Assistance Program which works with statewide crisis teams and admits people who have psychological or behavioral needs
- Coordinates work programs within the facility and partners with two agencies in the Jacksonville community, once again in preparation for life outside of JDC

We would like to propose the use of JDC as a centrally located facility that can care for individuals that have not been able to transition to community settings. As the developmental centers close throughout the state, JDC can ensure the continued physical and emotional care in a proven quality program.

JDC would also be an excellent facility for evaluation of the developmentally disturbed with the experience we have in assessing their needs. The Short Term Assistance Program would be valuable component to the state's new community placement.

Thank you for considering our request, and we ask that you analyze the outstanding programs that our center provides. Please vote against the closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center.

Sincerely,

*Patty A. Sullivan*  
Patty Sullivan, President/CEO  
Eli Bridge Company



**MEREDOSIA TERMINAL, INC.**  
a subsidiary of ILLINOIS ROAD CONTRACTORS, INC.

PO BOX 1060 • 520 N WEBSTER • JACKSONVILLE, ILLINOIS 62851-1060  
217-245-6181 • FAX 217-243-0604

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Sincerely,

Waltrip Real Estate  
1853 S. Main  
Jacksonville, IL 62650

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Sincerely,  
Jim Waltrip

**Lomelino Sign Co., Inc.**  
2122 E. Morton Ave.  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
Phone: 217-243-2444

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 09 2012**

**HEALTH FACILITIES &  
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

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Sincerely,

  
Omer/Pres

3 pages total

1-217-785 - 4111

To The Illinois Health Facilities  
and Services Review Board -

In regards to the clearing  
of JDC

Page 1 10/11/12  
 TO The ILLINOIS Health Facilities  
 and Services Review board!

Please, Please, Please Help STOP  
 The Closure of JDC.  
 That is home for those clients  
 and they are very used to their environ-  
 ment and the care givers that take good  
 care of them. These wonderful clients have  
 special needs that JDC is able to  
 take care of. They are safe and comfortable  
 in their "home" at JDC.

I also am sure that they have special  
 bonding with their care givers and the other  
 residents. The staff at JDC is trained  
 to take care of their special needs, some-  
 thing another facility probably could not  
 offer. (at least right away)

Please save the home of these wonderful  
 people, help preserve their dignity and  
 health and safe, well being! I am a JPN  
 I do not work for JDC, but have examined  
 the situation carefully. Closing down JDC  
 is not the answer. Surely some kind  
 of funding can be found to save this -

10/10/12 Page 5

Review Board

facility, so the clients can continue on with their lives as they know it, and their families can be assured their loved one is being cared for as well as possible.

Thank - you so much for your time, I sincerely hope my letter can make a difference

J. S. Atkins 12/12

Dear Members of the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Board:

I read the letter that Tony Paulauski from the ARC wrote you stating the ARC represents infants, children and adults with developmental disabilities, Tony and the ARC do not represent all people with developmental disabilities.

I represent people with developmental disabilities, I have been working on the "front line". I have a sister with a developmental disability. I am appalled that these state and national experts that Tony speaks of think they know what is best. I spend at least 40 hours a week in a home for people with developmental disabilities. I assist them in dressing, eating and completing daily tasks, I assist them by escorting them on doctors appointments, I assist them with finding alternative ways to express emotions or resisting self injurious behaviors. Tony and these so called experts, how dare they sit in offices and declare that they know what is best.

Tony discusses the thousands that have successfully moved from SODC's, but he did mention that his definition of successful is propaganda and full of misinformation. Many people are not successful, many return to SODC's, many move from house to house waiting to adjust to this new environment, many end up on an increase number of psychotropic medications. This is not success. For many people living in SODC's it has been their home for 20, 30 and even 40 years. Many of them have known each other, their roommates, housemates and friends and the same staff for over 20 or 30 years. Many people in SODC's are part of the community, have friends outside of the SODC and have local vendors, beauticians, retailers, food service employees that know them by name. This is success.

Tony said 14 other states downsized SODC's, including Indiana. He did not tell you that Indiana could not place all its own residents in community living arrangements, because providers in Indiana would not admit them do to behavioral concerns such as aggression. I know this because the agency I work for sent me to Indiana to explore whether any of these people could be cared for by our agency. Why would my employer pay myself and a nurse to travel to Indiana for several days, because Indiana promised out of state providers approximately double the private pay rate for a 2 year period of time with payments arriving every 2 weeks. Considering payments in Illinois are about 4 months behind, this offer was a life-saver, a way to make payroll and continue serves.

I believe that many community providers work very hard to care for people with developmental disabilities. But the truth is they get half, half the pay, half the staff and half the benefits. The person caring for people makes the same income as the person who makes your cheeseburger and fries. How can all these people leaving SODC's possibly get better care, more health services, better dental, and more community participation and more staff with better training in challenging behaviors with staff making half the pay? Lastly, Tony is very very wrong we do not know how to do this or we would know that moving approximately 275 people in 18 months to placements that do not exist is stupid and dangerous. This is the plan for Murray Center, moving approximately 5 people a week is not good care.

Rita Hicks  
RITA HICKS

To Whom It May Concern:

**One size does not fit all. We need State Operated Facilities and Community Placements. It is not possible to serve everyone in the same environment. Currently in the State of Illinois we have the best possible choices with the options we have available.**

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Hicks". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely".