

It's Time for Louisiana to Reform the System Serving People with Developmental Disabilities

What Legislators Can Do: Direct the Dept. of Health & Hospitals to immediately initiate plans to consolidate and close developmental centers to provide a better quality of life for current residents in the community and use the cost savings to serve people on the waiver waiting list.

And, approve a budget in the 2010 Legislative Session that reflects the following specific actions:

1. Close the state operated group home in Leesville and the developmental centers in Thibodaux (Bayou), Ruston (Northeast) and Iota (Acadiana). There are only 12 residents remaining at Bayou, 66 at Northeast, and 74 at Acadiana.
2. Sell the Metropolitan Developmental Center and the Leesville and Columbia facilities.
3. Downsize the remaining three developmental centers by implementing the Resource Allocation Model in these centers. *(Residents with the three lowest levels of needs would be offered community services.)*
4. Continue the privatization of all community homes and community services currently operated by OCDD, moving as many people into waiver services as possible. *(The Developmental Disabilities Council and its grassroots network LaCAN oppose the privatization of large developmental centers.)*
5. Utilize the cost savings generated from downsizing, privatization and closure of facilities for people on the waiver waiting list.

Facts about Louisiana's Developmental Disabilities System

- There are over 9,000 people on the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) waiting list.
- It has been proven that people with the most severe disabilities can and do live successfully in their own homes in the community with waiver supports, have a better quality of life and cost less than those in institutional settings. It was done successfully with Metropolitan Developmental Center (MDC) and Columbia Developmental Center and should be done with others.
- Louisiana spends over \$190 Million per year for 1,078 people with developmental disabilities to live away from their communities in six developmental centers.
- The average annual cost of an individual with developmental disabilities:
 - Living in a developmental center..... \$173,313.
 - Using an existing NOW slot \$ 65,581.
 - Using a NOW slot after Resource Allocation is fully implemented.....\$ 46,000.*

*OCDD projections
- Per capita, Louisiana serves more than twice as many people in developmental centers as the national average, and ranks 4th in the nation in the number of residents in developmental centers.
- Twelve states (AK, HI, IN, KY, ME, MN, NH, NM, OR, RI, VT, WV,) and the District of Columbia have closed ALL of their developmental centers. Thirteen other states have reduced the number of developmental centers by 50% or more.
- OCDD has estimated that approximately 200 residents of developmental centers will be determined to be at the three lowest levels of need when assessments have been conducted on all center residents.