

# **It's Time for Louisiana to Consolidate and Close Additional Developmental Centers**

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) in Greater New Orleans and should be done with others.

Savings from the consolidation and closure of developmental centers should be used to serve people on the New Opportunities Waiver (NOW) waiting list of over 9,000 people with developmental disabilities.

## **Why it's Time to Consolidate and Close Additional Developmental Centers:**

- Louisiana spends \$194 Million per year for 1,137 people with developmental disabilities to live away from their communities in six developmental centers.
- The current average annual cost of an individual in a developmental center is \$171,000. The current average NOW cost is \$70,000. With implementation of the Resource Allocation Model in the fall of 2008, average NOW costs for the 2,025 new recipients are expected to be \$44,208.
- Per capita, Louisiana serves more than twice as many people in developmental centers as the national average, and ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of residents in developmental centers.
- Nine states (AK, HI, ME, NH, NM, RI, VT, WV, IN) and the District of Columbia have closed ALL of their developmental centers. Sixteen other states have reduced the number of developmental centers by 50% or more.
- The MDC population included people with profound intellectual disabilities and significant behavioral challenges and individuals with significant medical support needs. Over 55% of the MDC population chose to live in the community with waiver services or in a community home and are now successfully doing so. The remainder moved to another developmental center.
- It is estimated that approximately 200 residents of developmental centers will be determined to be at the three lowest levels of need when OCDD conducts assessments on all center residents.

**What Legislators Can Do:** Require DHH to submit a plan by December 2009 for the expeditious consolidation and closure of Louisiana's developmental centers.