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OCT 11 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To Board Members,

I am writing in response to the closure of JDC. We have a daughter who lives at Murray Center. Mandie is severely handicapped, and needs 24 Hr. care. To find placement for people like this is near impossible. For Mandie to get the proper nursing, and personal care she needs, the small homes can not afford to provide it. Places like Murray Center, JDC, are needed to provide the care, and safety for the people who live there now. Mandie is our only child. We love her dearly, and only want her to be safe.

Ray & Vickie Vest
13554 E-Dix Texico Rd
Texico TX 62889

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Oct 8, 2012

OCT 11 2012

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

To whom ~~it may~~ concern:

My name is Cheryl Williams and I am a mental health technician of 10 years at Warren G. Murray Center. I am writing to oppose the closing of Murray Center and Jacksonville also.

Being a tech and doing direct care is a very fulfilling job. The individuals look forward to seeing us everyday because we are their family away from home. For some of them we are their only family.

Since we work with them everyday we know their likes + dislikes, behaviors, triggers + behaviors etc, better than anybody. There are so many individuals that cannot go to 4-6 bed facilities because of their medical + behavior issues. Since we have round the clock nursing care + more staff available we can keep these

to a minimum. There are so many that will not survive out in the community atmosphere. They will either end up in jail or dead from lack of care givers.

So please keep Murray Center open. It will impact so many people. First and Foremost those who live there will be stripped of the family who has been taking care of them for over forty years for some. Some do not adjust well to change. Just moving buildings causes problems because of new staff and individuals around them.

The staff all 550 of us will have to find other jobs and to transfer would mean uprooting our families to places far away. The city of Centralia will receive a major blow to its economy because it is one of the biggest businesses in the area. Might as well make us a ghost town.

I pray you dont, but if you have to close Jacksonville please keep us open so we can provide a home for their individuals + a place for their employes to transfer to. We have the room + we are the newest facility in Illinois. Why not close Choate if you have to. They are older + probably not up to ~~code~~ code as much as we are.

Thank you for reading this and I hope you do. Again please save Murray Center and the lives of those who live there.

Sincerely,

Cheryl A Williams
Mental Health Tech II
at Murray Center

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5-6-12 ①

To Whom It May Concern,

HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD

Writing this letter to express my feelings on the closures of state operated facilities, and the reasons why they should remain open.

I have been employed at Warren G. Developmental Center for 11.5 years. I had not worked with individuals with disabilities before. We were a class of 30 and were trained by the certified staff of the facility for 6 weeks. I realized how important and fragile the needs of the individuals at WGMDC are.

I have now worked on just about every cottage at some point in time. We take care of a variety of individuals with multiple medical and behavioral issues. The trained staff handles these issues that fit the individuals' needs whatever the situation is.

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The people I take care of are my second family, we spend holidays and special occasions, and do a variety of activities together.

I have a friend that resides at Womoc. She was in an accident 25 yrs ago. No one thought she would survive as long as she has with her multiple medical problems and disabilities. I feel the care of the nursing staff and direct support staff have played a big part in her survival.

Not everyone is the same, there are some individuals who can reside in the community, but there are also those who are not medically stable for community. Behavioral issues are also a factor in community based living. The pros and cons have repeatedly been proven, but yet the closures are still a probability.

In closing I ask that we

consider the special needs of the individuals we take care of be the deciding factor in the closures of state operated facilities.

Thank you
Lisa McDonald
MHT2