

Letters from Opponents

Kankakee Association for the Mentally Retarded Parent Group
Shapiro Developmental Center

December 19, 2008

Mr. Dan R. Long
Executive Director
State of Illinois
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
FAX: 217-782-3513

Dear Mr. Long:

The Kankakee Association for the Mentally Retarded Parent Group of Shapiro Developmental Center Opposes the closure of Howe Developmental Center. The Department of Human Services needs to work to bring this facility back to certification. The closure of Howe Developmental center would be evidence that DHS has not made enough of an effort to maintain the high federal standards that are required at SODC's. The need for these facilities continues to exist and it silently goes unmet. If the PASS agents are honest with you they will let you know that there are numerous developmentally disabled persons in need of a highly structured environment.

This state has capable and intelligent people who can make this service systems work. Employees will be paid a viable salary and will be held accountable for their work performance. These employees will be able to buy homes, cars and put their income back into the State's economy.

On behalf of the Kankakee Association for the Mentally Retarded Parent Group, I beg you to not let this closure happen. One size does not fit all. We have many great and well run programs in the community but the community programs need a great deal of help to bring them up to a level where they can handle the needs of our more vulnerable population.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra Rainey

KAMR Board and Parent Group

P. O. Box 2908, Country Club Hills, IL 60478

To: Illinois Commission on Government

Dec. 11, 2001

I am pleading for your help in keeping the
Hawe Center in Tinley Park open.

My Daughter Diana Maracich's home has been at
Hawe for almost 30 years. She has had the best
of care at Hawe; that's why I chase Hawe to be her home.

When she first went there she use to bang her head
on the walls and actually put a hole in the wall
She also use to bite herself out of frustration of
not being able to speak or be understood.
She now does not bang her head or bite herself
due to the wonderful care and love of the staff at
Hawe. She loves them like a Mother. They are her
family. She loves all the residents on her house 307.
They are her family; they are like sisters very close.

The staff takes them to the movies downtown,
ball games, the zoo, special olympics, Orland Days,
concerts, bowling tournaments, picnics hayrides,
swimming, dancing every Friday night, Halloween &
Christmas parties at the Lexington House or Silver Lakes
Country Club, Doctors appointments, Ice cream socials,
pizza parties, Birthday parties & many other things.
The wonderful staff takes them to all these affairs.

Diana goes to Vertoma workshop everyday.
If Diana was moved to a new place and separated
from her present staff and residents she would
regress to banging her head and biting herself.
Just think if a child of yours was taken out of your
home & told she or he had to leave you & go live somewhere
else without all the people she or he loves. That's how these
children at Hawe feel. They are being ripped away from their
home & from those they love. Please, please do what you can
to help our children & keep Hawe open. They need your help.
May God Bless you & give you wisdom, understanding & guidance.
Diana is 50 yrs. old. I am 75 yrs. & my husband is 80 yrs. old.

Sincerely yours Daloris Maracich - Mother & Guardian of
Diana Maracich - House 307

1224 Marengo Ave.
Forest Park, IL 60130
708-497-5336
franken24@sbcglobal.net

Frances A. Arcuri

Fax

To: Commission members

From: Frances A. Arcuri

Fax: 217-782-3513

Pages: 3

Phone:

Date: 12/11/08

Re: HOWE HEARING

CC: ALL COGFA MEMBERS

Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply** **Please Recycle**

Dear Commission Members:

Although I have been at many other meetings regarding the proposed closing of Howe Developmental Center, I will not be able to attend the hearing tonight in Tinley Park.

I want you to know my position as guardian and sister of a Howe resident. Attached is the story of my family, my brother, and my position on this topic.

There will be many people who want to tell you their stories. Please listen carefully to those who know the residents best, because few of the residents can speak for themselves.

Please be wary of those who spout statistics and who claim to represent the developmentally disabled. As the saying goes, "Figures don't lie, BUT LIARS FIGURE."

Thank you for your consideration.

Frances A. Arcuri

Frances A. Arcuri
1224 Marengo Ave.
Forest Park, IL 60130
December 11, 2008

Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability

Re: Howe Developmental Center

Dear Legislators:

I am the guardian for my brother, Julio Arcuri. He is 56 years old and functions on the level of a three year old. He does not speak except to repeat words and one word answers to simple questions. He has self-injurious behaviors and other medical concerns including medication monitoring.

By the time Julio was 10 years old, our parents could no longer care for him at home. He spent a year at Elgin State Hospital, because there was no room in State facilities for children who were developmentally disabled (mentally retarded). Then Julio went to Lincoln State School, later called Lincoln Developmental Center. Lincoln Developmental Center was located in a farm community four hours away from our home. He lived there for over thirty-five years. During those years we saw conditions at Lincoln change for the better. By the time Lincoln was closed, my brother had developed long term relationships with this house staff and fellow residents. Julio was well cared for by the house staff at Lincoln. His caregivers were good, caring people, and he received good medical care.

Then Lincoln lost its accreditation and its Federal funding and it was decided that Lincoln would be closed. Oh, incidentally, by 2001, the town of Lincoln, Illinois had become a developing bedroom community half way between the University at Bloomington-Normal and the State Capitol, Springfield. The land Lincoln Developmental Center occupied had become very valuable. So hundreds of residents were displaced and torn from their home.

DOES THIS SOUND AT ALL FAMILIAR??????????????

Luckily for our family, there was room for Julio at Howe Developmental Center. We have always felt Julio received good care at Howe. All of the members of his house staff are good, caring people who are sincerely concerned about the people in their care. These people constantly reported to the administration regarding Julio's condition after a mandated change in medication. It was about this time we were told of the first plans to sell the property AROUND Howe. However we were told our residents would be able to stay while surrounding acres were developed. It was at this time we began to have difficulty with the administration and finding a replacement for the terminated medication. You see, the wheels had already been set in motion to sell the Howe land. And the plan to save the residences was not good enough. So the accreditation was lost and the Federal funding was lost. **AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER WOULD BE CLOSED. Once again our loved ones are being displaced.**

Many, if not most, of the residents at Howe function at a level similar to my brother, or not as well. People born in the 40's, 50's and 60's did not have the benefit of Pubic Special Education programs which are widely available today. They should not be punished because they do not fit into the new system or vision. They need constant supervision to insure they do not engage in self-injurious behaviors, or injure others. They need regular medical care and tests, medication

monitoring, and behavior documentation. They also need resources that allow for quality programs and activities so that they can continue to develop to the full extent of their capabilities. And they need funding that attracts administrative leaders who insist on quality.

My brother and many of the residents at Howe do not fit into other types of facilities. With the proper funding and administrative leadership, Howe could remain open and be a quality facility. A portion of the land could be sold while saving the residences, activity buildings, and some green space for the residents to enjoy.

You have undoubtedly seen the reports that show Illinois 51st in the amount of resources devoted to the care of citizens who are developmentally disabled. This is a travesty! The resources necessary to make these centers quality facilities were not provided and they were allowed to flounder. **WHY? GREED.** Our developmentally disabled citizens have been written off by those who decide on funding.

Please, put a stop to this pattern. Rather than close Howe, insist that appropriate funding is provided to make Howe the quality facility we know it can be. Insist that our developmentally disabled citizens stay near their families, and insist that they not be treated as "disposable". Don't allow them to be sent hundreds of miles away simply because land there is not as profitable.

We would love to have our family members home with us, but we cannot provide the care they need. We need to keep our loved ones close to us and not ship them hundreds of miles away. We need to do this not only to preserve our relationships, but so that we may monitor the care provided.

There is room for compromise here. LEAVE US OUR SMALL PORTION OF THE LAND. Use the proceeds of the sale of the rest to provide the funding needed to bring quality back to Howe.

PLEASE DON'T RIP OUR LOVED ONES FROM THEIR HOME,FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!!!!

**DO NOT BE DECEIVED!!!!!!
GROUPS THAT QUOTE STATISTICS TO YOU
IN AN EFFORT TO CLOSE ALL DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS
WHO CLAIM TO REPRESENT HOWE RESIDENTS' BEST INTERESTS
DO NOT!!!**

**THE FAMILIES AND GUARDIANS
SPEAK FOR THE RESIDENTS!!!!!!**

Sincerely,



Frances A. Arcuri

My story about Howe by Marian Alcala

I was living at home in Glenwood with my family. One day I got offer a chance to teach at Howe Center, I taught m My Voice My choice about self-advocacy. I also to worked with some people in their chapter of People First of Tinley Park. I got to know the president of the chapter, Tom C. He didn't like living at Howe. He complained about some of the "thing" going on there. One day Tom didn't come home from his home visit. Everyone was asking Tom's girlfriend and me where was Tom. I didn't know where tom Went. I told this to everyone who asked. One day The Glenwood police came to my family house to ask me again about Tom and where was he. This scared me a lot because didn't know I did any thing wrong. I didn't know why the police were asking me about Tom. I didn't know where he was.

It took a long time before I got the nerve to go back to Howe to see some of the other people I know. I see that Howe is closing and I worry about where will these friends of mine go to live. I hope they will be able to get in to my agency and other agency where I know the staff. I don't want to lose my friends.

My name is Darlene Fagan and I am guardian and advocate for my brother Kevin Seagrave who has resided at Howe since 2001, presently in unit 101. Kevin was born 8-3-1953 a happy healthy baby, but at the age of 3 months was diagnosed with spinal meningitis which left him blind and severely mentally handicapped. He requires 24-7 care from staff who know how to care for his needs. He does receive this at Howe.

He remained at home until doctors suggested that Kevin be placed as he was having seizures. He left home on his 9th birthday. That was the hardest decision his parents ever made and has been hard on the family ever since. however, that was best for Kevin. The state of Illinois built these development centers in order to provide a better life for the handicapped population. For many this has been their home and now someone wants to take this away from them. How can they? And why are they?

I don't know why Kevin was placed in Lincoln when his family lived in New Lenox, thus making visits hard. However, we did visit as often as we could. I don't want anymore distance between us. At Lincoln we were not allowed in Kevin's room, staff always brought Kevin to us. Lincoln ended up being his home for 37 years. My parents had plans to have Kevin buried in the town of Lincoln, now this has changed too.

However, in 2001 Lincoln was shut down and Kevin was transferred to Howe. The move was very hard on Kevin and he has regressed a lot in his self-abusive behavior. Beating his head with his fists, biting his finger and screaming is normal now for Kevin. He no longer smiles or allows me to give hugs. This has become worse since his move from Lincoln and then his move from unit 503 to unit 101. He does not understand why his home is always being taken away. Now we are to face another move, which I feel will be far more than my brother Kevin can tolerate. Will anyone other than his family really care?

We are being asked to make decisions on a new home, without being allowed to tour them, and we are being asked to deal with people we have never met when we make that decision. I have worked with social worker Sandra Calhoun from day one and she has always been there for our family and Kevin. As guardians why should we be asked to

discuss such an important issue as a possible move of our loved ones, with someone we do not know? We do not want to move our loved ones from their home at Howe.

At Howe we can come and go as we wish. I take Kevin outside; attend the ice cream socials, picnics and other activities. Kevin is cared for and given his space to listen to his music and rock in his chair. These are the things in life that are important to him. Doesn't this population deserve those little things in life that can make a difference to them? Most residents don't care if they have designer clothes, video games, or money, they just want their home. Why must this be taken away from them?

The staff at Howe are family not only to our loved ones but also to our families. They do care and most have been working at Howe for many years. This is not just a job to them. Why must we also take that away from the staff?

My brother will not survive in a group home and I have toured several of them. I would not feel safe visiting Kevin nor taking him outside. He would not receive the care he needs and deserves. This is the case with most of Howe's residents.

I ask you today, to make the right decision in keeping Howe open which is home to over 300 residents. How can the state of Illinois take away their homes and their safe environments? Please give serious consideration to reversing the decision to close this center. Rather do what is necessary to see that Howe is certified and remains open and serves our loved ones.

Thank you for allowing us this time to voice our opinions.

**Sincerely, Darlene E. Fagan
815-725-6951
705 Sanctuary Ln
Joliet, IL 60435**

2650 N. Lakeview, 3606
Chicago, IL 60614-1873
(773) 883-1601
bobclarg@att.net

December 17, 2008

My name is Bob Gadbois. I am the guardian for my sister who has resided at Howe for over 30 years. For the past seven years I have also volunteered in Howe's Citizen Monitor program. Each month I visit two houses unannounced and observe. If I find something wrong, I let the directors know in a written report and they have acted upon it. I pull no punches.

Guess what? I have found little to complain about. On the whole the staffers are dedicated people with a difficult job caring for the mentally and physically disabled, some with extreme behavioral problems. Howe's federal decertification, in my opinion, has been because of cutbacks and underfunding---a problem easily fixed.

But the Governor and the Department of Human Services have chosen to close Howe instead. In fact I believe the ultimate plan is to close all government-run facilities in the state and outsource all our disabled people to private community centers.

Many groups have proposed this. Equip for Equality is one. This is an organization hired by our governor. It has hammered away for closures using the media for their attacks. They have been long on innuendo and short on facts about abuse and neglect. They claim community-based placements give greater freedom of choice and more community integration. They claim the state has restricted this move and imprisoned the disabled.

These organizations never asked for my opinion or my sister's or many other Howe families. They've never even contacted us.

Here are MY facts. DHS has promoted community placement for my sister many times, and each time I've rejected it. My twin sister is 66 years old. She's in frail health and has the severe mental disability of a 13-month old child. Only a 24/7 prime care facility like Howe could properly care for her. Staffers are long term, unionized and decently paid workers. They supply the structure, security, programs and love she needs. She wouldn't be capable of choosing community placement nor would she do well there. If moved from that environment she and others will become severely traumatized and maybe some of the frail ones might die. Do you think these private profit-driven community centers provide the kind of care Howe does? Their staff is overworked, underpaid and has a high turnover rate. And now the state wants to increase their load and decrease their funding. This might be OK for the minimally disabled, but not my sister.

How will the state oversee these centers to avoid abuse and neglect? Do you think Equip for Equality will be around or even care? By closing Howe you are betraying our most vulnerable and least vocal citizens.

This proposed closure is about money for the state, pure and simple. Developers are drooling over the land on which Howe resides. And in light of the recent scandals in the news I wonder just where the money actually will go. In light of the recent events it would be wise to reconsider keeping Howe open for now and recertify it. Check out Howe for yourselves. See what a nice facility is there. But don't betray our disabled.

Robert S. Gadbois



December 15, 2008

Dear Sir:

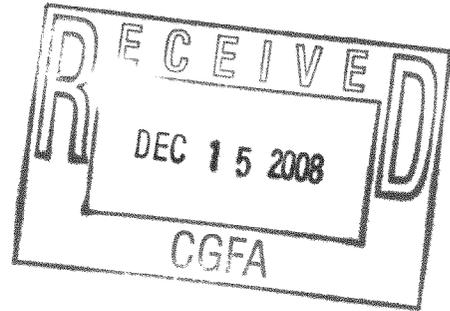
We at Murray Parent's Association support the Howe Developmental Center's efforts to remain open. As parents of residents with multiple handicaps, we firmly believe that State Operated Developmental Centers provide the safe environment needed by this fragile population.

Sincerely,

Sondra Wilkins, President
Murray Parents Association

December 11, 2008

Commission on Government Forecasting
And Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706



Attn: Dan R. Long, Executive Director

Dear Commission Members,

My daughter, Angelique, is 46 years old. She is profoundly retarded and has no self care skills. All her food was pureed because she never learned to chew. She finally walked on her own when she was 11. She lived at home till she was 27 years old. She is the oldest of five children and all of her siblings helped take care of her. Her dad worked nights and I worked days. Because of the severity of her disability, there was no day programming available to her till we moved from the Brookfield/LaGrange area to Bolingbrook in 1970. Cerebral Palsy in Manhattan allowed her to attend their program. It was a very long bus ride for her, but she didn't seem to mind.

In 1972 we moved back to the Brookfield/LaGrange Area. The state was now providing more services for educable and trainable children in public schools freeing up spots for children with more severe problems. We found a program for her at Helping Hand in LaGrange. She attended public school from about age 14 till 21 and then went back to Helping Hand at the workshop. She didn't work but was in a basic skills program.

Growing up, Angelique had seizures, and severe allergies which affected her health. Ear infections and pneumonias were the most common. She has a slight hearing loss because of the ear infections, bronchiastisis of the lungs because of the recurrent pneumonias, and damaged teeth because of the seizure medications, phenobarbitol and dilantin. When she turned 21 her pediatrician, said I would have to find another doctor. We did and Angelique's health steadily worsened. At the same time our support system was falling apart because her siblings were growing up and leaving home and her Dad and I divorced. I had a minor accident and was hospitalized over night. I realized that I would have to find a residential home for her.

I worked with Community Support Services in Brookfield to find a place for her. Angelique and I checked places in state and out of state that seemed interested in placing her. Only one offered placement. It was Mount St. Joseph in Lake Zurich. She was there about three weeks when they called and told me I would have to pick her up. They could not take care of her medical needs. She started October 1988 and was discharged December 16, 1988.

We had exhausted all available placement opportunities before she was placed at Mount St. Joseph. Her health continued to deteriorate at home. She was waking up at night and required more hospitalizations. We gave up hope. It was a fluke that we found Howe Center. You cannot imagine my surprise or gratitude the first time we toured Howe Developmental Center. It had excellent medical care, small group homes, beautiful grounds, a pool, recreation center complete with a gym, and it was close to family (about 10 to 15 minutes away). It was perfect. This is community placement.

Angelique's medical condition has worsened over the years. In 2001 she had surgery for two large tumors in her ovaries that were found to be malignant. They were fibroid tumors with only a 1% of being malignant. She was a poor candidate for chemo, but the doctor felt he had gotten everything. In June, 2005 more tumors were discovered in her pelvic area. The cancer had returned. Her doctor gave her six months to two years to live. It is a fast growing cancer and he did not think that she would survive the six months. At a check up in September 2008, the doctor told us she's doing better than 85% of his patients. She is not cured or in remission. She takes tamoxifen which is a palliative. I appreciate the medical care that she receives at Howe Center. At this stage of her life I am most interested in quality of life.

Because of the closure plans, I have been checking out alternative placement in the community. Several names have been given to me. I have checked them out on the internet under News Releases from the Illinois Department of Human Services. Not too encouraging. There were rapes, beatings, and deaths and the providers were only fined. They are not held to the same standard as the SODCs. This is deplorable.

I went to look at one place last week that is interested in placing my daughter. It's set up like a nursing home and very, very clean. It's about 40 minutes from my home. I'm going Monday to look at another place. It's in the middle of an industrial park. My problem is that I want a place equal to Howe Center or better. I want my daughter to have the best quality of life in the time she has left.

At Howe Center Angelique receives excellent medical care. She lives in small group home with seven of her friends. The direct care staff knows each ladies special needs and take excellent care of them. They always have fun on her house. Some days everyone wears the same color. They dance to country and western music. All the ladies love the music. Everyone living on the house is always well groomed. Best of all, staff talks to the ladies living on the house. They make them laugh and feel special. When the weather permits Angelique and I walk the beautiful grounds or enjoy sitting in the gazebo. We might tour the recreation center and gym and check up on what's happening. We also visit family in the area, or go shopping. Sometimes Aunt Pat and Grandma meet us at Angelique's house. It's perfect. This is what community placement is all about, being close to family.

I feel the best quality of life for Angelique is to continue living at Howe Center. At Howe Center she will have excellent medical care. She's had the same medical specialists for nineteen years. They know her and her history. The staff at St. James Hospital where she's been hospitalized over the years also knows her. Medical care is extremely important for Angelique, but having her family close to her is also extremely important. At Howe Center she can live in a home with friends, get great medical care and have her family close to her.

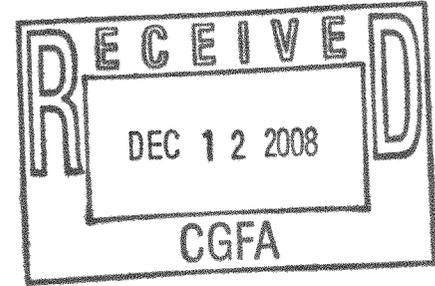
Howe Center is not perfect. Neither is any other placement. The people taking care of our family members in SOCDs and in the community are human beings. They are not perfect, and they make mistakes. Howe Center is worth saving. The problems at Howe are not systemic. They are the result of poor management by the Department of Human Services. DHS chose inept, inexperienced people for the important positions of center director and medical director at Howe.

Please save Howe Center.

Linda Brown
608 Cherrywood Drive
North Aurora, IL 60542-1032
630-892-3834
lb608@sbcglobal.net

Sherry and Tom Miller
5706 Beech Avenue
Coloma, Michigan 49038

State of Illinois Commission on
Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706



December 9, 2008

Dear Commission,

After hearing about the possible closing of the Howe Developmental Center and the Tinley Park Mental Health Center, we feel we must write on behalf of the people who depend on this facility for their health and welfare. We do not support the closure.

Here we are in Michigan and we are voicing our concern. Of the 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals at the Tinley Park facility, one of them is a cousin. Her name is Kathryn Karen Allen. When I was a young woman, I remember watching Toby Allen, Kathryn's mother, having to deal with the pain, and yet the joy, of raising this beautiful young lady. I remember arms flailing, awkward limbs trying to find stability, and sometimes a vacant look in Kathryn's eyes. But when someone said "hello," she lit up like a decorated Christmas tree. For some reason, I remember. Because it's this very special personal care that allows a handicapped individual to lead a healthy and productive life. Kathryn Karen found that care at the Howe facility in Tinley Park. Her mother related that, at one time in the past, Kathryn did have to endure a move. The result was severe trauma. Must she endure this again? We urge you to think of these people with your heart. As if they were an extension of your own family. What would you do if he/she were your own Mother, sister, brother, son, daughter, or Father?

We were sickened to hear that the facility would be closed to make way for commercial development. Understand that no development whatsoever can replace a facility like Howe which meets the complex needs, be it medical, psychological, dietary, or physical therapy, of these developmentally challenged persons. And then, of course, there's the indispensable research which evolves from such a facility. I had the honor of visiting Howe once as part of a Psychology Class Project. I was awed by the dedication of the hired professionals as well as the progressive programs. Hopefully, they won't become yet more victims of management inadequacies at the Howe facility, management which was unable to obtain the necessary funding to keep it going. Since politics seems to be in the midst of a shake-up in Illinois right now, perhaps funding can be revisited. Or another solution implemented? Any of this can be turned around for the positive. And a most assuredly disastrous outcome avoided.

We understand that the people who depend on Howe's care will be transferred to "nursing homes." We were horrified at that news. Nursing homes cannot possibly offer the same environment that thrived at Howe nor the same trained staff.

Common sense dictates that this closure will place an enormous strain on families, the patients at Howe, and on the economics of the area as well as the community-based agencies asked to take on this future burden. Whatever the gain now will have long-term effects both emotionally and financially for those personally involved as well as the entire community. It's simply...just cutting corners. Pasting pieces together to try to make them fit. But band aids like that often come loose and the wound doesn't heal. Past history has proved this to be true. We urge you to consider the consequences. It may be quite costly. Please do what is necessary to keep Howe open. Please care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sherry Miller".

Sherry and Tom Miller

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas C. Miller".

FAX Transmission

To: Daniel R. Long, Executive Director and Members
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability

FAX #: 217-782-3513

From: Rita Burke, President
Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled

Tx: 618-457-4335

Date: December 18, 2008

No. of pages 3 (including this cover sheet)

Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns to the Commission. Please distribute this letter to members.

Thank you.

Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled



December 18, 2008

Daniel R. Long, Executive Director
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62708

Dear Mr. Long and Members of Commission:

The Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled (IL-ADD) is composed of the presidents and other key people from the family/guardian organizations of all nine of Illinois' State Operated Developmental Centers (SODCs). We implore you to vote against the closure of the Howe Developmental Center in Tinley Park.

Families and guardians of Illinois' most vulnerable people with developmental disabilities rely on our Department of Human Services and its oversight by legislative bodies such as yours, to protect the lives and well-being of our loved ones.

We believe that the Department of Human Services has failed us and our loved ones in many respects. We ask you to ensure that DHS will no longer be allowed the option of failure, permitting it to repeat the tragedy of the Lincoln Developmental Center closure at Howe.

First, individuals, who cannot be served in less supportive settings than our SODCs, should be able to expect that DHS will make every effort to ensure that their facility meets federal standards for Medicaid participation, not embrace failure and announce closure. SODC residents (most of whom have been expelled from community placements) are the most vulnerable individuals with severe/profound mental retardation, significant medical complications, dangerous behavior disorders or combinations of these conditions. Howe families believe their loved ones are receiving good care and want Howe to remain open. Howe did meet federal standards for Medicaid participation, but then was decertified. We believe the problems at Howe can be whittled down to one that governs all others, leadership. Yet, DHS tells us that Howe's problems are systemic, unfixable, or too expensive to continue to fix.

In reality, the cost for not fixing Howe will be a human one, with predictable deaths for some and loss of home and well-being for hundreds.

PO Box 703, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0703 618-457-4335

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Second, DHS has further jeopardized trust that it is appropriately concerned for the lives and well-being of the severely disabled people in its care by setting the preposterous goal of a mere few months to relocate hundreds of Howe residents, most to other SODCs due to the intensity of their disabilities. Those targeted for community placement may not have the time necessary to explore options, to have trial visits, and perhaps most importantly, to be ensured the safety net of a SODC should community placement prove inadequate or inappropriate.

Third, the findings of federally funded agencies such as Equip for Equality and Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities, that unabashedly denounce institutional care as archaic and of legacy design and who align with “community only” organizations that advocate for SODC closure, should be suspect. EFE and ICDD do not support or represent individuals who need and choose institutional care. Yet, they may be unduly influential in driving state policy away from the choice of institutional care, even for those who desperately need it. Rather than offering constructive recommendations to SODCs and acknowledging their wealth of resources and professional experience, EFE and ICDD promote the themes of “systemic and unfixable problems,” “archaic and legacy design” and call for closure. In order to advance their agenda, these organizations have misrepresented the U.S. Supreme Court holding in *Olmstead* to make it appear that *Olmstead* requires downsizing and closure of SODCs. Quite the contrary is true, *Olmstead* protects appropriateness, choice of service settings, and range of service options.

Fourth, the plan to move hundreds of Howe residents to other SODCs when there is precedent for inadequate support to keep a facility certified and open, makes families from all the SODCs concerned for their own survival. We fear the closure of Howe embraces and entrenches the formula for closure, a death knell for SODCs and their residents.

We have offered our proposals to DHS and include them here for your consideration:

Howe has support it needs to move people for whom community is appropriate and their choice to appropriate settings with follow up (by independent body) on a person-by-person basis and recertification of units one by one.

Department communicates with Howe families regarding follow up of individuals who leave Howe.

DHS ensures adequate support for SODCs receiving Howe clients.

Future plans for DD System and SODCs are transparent and SODC families meaningfully represented in planning.

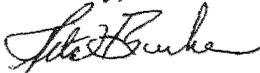
DHS does not tolerate false statements about cost to serve high needs individuals in community, nor misrepresentation of *Olmstead*, falsely invoked as a mandate to close SODCs, but appropriately corrects misinformation to legislators and policy makers.

DHS reestablishes trust with SODC families by revamping the Transition Support letter into a Contract that ensures return if necessary, and as necessary, for those residents who attempt community placement.

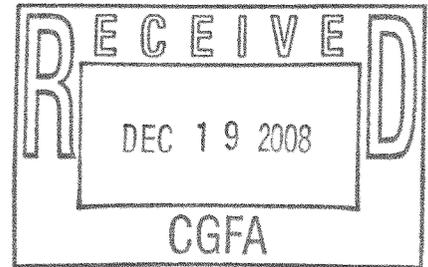
As DHS examines the future of SODCs, it examines Community Resource Center (CRC) models in other states and considers adopting CRC Best Practices in Illinois.

Please vote to keep Howe open to secure the appropriate care of Howe and all SODC residents.

Sincerely,



Rita Burke, President



Fr. C.C. Boyle Council 4698

Tinley Park, IL 60477

Serving the parishes of:

*St. George
St. Julie
St. Stephen
St. Emeric
Elizabeth Seeton
St. Gerard-Majellan
St. Damian*

12-15-08

Mr. Long:

My name is Roger Smuczerowicz and I am a Past grand Knight of Fr C.C. Boyle council here in Tinley Park IL.

Our council over 38 years ago started the M.R.L.D. Drive known as the Tootsie Roll Drive.

One of our main goals is charity. We do so in helping people with mental disabilities.

I am very distraught with the state of Illinois with the plans on the closing of the Howe center here in Tinley Park.

We have worked very hard to help these people that depend on us for help. Howe center is there home And for many of them there only contact as they call home.

I would like the commission to put themselves in their position. How would you feel if you were forced to leave your only home?

You would not be happy.

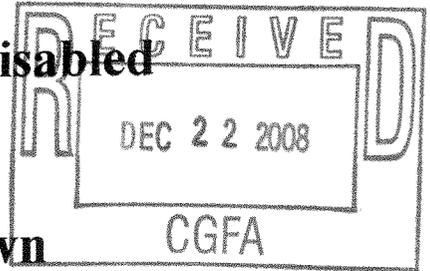
Please consider a new plan to give these people who are Gods children at permanent place here in Tinley Park IL.

Respectfully

*Roger Smuczerowicz
Past Grand Knight
18044 S Highland
Tinley Pk. IL 60477*

*Home 708-532-0665
Cell 708-906-4418*

**RE: Closing W.A. Howe Center for Disabled
Adults in Tinley Park:**



**My 64 year old sister, Eileen, with Down
Syndrome has lived at Howe since 1989.**

**The decertification of Howe was predictable, due
to short staffing, over-tasking, and underfunding.
It was doomed to flounder by design.**

**The charade of re-certification was totally
unconvincing. No sincere effort was made to
correct the deficiencies listed in the myopic 92
page report from the department of health and
human services. This report is mute on the root
causes of the problems. The report fails to justify
or legitimize closing Howe. Our deepest
suspicions that the clandestine decision to board
up Howe was made years ago are now confirmed.
To hold public hearings now, after the fact, is
reprehensible.**

**Governor Rod Blagojevich and his cohorts have
crushed a union and seized control of almost one
square mile of prime real estate to be quietly
auctioned off to the highest contributor(s). The
U.S. Attorney for northern Illinois should
scrutinize this scheme.**

Unfortunately, there is an element of, “not in my back yard,” at play. When Howe was dedicated, it was surrounded by grain silos and corn fields. The “Do not pick up hitch hikers” signs have been removed, but memories linger. Plus.....”An institution like that is not suited for”..... the “new convention center image.” Some of our state representatives are silent conspirators in this matter.

Regarding the alleged 21 deaths “due to negligence” since 2005: Who investigated these deaths? Were they natural, accidental, suicide, homicide or undetermined? If there was a criminal agent responsible, why are there no indictment(s)? When inquiries are made, the bureaucratic shoulder shrugging becomes epidemic. The state mantra seems to be, “accentuate the negatives at Howe.” Factoring in the ages and frail health of Howe’s population, perhaps the death rate may not be as ominous as portrayed. It does not take a Ph.D. from Springfield to gin up a report as a pretext to raze Howe, any hack can do that.

It has been observed that some directors at Howe shuttle effortlessly between entities like “Trinity”

and Howe. Whose “conflict of interest” do they serve? This lock-step relationship between the public and private sectors does not pass the sniff test. It has been suggested that they are advance “cherry pickers,” selecting the less needy and younger clients at Howe who would be more profitable for their corporate bottom line.

The house staffs at Howe do a commendable job the vast majority of time. Working with the profoundly mentally retarded is difficult at best. Are there problems? Of course, there are. However, don't marginalize all of Howe because someone neglected to wear latex gloves or wash their hands properly.

The myth that community placement is a panacea falls short at a reality check. Encouraging people to re-locate to “community settings” that do not provide the same level of security, services, and care that Howe daily provides is a quantum leap backwards. Upon visiting one highly recommended site, I retreated when gun fire was heard in the “community.” At another location there was a very impressive new home with 5-6 residents. The only “deficiency” was the sole caregiver had an emergency at home and abandoned her charges to fend for themselves.

Later, it was learned that the caregiver had quite a few emergencies. It is unknown if they were “decertified.”

Anecdotal information on past transfers of Howe patients to private nursing homes outside of Cook County does not seem to bode well for their longevity. Is anyone keeping score on these deaths?

One wonders if people claiming instant expertise on Howe ever visited the facility or spoke with the hard-working staff. Or have they accepted the plethora of false promises, distortions, and the politically correct realignment of facts? Shame on this sleight of hand administration, offering up hope to families and guardians that Howe would remain open with one hand while dropping the guillotine blade on Howe with the other.

This current trend of privatization might be more palatable if so many of these predatory entities were not joined at the hip in an unholy marriage with Blagojevich’s kleptocracy.

These contracts usually begin with the lowest bidder and highest contributor. (The graft

margin is somewhere in between.) The savings to the tax payer is much heralded, and before the ink is dry the costs creep up well beyond the original cost of the state home.

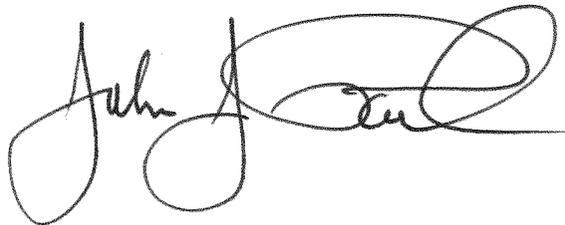
My sister was recently hospitalized for 19 days. Everyday a ‘sitter’ from Howe arrived to assist her in feeding herself. This would be rare in a for-profit nursing home.

Howe’s residents were special needs children whose only “deficiency” was growing old. Let us not cast them adrift to an uncertain future to be preyed upon by exploitive profiteers.

Our dysfunctional governor and his minions have repeatedly demonstrated they are manifestly incapable of governing anything. Blagojevich’s pernicious DNA seems to be the catalyst in this chemistry of corruption. The convoluted nonsense that spews from his mouth is embarrassing Illinois.

It would be an honor to compile a 92 page report on Blagojevich's "deficiencies; malfeasance, intransigence, etc." and "decertify" him.

Please pray for the voiceless and forgotten souls at Howe and hope a champion of the downtrodden responds to the tears and sighs of true innocents and prevents their being scapegoated for the greed of public official "A" and the "tax rolls." Surely our elected officials are not looking out for them.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

**John J. Reed
14930 El Cameno Real Drive
Orland Park, Illinois 60462**

Statement of Purpose

The undersigned organizations hereby state their opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center, and urge Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facilities.

Endorsers

Howe Families and Friends Association

Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled

Lansing Assembly of God

St. Julie Billiard Church

St. Gregorios Cathedral Church

Trinity All Nations Church

Brookfield Kiwanis Club

Joliet Area Community Hospice

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31

Cement Mason's Local 11

Laborer's Union Local 75

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 19

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 21

Illinois Federation of Public Employees Local 4408, IFT

Township Supervisory Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township

Robert E. Polk and the Village of Burnham Board

Mayor Michelle Markiewicz Qualkinbush and the Calumet City City Council

Mayor Anthony De Luca, and the Chicago Heights City Council

Chief of Police Anthony J. Murphy, Chicago Heights

President Larry Stringfellow, School District 170, Chicago Heights

Mayor Dwight Welch and the Country Club Hills City Council

Mayor Keevan Grimmer and the Village of Dixmoor

Mayor Saul L. Beck and the Village of Ford Heights

Mayor Eric J. Kellogg and the City of Harvey City Council

Mayor Robert B. Donaldson and the Village of Hazel Crest Board of Trustees

President Richard A. Hofeld of Homewood

Mayor David Webb Jr. and the Markham City Council

President Andre B. Ashmore and the Village of Matteson Board of Trustees

Mayor Timothy A. Baldermann of New Lenox

President Linzey D. Jones and the Village of Olympia Fields Board of Trustees

President Terry Wells and the Village of Phoenix Board of Trustees

President Donald W. Schupek and the Village of Posen Board of Trustees

President Richard P. Reinbold, Village of Richton Park

President Zenobia Evans and the Village of Riverdale Board of Trustees

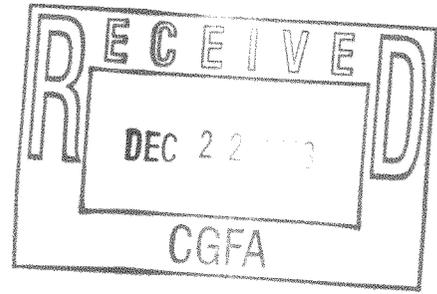
President David L. Owen and the Village of South Chicago Heights Board of Trustees

President Don A. DeGraff and the Village of South Holland Board of Trustees

President Edward S. Guzdziol and the Village of Worth

Lawrence M. Walsh, Will County Executive

U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., 2nd District



Executive Director

Henry Bayer

Executive Vice Presidents

Lori Gaston

Dorinda Miller

Herdastine Williams

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Barney Franklin

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Robert Fanti

David Ford

Richard Heitz

Randy Hellmann

Kenneth Kleinlein

Gary Kroeschel

Troy Milligan

David Morris

Patricia Ousley

Ralph Portwood

Barb Reardon

Sam Rossi

Edward Schwartz

Denise Slaughter

Raymond Summers

Michael Vanover

Laverne Walker

Trudy Williams

Retiree President

Virginia Yates

Trustees

Hector Cruz

Kathy Lane

December 19, 2008

VIA FAX: 217-782-3513

Senator Jeffery Schoenberg and Representative Richard Myers, Co-Chairs
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Co-Chairs Schoenberg and Myers:

AFSCME Council 31 objects in the strongest possible terms to the recommendations submitted to COGFA aimed at closing Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center. Simply stated, the plans to shutter these facilities put money before people—indeed some of our state’s most vulnerable people. These closures would harm not just the 1,000 workers employed at the Centers or the regional economy; more importantly they remove from the Southland two centers that provide a desperately needed resource for those whose severe disabilities make it difficult to impossible for them to rely solely on the community-based service system.

This is a second attempt by the Blagojevich Administration to close Tinley Park MHC and sell the valuable land that surrounds it. Four years ago that proposal met with strong resistance from the individuals served and their families as well as community health centers, private hospitals and local governments in the Southland which rely upon the center. Over the ensuing years Tinley MHC and Howe DC suffered such neglect by the Illinois Department of Human Services that they have now been decertified. Those decertifications – brought about by consistent understaffing and poor facility leadership – should not be used to reward the Administration which is responsible for them, while punishing those who still rely on Tinley Park and Howe.

We have heard promises that some of the proceeds from the land sale will be used to strengthen the human service delivery system. In more prosperous economic times similar promises made when other facilities were closed were not kept. It is even less likely that they would be kept in a time of economic crisis when the demands on the state’s budget are mounting daily.

Specific Concerns Regarding the Tinley Park MHC Recommendation

When the DHS plan to close Tinley Park in 2004 met with widespread community opposition, DHS convened a Task Force, of which AFSCME was a member. This Task Force – made up of community providers, area hospitals, former patients and their family members, and state trade associations – agreed that a public hospital was needed in the Southland. DHS said it would build a new hospital to replace the old one. That was four years ago and in all that time, nothing had been done to move toward that goal.



Then last May DHS again announced it would build a new hospital, but in the interim Tinley Park would be downsized to 30 to 40 beds. Again this plan met with opposition. The failure of the recent attempt to redirect patients from the Southland for admission to Madden MHC in the western suburbs and Read MHC on Chicago's North side confirmed the need for 75-100 beds at Tinley. Connecting patients to the community care necessary to prevent hospital readmission is much more difficult when those patients are at a physical remove. And fewer inpatient beds at Tinley meant longer waits for admissions at all three Chicago area hospitals, resulting in backups in private hospital emergency rooms.

DHS has now revised its proposed closure scheme. Instead of calling for an interim downsizing, the department plans to continue operations at the TPMHC while a new facility is built, though all services will be consolidated in the Maple building. However, in public testimony DHS Director Jones did reserve the right to shift patients from Tinley Park to Madden and Read as the need arose, and mental health advocates questioned whether Maple is sufficient to house all necessary services to support even the 75 beds currently open at Tinley. So while a downsizing is not in the formal plan submitted to COGFA, clearly an interim downsizing is still very likely.

Although four years ago, the stakeholder Task Force explicitly called for a *public* hospital, today DHS asserts that any new hospital will be privately operated. Yet private hospitals in the area have said consistently that they are neither prepared to, nor capable of, serving the very acutely ill patients now sent to Tinley. It is not clear that there will be any local private operators willing to take on this role.

DHS explains their desire to privatize by pointing to examples in other states, specifically Florida, Georgia, and Utah. A cursory review of the track record in these states reveals:

- Such a privately-operated hospital is no more a reality—and no less controversial—in Georgia than it is in Illinois. The GA Mental Health Service Delivery Commission -- the Georgia governor's own hand-picked MH experts -- has not endorsed his recently announced privatization initiative. In their recent report, they pointedly did not support the proposal, but instead listed critical questions about privatization that the state must answer prior to awarding a contract. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* has editorialized against privatization of the state's MH system. According to the editorial (10/7/08), "Justice officials are unlikely to see the move as a legitimate effort on the state's part to improve the quality of care for patients. Taxpayers should also be skeptical of it."
- Florida's 10-year record does not clearly demonstrate whether the state has been able to reduce a high rate of re-hospitalization among patients. It is also difficult to determine whether there has been any substantial cost savings to taxpayers because of privatization. There may be lower per-patient costs, but as the state had already paid the capital costs underlying many of the services – buildings, infrastructure, etc. – taxpayers are already picking up the tab for much of it.

- MH privatization in UT also appears to have its flaws. From the Salt Lake Tribune (7/14/08), “Davis County’s sole provider of mental health services to low-income residents wasted \$850,000 to create new corporations that didn’t help patients, according to a state audit released Thursday. ... Billed as a way to provide better services in the wake of new Medicaid restrictions, the reorganization was approved by Davis County Commission, which ‘may not have understood the issues,’ according to the audit.”

Our greatest concern is whether – if COGFA permits Tinley’s closure – a new hospital will ever be built. It is curious that DHS is seeking leave to close Tinley now, before a new hospital has been constructed and before a location or a contractor has been identified. AFSCME does not oppose the construction of a 100 bed public hospital, as was envisioned by the Task Force four years ago. But given the many past attempts by the Blagojevich administration to downsize and close this facility over community opposition, COGFA should not give DHS authority to close at this time. To do so would remove legislative oversight of a still controversial project.

Specific Concerns Regarding Howe DC Recommendation

DHS says Howe is closing because its decertification means the state is unable to claim federal Medicaid matching funds. This is costing the state some \$30 million per year. Yet since at least May, 2008, DHS has made no attempt to certify even one unit at Howe, despite pleas from family members and offers of assistance from our union to do so.

Why is DHS not pursuing recertification, when more than \$30 million is at stake? This is fiscally irresponsible and fuels suspicions that the closure is not about quality of care, but rather about the sale of valuable land. This unwillingness to seek at least partial certification provides further evidence that Howe has been set up to fail.

All of the rhetoric justifying the closure gives the false impression that individuals are now being served in an “institution” and will be moved to “community” placements or “independent living” if the closure goes forward. The reality is very different.

First, DHS’s own plan only provides for 75 of Howe’s 315 residents to be moved to community group homes. That means that some 240 individuals will be moved to other already overcrowded and/or understaffed state-operated developmental centers—a clear acknowledgement that there is no community-based system of care prepared to serve individuals with the severe developmental disabilities, multiple physical disabilities, behavioral disorders and fragile medical conditions that characterize Howe’s population.

Moreover, many families doubt that there will be appropriate community placements available even for the 75 individuals slated to move into them. The credit crisis and state budget crisis have community providers’ backs against the financial wall. In fact, up until very recently, DHS was actually planning to reduce the rates at which community providers are reimbursed below last year’s level. And even now DHS is proceeding to make large cuts in grants for day training and other vital programs in

community-based agencies. Furthermore, the state owes these agencies millions of dollars in late payments stacked up for months, and the banking crisis means they cannot easily borrow to sustain their cash flow. Howe residents present among the most challenging cases – which means they require the most expensive care. That means Howe residents are the least likely to be accepted for services by reputable providers struggling for financial survival.

At the same time, state developmental centers too are impacted by budget constraints on top of years of inadequate staffing by the Blagojevich administration. There are three facilities listed as placements in the Howe closure plan. DHS says it will send 50 residents to nearby Ludeman and 100 to Shapiro in Kankakee. But neither of these facilities currently has that number of certified beds available. And that is still only 150 possible placements for the 240 (or more) residents who are slated for state center placement. That's why the plan calls for 70 residents to go to Murray Center in Centralia – 250 miles away. Will this really provide a better quality of life for Howe residents? Obviously not.

And while two-thirds of the Howe residents will move to other state centers, the state plans on moving far less staffing capacity to these centers. A total of 370 staff positions will be added to the three facilities above, while Howe employs 800. So these three facilities will be expected to care for two-thirds of the Howe residents with less than half of the staff. These state centers, already understaffed, are now also being set up to fail by this irresponsible administration. And by short staffing more state centers, they will cost Illinois taxpayers millions more in lost Medicaid funding.

The Blagojevich administration's plan does not put resident choice or quality of care first. Hundreds of family members have stated clearly and repeatedly that they have confidence that Howe, with new leadership, can be recertified. And they have rejected the attacks on Howe's reputation by groups who have a record of ideological opposition to state centers. These family members have stated again and again on the record that Howe is today a better place for their loved ones than any alternative placement they have been offered.

Undoubtedly, Howe's decertification by the federal government and the related charges leveled against it by Equip for Equality have tarnished the center's longstanding reputation for providing high quality care and services. However, it is very wrong to assume that the problems that have been identified are irremediable. In fact, even a cursory reading of the findings makes clear that many are matters of routine housekeeping and recordkeeping which can readily be corrected with greater managerial rigor and oversight, while others—including some of the most serious and tragic—are a direct result of inadequate staffing levels. Few, if any, are due to outright negligence or abuse, as closure proponents have attempted to suggest.

Finally, it is important to point out the false dichotomy established by closure proponents between state centers and "the community". In reality, Howe DC is in a community—right in the heart of Tinley Park—and is itself a community. With intensive staff support, many Howe residents regularly are able to go to movies, sports events, churches, shopping centers and other venues in the broader Tinley Park

community. And the Howe campus, with its small cottages (akin to group homes) provides its own community for residents—long-term staff who know well and care greatly for the individuals they serve, a wide variety of group activities, such as sports, games, movies, etc., and strong bonds among the individuals themselves.

Larger impacts of the closures

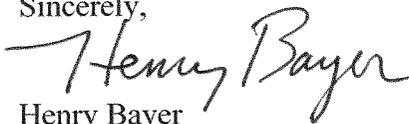
While the welfare of the residents at Howe and the patients who need Tinley Park must be every stakeholder's primary concern, the economic loss to the Southland if both facilities close should also raise concerns. The economic impact studies submitted by DHS understate the devastation of 1,000 job losses in the current economic climate.

DHS provides a very thin economic impact study. The authors are fairly forthright in that they say they can't predict much of the impact because the plan is not yet clear. But what is clear that over 1,000 jobs that provide a living wage, with good benefits, are being eliminated. On page 8 of the study the authors indicate that only 12-20% of these employees are expected to be transferred to other facilities in the greater Chicago region. They state a direct loss of over \$35 million in employee salaries to Cook County alone. They estimate a total labor income impact of over \$90 million dollars. If this were a corporation shutting down, state government would be working to prevent these job losses. In the current economy, for state government to be cutting jobs at this rate – especially when vulnerable people are being hurt by the closure at the same time – is highly irresponsible.

AFSCME Council 31 is committed to quality care at state centers and in community settings, where we represent thousands of direct care employees. Our union offered our full cooperation in any effort to ensure recertification. In fact, Council 31 offered as late as May, 2008 to provide technical assistance for an employee involvement program that would more fully draw on the ideas of facility employees to develop a strategy for recertification. DHS never responded to that offer, calling into question whether the department sincerely wanted to recertify the facilities or was merely seeking to hasten their demise.

We ask the Commission to reject the closures of both Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC. At the same time the Commission should urge DHS to immediately put in place a new management team at Howe Center which is committed to the recertification process. The Commission should also inform DHS that it will only consider a Tinley Park closure plan at the point when there is a new public mental health center ready to open in the Southland.

Sincerely,



Henry Bayer
Executive Director

cc: COGFA members

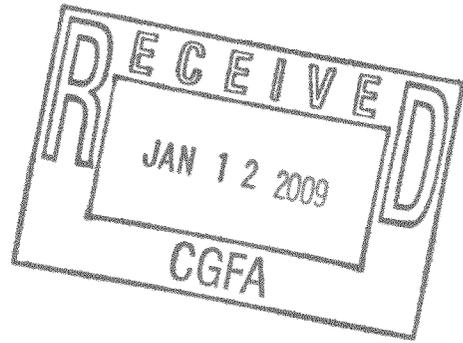
January 6, 2009

TO: Dan R. Long Executive Director COGFA

Jeffrey M. Schoenberg Co-Chairman COGFA

Senator Maggie Crotty

Representative Al Riley



FROM: Karen Krout, RN

6218 Laura Lane

Tinley Park, IL 60477

708-532-0612

RE: Proposed closure of Howe Developmental Center

I was only able to attend the public hearing at the Tinley Park convention center in December until approximately 8:30 p.m., but at the point at which I had to leave I felt very positive about the possibility of keeping Howe open.

I continue to remain very concerned about those who cannot speak for themselves, those individuals who reside at Howe. They love their lives at Howe, and most know nothing other than Howe, and consider the employees of Howe their families. Most of the direct support staff, including those providing care on a daily basis and nursing, feel that these individuals are part of their families as well.

Something of which you may not be aware, is that one of the consultants that was brought in to "assist" Howe to have a complete turnaround for a recertification is still at Howe, collecting a large consulting check. The name of this consultant is Robert Kifowitz. Mr. Kifowitz is from Texas and is telling us how to do things in the state of Illinois, without ever looking up the policy and procedure of Illinois SODC's during one minute of his tenure at Howe. Mr. Kifowitz is also not receptive to listen to the requirements of the Illinois SODC's, when he has been informed of them. As of this very date, he is putting out paperwork for nursing to complete for the closure of Howe, so apparently, in his mind, the closure is a done deal, and he is at Howe to facilitate the paperwork necessary for the transition to other facilities.

Howe has the potential for a wonderful future. However, for this future, some considerations should be taken. As mentioned in the public meeting, the management needs to be perhaps composed completely of health care workers, for example physicians and nurses, for matters to be handled effectively and efficiently. The current management is obviously unqualified if you examine their credentials.

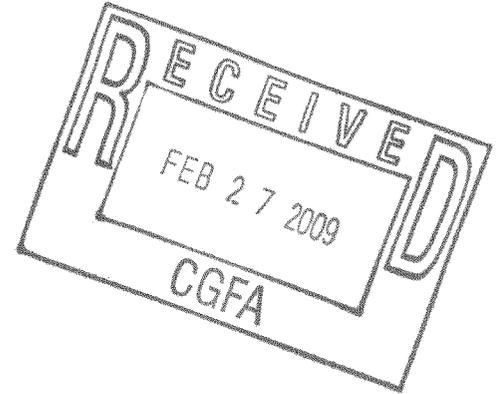
Thank you very much for all of your thoughtfulness and consideration of this difficult decision.

Karen Krout

From: munchtwo@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 9:31 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center closing

I continue to wonder how any of you sleep at night knowing what you are putting the families of the residents of Howe center in Tinley Park through right now. My family and I are still trying to find a home for my 50 year old sister to live in after being at Howe for almost 20 years. This is after we listened to all of the lies about the government stepping in to help us and all of this money coming our way to help us find a home for her. What a bunch of bullshit. The search started in September and we are midway through March and we still do not have a single home to place her in. They either have no vacancies, don't "want" her, we can't afford them, haven't returned phone calls, have waiting lists or aren't fit for my dog to live in. Let me tell you about these wonderful CILA homes that you are so excited for all of the residents to move to. We went and viewed one on Saturday. My sister would be living in the basement with no windows and a gate at the top of the stairs UNLESS one of the two women that were currently in the hospital died. Then she would be able to live in one of the broken down bedrooms in this house on a busy street and we would just have to pray that she never wandered outside on her own so she would not get run over by a car. That is if she didn't get trapped in the basement when there was a fire in the home in a basement with no windows where she wouldn't be able to see and if she did manage to make her way up the stairs would have to be able to maneuver herself over a gate. Isn't that illegal? I guess now I know why it is so much cheaper for the residents to live in these CILA homes. Who would want to? I would love for anyone one of you to let your child spend the night in this home. I bet not one of them would last the night in that God forsaken basement.

So when does all of this help we were promised begin? And when does the money come? We're still waiting? Why don't you watch the video of the meeting on December 11, 2008. You don't have to watch if for very long. It is right at the very beginning when these promises were made to us. Tell me how to get this help and this money because we could sure use it about now. My elderly parents don't sleep at night and my dad's health keeps getting worse and worse. Shame on you and shame on this state. What an embarrassment!



Renée Kosel
 State Representative • 81st District
 Assistant Republican Leader

Springfield Office: Stratton Office Building Springfield, Illinois 62706 217.782.0424 217.557.7249 fax

February, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Quinn
 Governor, State of Illinois
 207 State House
 Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

I am writing to share with you my concerns about the proposed closing of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center.

I believe that these closures will have a devastating impact on our communities, due to a serious loss of both services and jobs.

The loss of roughly 1,000 jobs with decent pay, pensions, and health care would deal a harsh blow to communities that were struggling economically even before the current recession reached full force.

Indeed, I must point out that the vast majority of those who argue loudest for the closure of Howe have no roots in the Southland region.

I do believe that a new state-operated hospital needs to be built. However, the current center should not be closed until its replacement is ready to go into operation. It serves thousands of patients annually, well over half of them African American.

Right now, we do not even have a site for the new facility. Closing Tinley before a replacement is open would cause a gap in the public safety net that would leave acutely mentally ill patients at risk—and possibly at the mercy of the criminal justice system.

In addition, I strongly oppose privatizing the operation of Tinley Park MHC. Privatization rarely saves the state money, but it does drive down wages and benefits and eliminates critical services. Either outcome would be bad for our communities this facility serves.

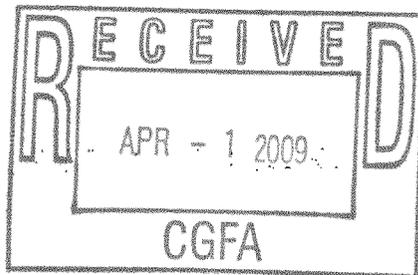
Thank you for your consideration of our views. Please let us know where your Administration stands on these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Renée Kosel
 State Representative-81st District
 Assistant Republican Leader

Cc: COGFA members
 DHS Director Carol Adams
 DDD Director Lilia Tenny
 DMH Director Laurie Jones

District Office: 19201 S. LaGrange Road, Suite 204B, Mokena, Illinois 60448 708.479.4200 708.479.7977 fax



1310 Placent Lane
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
708-503-0429
708-250-8895
KSpuffy@sbcglobal.net

March 31, 2009

Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL, 62706

Dear members of COGFA

I am writing regarding the Howe Center . I worked at Howe for 10 years and I also am the guardian of an individual that lives there. I became her guardian just last year after her mother Hazel Shapen passed away. Ms Hazel Shapen was the former president of the Howe Family and Friends Association, and she devoted her life to her daughter and to all people with developmental disabilities, as a political liaison in Springfield to chairing various committees, and fund raising events for Howe Center and the developmentally disabled population. What has transpired over the past few years is awful, and I am sure that if she were still alive she would be working tirelessly to find ways to keep this great facility and her daughters home from closing. The lies that were told in the media regarding Howe would have devastated and angered her greatly, as I'm sure it does all the loving caregivers who work at Howe Center .

There is one very crucial point that must be considered...That is, the welfare of the people who live at Howe Center. It is extremely difficult for developmentally challenged persons to handle loosing their home, their friends, their familiar care givers and emotionally dealing with new surroundings. This will have a devastating impact on their lives, and some will not survive such a drastic change. The plans to transfer some of these individuals to other state operated facilities makes no sense either. Those facilities are also understaffed and overcrowded and by adding 50 to 100 people to their populations would be asking for the same circumstances to start happening in those other facilities. Then Public Health and The Council and Equip for Equality would move in and try to shutter those facilities thus putting even more of these fragile individuals at risk of being uprooted from their homes and juggled around in the system. DHS has stated that the problems at Howe are not fixable. I don't think there has really been a concerted effort by DHS to give Howe the proper leadership, and resources to fix the problems, that seem to be greatly exaggerated to support the efforts by Equip for Equality and the Council to close Howe.

Do these watchdog groups monitor the group homes and community living programs with the same degree of scrutiny that they impose on the SODC's?? Do they monitor as closely the number of deaths in the community or in the community hospitals where the

developmentally disabled population from the state facilities are served?? If a person is in the hospital and dies, why is it still blamed on the facility and does OIG investigate those hospitals and scrutinize their care of our individuals with the same magnifying glass they pull out to do an inspection at a SODC???

I have heard that of the patients that have already been moved to community homes; one lady cries all day and the staff can't deal with her so they put her in her room and close the door. (isolation is not allowed in a SODC!!) Another man has self abused so bad that they have to put mitts on him all day. (Isn't this restraint? Do they follow the same rigid restraint policies that are enforced at the SODC"s??) One poor sole has died. (has there been an investigation as to why??) Many of the clients just can't cope with the change. It's so very sad. Please intercede on their behalf, and keep Howe Center open so these individuals do not have to be subjected to these changes..

Then there are the parents that have gone to visit a group home only to find individuals left to care for themselves because the staff had an emergency and had to leave. Where were the watchdogs then?? I am sure that is not proper supervision of those individuals, and reportedly that happens frequently, so why are they allowed to remain open and receive funding???

The staff that work in these group homes are not as committed or as well trained or paid enough to provide the same level of care that the staff at Howe do. Many of the staff feel like these individuals are part of their extended families, because they have worked with them so long. Another factor to consider is the stresses that this is causing the parents of these adult children. Many of them are in their 70's and 80's and this will have adverse effects on them as well as their children. So we could be talking more tragedy there. Closing Howe would be a lose /lose situation for so many people.

It is my belief that 4-5 years ago this master plan to close Howe and Tinley Park Mental Health Center was conceived, for no reason but to garner land that has increased in value so some people can line their pockets. I believe that the department of Public Health were directed to fail these facilities surveys, to facilitate the decertification , thus giving them more reason to close them. I believe that this is all part of the master plan to close the facilities so they can sell the land, but they are citing other issues rather than admit to the truth.

I am asking that the members of COGFA to consider the welfare and wellbeing of these people. Do not allow them to be the casualties of a political and financial war. Make your recommendations to Governor Quinn to keep these facilities open and direct DHS to work with the administration and staff and Public Health to recertify these 2 facilities so they can continue to meet the needs of these individuals.



Sincerely,

Vickie M Cobb R.N.

From: Mike M. Schragel [mschragel@sbcglobal.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 7:05 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe Center, Tinley Park, IL

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

Please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,
Mike & Margaret Schragel

From: Jeff Liddic [jeff.liddic@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 12:32 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

I sincerely thank you in advance for any help that you can provide my Uncle George and all of the other people who can't speak for themselves.

Thank you,

Jeff Liddic
Regional Franchise Consultant
813-310-1743 - Cell
813-200-3071 - eFax

jeff.liddic@beefobradys.com



From: Samantha Jacobs [samanthajacobspr@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 12:08 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park . George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Samantha Jacobs

From: smassey@wesleyan.edu
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 11:14 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Please keep the Howe Center open!

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,
Sarah Massey

From: Stephanie Zarnowski [stephanie.zarnowski@yahoo.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 10:58 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe home

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you
Stephanie C. Zarnowski

From: Granath, Brent [brent.granath@hp.com]

Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 9:26 AM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Keep the Howe Center open

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Brent Granath

Global Sales Operation Coordinator

HP PSG Volume Sales

Colorado Springs, CO

719-548-6927

DETERMINATION + PASSION = IMAGINATION

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, therefore, is not an act but a habit." Aristotle

4/1/2009

From: Mrsmosuw@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 7:12 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Save Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

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From: Lisa FonsecaMlodoch [fonsecamlodoch.lisa.2986@dupage.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2009 12:55 AM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: [No Subject]

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendship with staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long. In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people at the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Lisa Fonseca-Mlodoch

40 Picton Rd.

Roselle IL 60172

4/1/2009

From: Kadima Elise Palles [kadimapoo@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 11:47 PM
To: governor@illinois.gov
Cc: webmastercgfa

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

Please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

It is high time that this state and this country start caring for it's less fortunate and in need citizens. We spend billions on war, weapons and bailouts and yet we allow our own countrymen and women to suffer time after time. Please do something to show that the American government actually cares for it's citizens.

Thank you,

Kadima Palles

From: Katie Farrell [karolfarol17@hotmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:25 PM

To: webmastercgfa

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thanks,

Katie Amundsen

PS--Give me a break with this. You've got to know better than to do something like this to your fellow man. And for what? A shopping center?!! C'mon now.

Quick access to Windows Live and your favorite MSN content with Internet Explorer 8.

4/1/2009

From: Kelly Omsberg [kellyomsberg88@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 10:01 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe Center

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Kelly Omsberg

kellyomsberg88@yahoo.com

630-408-7355

From: M. Carlin [firerescue14@verizon.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 9:48 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern, I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long. In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,
Michael T. Carlin
Firefighter/Paramedic
firerescue14@verizon.net

Sent from my Sprint® BlackBerry

From: Lacey Wojahn [atrain402006@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 9:24 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you
Lacey Wojahn

From: Stan [beefs@sc.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 11:32 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Stan Kleine
843.875.2233



From: ALYKATT1@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 9:32 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: ***SPAM*** Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Mrs. Allyson McNeal
Alykatt1@aol.com

A Good Credit Score is 700 or Above. See yours in just 2 easy steps!

From: Milo Varnadoe [milonv@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 8:19 AM

To: webmastercrgfa

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Milo Varnadoe
milonv@bellsouth.net

3/31/2009

From: Dimascola, Brent Chase [DimascolaB@aetna.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 7:18 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Please help save Howe from being shut down!

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Brent DiMascola

This e-mail may contain confidential or privileged information. If you think you have received this e-mail in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail and then delete this e-mail immediately. Thank you. Aetna

From: Martha Vinas [ticavinas@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:39 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Facility

Dear Governor Quinn,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

Please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,
Martha

From: Susan [hazeleyesu2@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 5:34 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center in Tinley Park

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,
Susan Quinn

Need a job? Find employment help in your area.

From: Beef O' Brady's [plymouthbeefs@embarqmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 6:52 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

--

Will Hostrawser
Owner/Operator
Beef O'Brady's
Plymouth, IN
574-936-2226

3/31/2009

From: Matt Popovich [Matt.Popovich@alz.org]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 4:16 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Please Save the Howe Center in Tinley Park

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Matt Popovich
15047 Sagebrush Lane
Lockport, IL 60441

3/31/2009

From: Beef O' Brady's [plymouthbeefs@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 6:54 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Cc: christie ebner
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

--

**Will Hostrawser
Owner/Operator
Beef O'Brady's
Plymouth, IN
574-936-2226**

From: Brandy Hardy [brandy@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 3:23 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Cc: Christie Ebner
Subject: Save Howe!

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Brandy Hardy

From: Jeff Fuerst [jeff@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 3:22 PM
To: webmastercrgfa
Subject: Howe Center Closing

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Jeff Fuerst
Beef O Brady's
2561 E SR 60
Valrico, FL 33594
813 655 1055
jeff@beefobradys.com

3/30/2009

From: kathleen ebner [ebnerkathleen@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 3:20 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe Development Center

To whom it may concern,

I am the niece of George Sullivan, a resident at the Howe Development Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please re-consider this vote and have compassion and empathy for George and all of the residents living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,
Kathleen A. Ebner

Hotmail® is up to 70% faster. Now good news travels really fast. Find out more.

From: Sarah Bechard [sarah@beefobradys.com]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:41 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Sarah Bechard

Executive Assistant

Beef 'O' Brady's

FSC Franchise CO., LLC

5510 W. La Salle Street Suite 200

Tampa, FL 33607

Office: (813) 226-2333 ext. 448

Fax: (813) 769-0698

3/30/2009

From: Bob Melberth [bob@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:34 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Bob Melberth

From: Karen Cooney [karcoony@verizon.net]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:33 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Karen Cooney

3/30/2009

From: Cormac mcCarthy [cormacbeefobrad@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:32 PM

To: webmastercgfa

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park . George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Cormac McCarthy

3/30/2009

From: Terri Brocksmith [Terri@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:31 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: George Sullivan

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Terri Brocksmith
Purchasing Assistant/Analyst
Family Sports Concepts Inc.
Beef O' Brady's
5510 W. La Salle St. Suite 200
Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: 813-226-2333 ext. 443
Fax: 813-226-0030
Terri@beefobradys.com



From: christie ebner [christie@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:04 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Please keep Howe Center OPEN in Tinley Park!

To whom it may concern,

My uncle, George Sullivan, is a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Christie

Christie Ebner
Marketing Field Manager
Beef 'O' Brady's/ FSC, Inc
5510 W. LaSalle Street, Ste 200
Tampa, FL 33607
Cell: (813) 846-5178
Ph. (813) 226- 2333 ext. 210
Fax (813) 769- 0698

3/30/2009

From: Elyse Connolly [elyse@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:01 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Elyse Connolly
Marketing Field Manager
Family Sports Concepts, INC
Beef 'O' Brady's
5510 W. LaSalle Street, Suite 200
Tampa, FL 33607

(813) 226-2333 Ext. 449
(813) 769-0698 Fax
(813) 732-7212 Cell

From: gilg13@gmail.com on behalf of Gil Gonzalez [gil@danacreative.com]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:01 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe Center in Tinley Park

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Gil Gonzalez

3/30/2009

From: Penny Rose [penny@beefobradys.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 1:59 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: RE: Keep the Howe Center Open

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Penny Rose
Family Sports Concepts, Inc
5510 W. Lasalle Street #200
Tampa, FL 33607
(813) 226-2333 XT 218 Phone
(813) 769-0698 FAX
penny@beefobradys.com



From: Lesley O'Malley [lesley@beefobradys.com]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 1:56 PM

To: webmastercgfa

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Lesley O'Malley

3/30/2009

From: Heather Boggs [heather@beefobradys.com]

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 1:58 PM

To: webmastercgfa

Subject: Howe

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Thank You

Heather Boggs
Media Manager
Family Sports Concepts, Inc
Beef O Brady's
5510 W LaSalle Street
Suite 300
Tampa, FL 33607

813-226-2333 X 236

813-731-2655 - cell

813-769-0698 - fax



Go Green: Please do not print this e-mail unless you really need to.

3/30/2009

From: Henderson, Chuck [HendersonC1@aetna.com]
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 12:58 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Chuck

Chuck Henderson
Southeast Regional Business Development Director
National Accounts - Aetna Dental
4630 Woodland Corporate Blvd
Tampa, Fl 33614
(O) 813.775.0287
(c) 813.943.9242
(F) 813.775.0613
HendersonC1@aetna.com

This e-mail may contain confidential or privileged information. If you think you have received this e-mail in error, please advise the sender by reply e-mail and then delete this e-mail immediately. Thank you. Aetna

From: Melissa Tukiendorf [mtukiendorf@powerwellness.com]
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2009 8:33 AM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: RE: Howe Center

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Missy Tukiendorf

This e-mail message is privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient please delete the message and notify the sender. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by e-mail. This e-mail and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake.

From: Jessica Reuther [de_sign_er_woman@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2009 4:01 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: The Howe Center in Tinley Park

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,

Jessica Reuther

From: Lisa [ljserrano@verizon.net]

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2009 7:01 PM

To: webmastercgfa

To whom it may concern,

I am a friend of George Sullivan, a mentally-disabled person, who lives at the Howe Center in Tinley Park. George has lived at the Howe Center his entire adult life. He has built a routine, a lifestyle, a family and friendships with his fellow patients and the staff members who care for him. I am asking that it remains open. Please don't move him and the many others from their home into a new, strange facility without the loving staff members who they have known for so long.

In April you will be voting to close Howe, please consider George and all of the other people living in this facility. Please keep the Howe Center open!

Thank you,
Lisa Serrano

4/8/2009



Village of Richton Park

RICHARD REINBOLD
Village President

BENJAMIN HUGHES
Village Trustee

CYNTHIA BUTLER
Village Trustee

STEVEN DUDLEY
Village Trustee

VALERIE BABKA
Village Trustee

SHARON D. KRIHA
Village Trustee

HARRY OLSON
Village Trustee

MARY E. PIERCE
Village Clerk

State Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg
State Representative Richard P. Myers
Co-Chairmen
Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, Illinois 62706

12-5-08

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Myers,

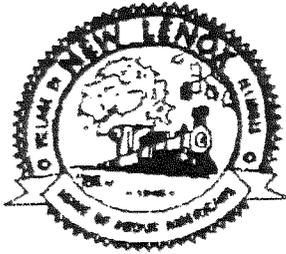
I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center. Both of these facilities provide vital services to Richton Park and the rest of the Southland area.

The fact is that there are no comparable alternatives to providing care in the south suburbs for individuals with mental health crises or high need developmental disabilities. Without the safety net provide by these facilities, many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration. Others will be removed far from their families or will receive inadequate care.

In addition, closure would result in the loss of 800 jobs with decent wages, pensions, and medical benefits. This would be a severe economic blow to our area, one we are especially unable to afford in the current recession.

Sincerely,
Proud Past, Bright Future

Rick Reinbold
Village President



VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX

1 VETERANS PARKWAY
NEW LENOX, ILLINOIS 60451

VILLAGE OFFICE 815.462.6400
FAX NUMBER 815.462.6449
BUILDING DEPT. FAX 815.462.6469

MAYOR
TIMOTHY BALDERMANN
ADMINISTRATOR
RUSS LOEBE
VILLAGE CLERK
MARCIA ENGLERT
TRUSTEES
ANNETTE BOWEN
DAVID BUTTERFIELD
NANCY DYE
KEITH MADSEN
DAVID SMITH
RAY TUMINELLO

December 3, 2008

Mr. Daniel R. Long, Executive Director
State of Illinois
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield IL 62706

Dear Mr. Long:

Recent announcements from Governor Blagojevich regarding the closure of the Howe Developmental Center and the shut down of admissions to the Tinley Park Mental Health Center are disconcerting. Unfortunately, my schedule does not permit me to personally attend the December 11th meeting but I wanted voice my displeasure at the prospect of closing these valuable facilities.

The closure of these two facilities would cause undo harm to individuals that look to their state government for their care and welfare. Moving disabled individuals from the home that they know and requiring their family members to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause stress and suffering that is not necessary. Annually, 2,000 admissions are made to the Tinley Park Mental Health Center which shows a great need for the services of the center.

During these hard economic times, job loss is an issue that government officials need to help address. By closing these facilities, the government would be adding another 800 permanent jobs to the loss column. This should not be acceptable and should be avoided at all costs.

At the end of the day, the health and well-being of ALL citizens of the State of Illinois should be taken into account.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF NEW LENOX


Timothy A. Baldermann
Mayor

Copy: Governor Rod Blagojevich
Senate President Emil Jones
House Speaker Michael J. Madigan



1078

**A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF RIVERDALE,
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN SUPPORT OF
HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AND
TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (“Howe DC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois, is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive support such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on-site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (“Tinley Park MHC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich’s administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will “redistribute” most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too

many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Riverdale, Cook County, Illinois, that the Village of Riverdale hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Riverdale urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Riverdale.

PASSED this 25th day of NOVEMBER, A.D., 2008.

Francis Richard-Bey
Village Clerk

APPROVED this 25th day of NOVEMBER, A.D., 2008.

Zenovia G. Evans
Village President

ATTEST:

Francis Richard-Bey
Village Clerk

| RECORD OF THE VOTE | YES | NO | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------------------|-----|----|---------|--------|
| PRESIDENT ZENOVIA G. EVANS | | | | |
| TRUSTEE FOY | | | | |
| TRUSTEE DEAN | | | | |
| TRUSTEE PEYTON | | | | |
| TRUSTEE RUSSELL | | | | |
| TRUSTEE SANDERS | | | | |
| TRUSTEE SMILEY | | | | |

PROCLAMATION

IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, IL is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on-site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (Tinley Park MH) in Tinley Park, IL provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

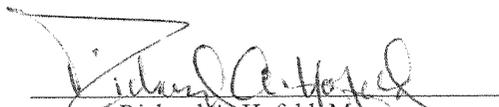
WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MCH and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Richard A. Hofeld, Mayor of Homewood, Illinois, hereby state my opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urge Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility.

Given under my hand and seal this
first day of December, 2008.




Richard A. Hofeld, Mayor
Homewood, Illinois

**Proclamation
In Support of
Howe Development Center
&
Tinley Park Mental Health Center**

Whereas, the State of Illinois has announced that it is closing both Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center, Tinley Park, Illinois; and

Whereas, the Howe Developmental Center in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

Whereas, Howe Developmental Center has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive support such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on-site medical and dental clinic, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

Whereas, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center, Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

Whereas, the residents from Howe Developmental Center will be moved to other state-operated developmental centers, such as Murray in downstate Centralia, nearly 250 miles away; and

Whereas, the closing of Tinley Park Mental Health Center would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professionally trained individuals meeting the needs of its severely mentally ill residents while providing employment for nearly 800 individuals who currently receive fair wages and good benefits; and

Whereas, the closing of Tinley Park Mental Health Center provides an important link to community outpatient resources with its nearly 2,000 annual admissions; and

Whereas, there are no comparable alternatives available to provide these much needed services in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis; and

Whereas, any current community group homes for the developmentally disabled are currently underfunded and understaffed to provide services for those with complex needs.

Without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Village of Matteson hereby declares its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges the State of Illinois to reconsider the proposal to close these facilities and that the Village of Matteson urges our legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Matteson.



André B. Ashmore
Village President

(Seal)

Dorothy Grisco
Village Clerk

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (“Tinley Park MHC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich’s administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will “redistribute” most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Village of Burnham hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The Village of Burnham urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent The Village of Burnham.

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Country Club Hills hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor & City Council of the City of Country Club Hills urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent The City of Country Club Hills.

Passed by Roll Call Vote this 24th day of November, 2008.

Ayes - 9 - Aldermen Watts, Hutson, Battie, Comein, Singleton, Lockett, Martin, Williams and Ford.

Nays -0

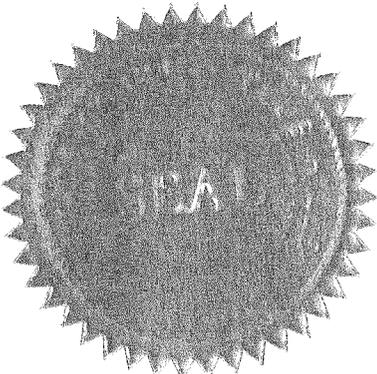
Absent 1- Alderman Lee.



Deborah M. McIlvain, City Clerk



Dwight W. Welch, Mayor



RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that TAMC (organization name) Trinity all Nations church hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that TAMC (organization name) Trinity all Nations church urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent TAMC (organization name) Trinity all Nations church

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name) IBEW LOCAL 19 hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name) IBEW LOCAL 19 urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) IBEW LOCAL 19.

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name)
_____ hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name)
_____ urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name)
_____.

LARRY STRINGFELLOW
PRESIDENT

SCHOOL DIST. #170

CHICAGO HTS. IL 60411

RESOLUTION

In Support of Howe Development and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Development Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessional specially trained to served patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too under funded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

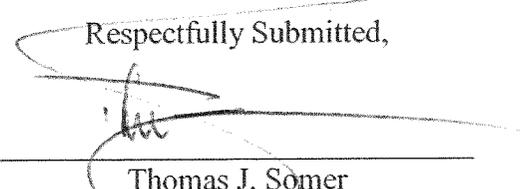
WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township Supervisor hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Center and urges Governor Blagojevich reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township Supervisor urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas J. Somer
Bloom Township Supervisor

Thomas J. Somer
Bloom Township Supervisor
425 S. Halsted St.
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 756-4250

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name) Cement Mason's local # 11 hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name) Cement Masons local # 11 urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) Cement Mason's local # 11.

Charles Franti President

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

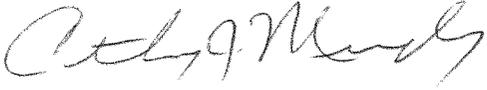
WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name)
_____ hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name)
_____ urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) ANTHONY J. MURPHY CHIEF OF POLICE CHESAPEAKE HEIGHTS



RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (organization name) Laborers' Union Local 75 hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that (organization name) Laborers' Union Local 75 urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent (organization name) Laborers Union Local 75.

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Gregorios Cathedral Church, Bellwood (organization name) Bellwood hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St. Gregorios Cathedral Church, Bellwood (organization name) Bellwood urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent St. Gregorios Cathedral Church (organization name) St. Gregorios Cathedral Church.

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (“Tinley Park MHC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich’s administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will “redistribute” most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that St Julie Billiard Parish Staff (organization name) hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that St Julie Billiard Parish Staff (organization name) urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent St Julie Billiard Parish Staff (organization name).

10-20-08

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Rev. <u>[Signature]</u> | STEVEN M. CANZA |
| Rev. <u>[Signature]</u> | ARTUR SOWA |
| Dean <u>[Signature]</u> | MICHAEL E. KILEY |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | SHEILA M. PLUCHAR |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | Gael Gensler, |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | PATRICIA KMAK |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | MARYALICE ROTH |
| <u>[Signature]</u> | DEANNE TUMPICH |

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (“Tinley Park MHC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich’s administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will “redistribute” most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that _____ (organization name) BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that _____ (organization name) BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent _____ (organization name) BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB.

Margaret Lane
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEMBER
BROOKFIELD KIWANIS CLUB

VILLAGE OF POSEN
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-07

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER AND
TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to those populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF POSEN, COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: The Village of Posen hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility.

SECTION 2: The Village of Posen urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continuing operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC.

SECTION 3: Suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President John Cullerton, House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Posen.

Passed this 9th day of December, 2008, on the following roll call vote.

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Approved by me this 9th day
of December, 2008

Attested to this
9th day of December, 2008

Donald W. Schupek
Village President

Veronica Grabowski
Village Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 08-25

IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (“Howe DC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (“Tinley Park MHC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for Southern Cook County and collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich’s administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will “redistribute” most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia, some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professionals and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness, as well as, planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis, while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

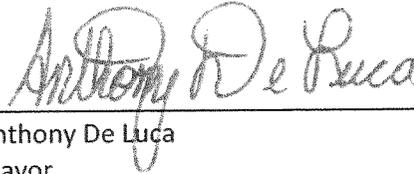
WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago Heights hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Chicago Heights urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the City of Chicago Heights.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Chicago Heights, Cook County, Illinois this 4th day of December, 2008.



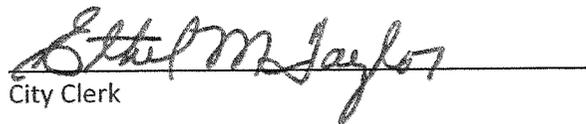
Anthony De Luca
Mayor

AYES: _____

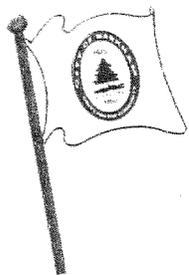
NAYS: _____

ABSENT: _____

ATTEST:



City Clerk



Phone: 708.331.4905
Fax: 708.331.8667
Police: 708.331.2171

City of Markham

16313 KEDZIE PARKWAY
(HONORABLE MAYOR EVANS R. MILLER PARKWAY)
MARKHAM, ILLINOIS 60428

DAVID WEBB, JR., Mayor

JENNIFER COLES, City Clerk

KAREN COHN, City Treasurer

CERTIFICATION

I, Jennifer Coles, do hereby certify that I am the duly elected and qualified City Clerk of the

City of Markham, Illinois, County of Cook.

I further certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of _____

Resolution 08-R-393B A Resolution in support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Markham, at their Regular

Meeting on the 19th Day of November, 2008 _____

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of

Markham, this 05th day of December 2008, at Markham,

Illinois.

Jennifer, City Clerk

By: Estelle Freeman, Deputy Clerk

(SEAL)

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARKHAM, ILLINOIS

RESOLUTION NO. 08 - R - 393B

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER
AND TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes in a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia more than 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, keeping the facility open would provide a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employs some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Markham, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Markham opposes to the closure of Howe Development Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility.

Section 2. The City of Markham urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe Development Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center.

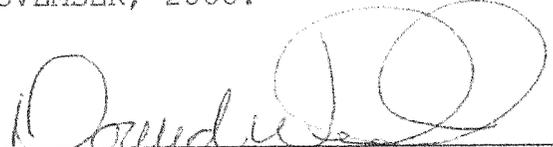
Section 3. That suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent Howe Development Center, Tinley Mental Health Center and surrounding legislative districts.

Section 4. This resolution shall be effective upon passage, approval and publication according to law.

Section 5. All resolutions or portions of resolutions in conflict with the terms and provisions of this resolution are hereby rescinded and revoked to the extent of such conflict.

ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARKHAM, ILLINOIS,
ON THE 19TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008, ON THE MOTION OF ALDERMAN
Clifton Howard AND THE SECOND OF ALDERMAN
Geraldine Dudeck AND THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE:
4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS AND 0 ABSENT

APPROVED BY ME THIS 19TH DAY OF
NOVEMBER, 2008.


DAVID WEBB, JR., Mayor

ATTEST:


JENNIFER COLES, City Clerk

Statement of Purpose

The undersigned organizations hereby state their opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center, and urge Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facilities.

Endorsers

Howe Families and Friends Association

Illinois League of Advocates for the Developmentally Disabled

Lansing Assembly of God

St. Julie Billiard Church

St. Gregorios Cathedral Church

Trinity All Nations Church

Brookfield Kiwanis Club

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31

Cement Mason's Local 11

Laborer's Union Local 75

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 19

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 21

Illinois Federation of Public Employees Local 4408, IFT

Township Supervisory Thomas J. Somer, Bloom Township

Robert E. Polk and the Village of Burnham Board

Mayor Anthony De Luca, and the Chicago Heights City Council

Chief of Police Anthony J. Murphy, Chicago Heights

President Larry Stringfellow, School District 170, Chicago Heights

Mayor Dwight Welch and the Country Club Hills City Council

President Richard A. Hofeld of Homewood

Mayor David Webb Jr. and the Markham City Council

President Andre B. Ashmore and the Village of Matteson Board of Trustees

Mayor Timothy A. Baldermann of New Lenox

President Terry Wells and the Village of Phoenix Board of Trustees

President Donald W. Schupek and the Village of Posen Board of Trustees

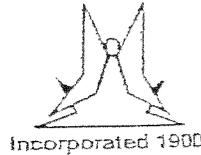
President Richard P. Reinbold, Village of Richton Park

President Zenobia Evans and the Village of Riverdale Board of Trustees

U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr., 2nd District

VILLAGE OF PHOENIX

633 EAST 151ST STREET - PHOENIX, IL. 60426
Telephone 708-331-2636 Fax 708-331-2642
www.villageofphoenix.com



VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Terry R. Wells

VILLAGE CLERK

Johannie M. Lane

VILLAGE
ADMINISTRATOR

Dorothy Carter

VILLAGE TRUSTEES

Albert Kirklin

Arthur T. Burton, Jr.

Jerome Ferrell, Jr.

Martina Mahaffey

Elizabeth Loggins

Willie Mae Smith

RESOLUTION

**In Support of Howe Developmental Center
and Tinley Park Mental Health Center**

WHEREAS, the Howe Development Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center ("Tinley Park MHC") in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich's administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will "redistribute" most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shutting Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too under funded and under staffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Phoenix hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Phoenix urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all member of the Illinois General Assembly who represent the Village of Phoenix.

ADOPTED this 25 day of November 20 08, pursuant to a roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Trustees Albert Kirklin, Arthur Burton, Jerome Ferrell, Jr.
Martina Mahaffey, Elizabeth Loggins & Willie Mae Smith.

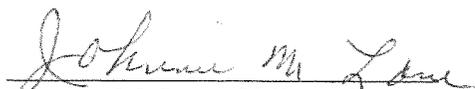
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None



Terry R. Wells, Village President

ATTEST:



Johnnie M. Lane, Village Clerk

RESOLUTION

In support of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center

WHEREAS, the Howe Developmental Center (Howe DC) in Tinley Park, Illinois is a home for 320 severely developmentally disabled individuals with complicated multiple disabilities and behavioral issues who are unable to speak for themselves and require a voice in their support, and for whom community placements are not appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Howe DC has small homes on a campus setting and offers extensive supports such as psychiatric and behavioral services, 24/7 nursing care, access to medical services on grounds and at the University of Illinois Hospital, and on site medical and dental clinics, all of which are not readily available in community group homes; and

WHEREAS, the Tinley Park Mental Health Center (“Tinley Park MHC”) in Tinley Park, Illinois provides a safe and secure treatment setting for mentally ill individuals, including those who have no insurance or who have exhausted their mental health coverage, for southern Cook County and the collar counties; and

WHEREAS, Governor Blagojevich’s administration has announced that it is closing both Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

WHEREAS, the administration says it will “redistribute” most of the residents from Howe DC to other state-operated developmental centers, such as the Murray Developmental Center in downstate Centralia some 250 miles away; and

WHEREAS, moving disabled individuals from their home and requiring families to travel great distances to visit their loved ones will cause great harm and suffering; and

WHEREAS, shuttering Tinley Park MHC would dismantle a vital community resource that has taken decades to develop, providing a well-staffed inpatient treatment center with professional and paraprofessionals specially trained to serve patients suffering from very severe mental illness as well as planning which links patients to community outpatient resources; and

WHEREAS, some 2,000 admissions annually to Tinley Park MHC are a clear indication of the great need for its services, and the demand for services at the center; and

WHEREAS, there are no comparable alternatives to providing care to these populations in the south suburban area, with services at community mental health centers structured to serve individuals who are not in acute crisis while community group homes for the developmentally disabled are too underfunded and understaffed to handle individuals with complex needs; and

WHEREAS, without a strong, secure safety net for those most difficult to serve, too many individuals will be lost to homelessness and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Tinley Park MHC and Howe DC employ some 800 people in our region, and its workers receive fair wages, good benefits and workplace rights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that LAOSIAH ASSEMBLY OF GOD (organization name) hereby states its opposition to the closure of Howe Developmental Center and Tinley Park Mental Health Center and urges Governor Blagojevich to reconsider his proposal to close the facility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that LAOSIAH ASSEMBLY OF GOD (organization name) urges legislators in the Illinois General Assembly to support the continued operation of Howe DC and Tinley Park MHC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered to Governor Blagojevich, Senate President Emil Jones, Jr., House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, and all members of the Illinois General Assembly who represent _____ (organization name) _____.

Rev. Robert L. Newman

Letters from Proponents

DISTRICT OFFICE:
 50 Lakeview Parkway
 Suite 114
 Vernon Hills, IL 60061
 (847) 680-5909
 (847) 680-5960 Fax

SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:
 231-E Stratton Building
 Springfield, IL 62706
 (217) 782-0499
 (217) 557-1934 Fax



KATHLEEN A. RYG
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 59TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

Disability Services, Chair
 Appropriations Elementary & Secondary
 Education
 Driver's Education & Safety, Vice Chair
 Bio - Technology
 Local Government
 Mass Transit

December 5, 2008

To: Members of Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
 Chairman Senator Schoenberg Chairman Richard Myers
 Senator Bill Brady Representative Patricia Bellock
 Senator Don Harmon Representative Frank Mautino
 Senator Chris Radogno Representative Robert Molaro
 Senator Dave Syverson Representative Elaine Nekritz
 Senator Donne Trotter Representative Raymond Poe
 Dan Long, Executive Director

From: Representative Kathy Ryg, Chair of House Disabilities Services Committee

RE: HOWE DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER &
 TINLEY PARK MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

As Chair of the House Disabilities Services Committee and a member of the Fee for Service Committee, I have been actively engaged in discussions regarding the delivery of services to persons with developmental disabilities and mental illness. As members of the General Assembly we are familiar with the advocates' message that Illinois ranks "51st and Failing" in funding services for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill citizens of our state.

In numerous hearings on the fee for service initiative and the need to rebalance the investment of state dollars from institutional care to community based programs and services, the consumers and their families have testified that they are told they should consider moving out of state if you want quality services for your family member. Advocacy groups have successfully sued the state for failure to comply with the Olmstead decision that gives a consumer the choice to receive long-term care services in integrated community settings.

These messages have been repeated for years and have been compounded by concerns that due to a lack of resources, quality of care for residents in our state operated centers is inadequate. Staffs are overburdened and facilities are in disrepair. Federal matching dollars have been denied.

Our statewide system of care for the developmentally disabled and mentally ill can no longer be sustained as is. More importantly, we recognize that a system that ranks 51st and receives a failing grade **must not** be maintained.

The proposed closure of Howe Developmental Center and the restructuring of the Tinley Park Mental Health Center are the first steps to rebalancing a broken system. This rebalancing effort is directed by evidence based, expert reports: The Blueprint for System Redesign in Illinois, The Metro South Mental Health Planning Task Force, and the Money Follows the Person initiative. These reports

recommend that some of the dollars spent on institutional care must be reinvested in community based care and the development of state operated, state of the art, centers of excellence.

In public hearings held over my six year career in the General Assembly, we have been informed by these reports but more importantly, we have listened to the testimony of the consumers of services and their family members. While there is some disagreement about technical definitions, there is no disagreement about two things:

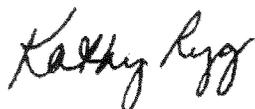
1. Our highest priority must be for the health, safety, and welfare of each person served with our focus on continual skill development and recovery.
2. We must provide for a continuum of care that meets an individual's needs and allows true choice. Choice means being able to decide for one's self or one's loved one, which programs offer the best service in the least restrictive environment. Our system must provide for quality care in the most appropriate setting based on person and family directed needs and goals.

The proposed facility closure signals a significant and promising step towards our mutual goals of quality care and choice. I can testify that this decision was clearly a result of exhaustive efforts to determine how to best allocate scarce resources to insure quality of care in state operated centers and increase capacity for community based services.

That being said, we must insure that the reinvestment of dollars will be dedicated to improving existing services at the other state operated centers and expanding capacity in the community. We must insure that families and employees will be fully involved in transition planning. I believe the proposed closure plan provides that additional resources will be provided to insure each resident and consumer in state operated centers gets the quality of care they are entitled to and deserve.

- Additional resources will build a stronger system of community based programs and services providing increased access and more choice.
- Additional resources will mean more jobs for the direct service professionals and we will continue to fight for increased wages for the valuable work they do.
- Additional resources will mean Illinois can maximize federal dollars to match state dollars.

Please join me in supporting the closure of the Howe Developmental Center and the restructuring of the Tinley Park Mental Health Center.



cc: Members of the General Assembly
Governor Blagojevich



Fax Transmission

To: **Dan Long, Director**

Fax #: (217) 782-3513

From: Sheila Romano

Date: December 23, 2008

Total Pages including Cover Sheet: 2

Re: Howe Developmental Center

Did You Know the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities...

- Is a federally funded independent state agency that advocates for the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities?
- Has invested more than \$28 million with 436 community organizations since its founding in the 1970s?
- Implements a five-year state plan that addresses numerous issues important to people with developmental disabilities?
- Visit our website at www.state.il.us/agency/icdd

100 West Randolph, 10-600, Chicago, IL 60601 • Voice (312) 814-2080 • Fax (312) 814-7141 • TDD (312) 814-7151
830 South Spring Street, Springfield, IL 62704 • Voice/TDD (217) 782-9696 • Fax (217) 524-5339

Updated 8/03

*Illinois Council on
Developmental Disabilities*

INVEST IN SUCCESS

Lester T. Pritchard
Chairperson

Sheila T. Romano, Ed. D.
Executive Director

December 23, 2008

Dan Long, Director
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability Committee
William G. Stratton Building
Room 703
Springfield, IL 62706-4150

Dear Mr. Long,

As you continue hearings and approach a final vote on the closure of the Howe Developmental Center, I wanted to take a moment to put this issue into national perspective.

The Governor of Massachusetts recently announced the state will close four of its six institutions and transition residents from institutions to integrated community living options. This is just another reminder that still, despite sharp national trends toward community-based options, Illinois continues to institutionalize more people with developmental disabilities than almost any other state in the nation.

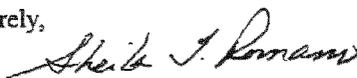
The Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities believes that Illinois has the opportunity to improve its developmental disability system for services and make it more efficient and cost effective. The closure of Howe, which the federal government in 2007 decertified following neglect-related resident deaths, presents the chance for Illinois to refocus the state's system from large, centralized facilities to smaller, community-based options. I'm sure that the testimony from many of the folks you heard was emotional. We understand that this can be an emotional issue. We also need to make public policy decisions for what is best for the system as a whole. Since all of the regulatory bodies have called for the closure of Howe, and federal funding has been removed for 20 months now, please look at the on-going problems of the facility and assist in making a decision that is best for the both people who currently reside at Howe and the entire DD system.

The Council's plan, called the *Blueprint for System Redesign in Illinois*, would fundamentally reform Illinois' broken system for developmental disability services. The *Blueprint* is the state's first comprehensive plan to update an outdated system that is failing tens of thousands of people.

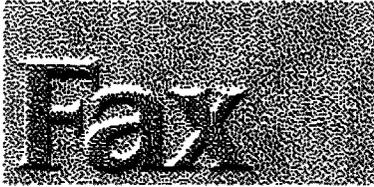
Individuals with developmental disabilities in Illinois deserve better. The Council believes people with developmental disabilities have the right to live a life of fulfillment, independence and freedom. Community settings can allow a better quality of life at far less cost.

Although the New Year will bring new challenges for all citizens, the Council looks forward to a brighter future of equal opportunity, freedom and choice for people with developmental disabilities. To do this, we ask you to support the closure of the Howe Developmental Center.

Sincerely,



Sheila Romano



Date: December 18, 2008

**To: Dan R. Long, Executive Director
Commission on Government
Forecasting & Accountability
Phone: 217-782-5320
Fax: 217-782-3513**

**From: Tony Paulauski, Executive Director
The Arc of Illinois
Phone: 815-464-1832
Fax: 815-464-5292**

Pages: 3 (including this page)

Subject: Hearing on Howe Developmental Center



20901 S. LaGrange Rd.
Suite 209
Frankfort, IL 60423
815/464-1832
FAX 815/464-5292

December 18, 2008

Dan R. Long
Executive Director
Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Director Long:

After the Commission on Government Forecasting & Accountability hearing on Howe I feel compelled to share with you my thoughts on Howe.

The state needs to close Howe now. The multiple, and to me seemingly endless, series of hearings that are required by state law before closing a state institution is flawed in my opinion.

At the Howe hearing many attendees and some legislators were scapegoating the very organizations whose sole purpose is to protect the safety and welfare of individuals with disabilities.

1. Equip for Equality is the state's protection and advocacy organization for Illinois citizens with developmental disabilities. Equip has the authority to monitor and investigate suspected abuse and neglect. Equip has had staff on the campus of Howe discovering medical abuse and neglect conditions that lead to the death of eleven individuals over an eighteen month period. For years Equip for Equality has been calling for the closure of Howe because of these conditions. For years the state has ignored Equip for Equality's recommendations.
2. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) is the federal agency with the authority to oversee the health and welfare of individuals with developmental disabilities in state funded services receiving federal funding. After numerous visits and reviews at Howe, CMS came to the same conclusion as Equip for Equality. That conclusion was that Howe was not insuring the health, safety and welfare of the individuals residing at Howe. As a result, CMS decertified Howe and withdrew its federal funding match, amounting to about \$30 million.

"Advocates for Change"

3. Lastly, the Department of Human Services finally came to the same conclusion as Equip and CMS. After investing millions of dollars to keep Howe open; after hiring national consultants to work at Howe to improve conditions; after bringing on staff from other state institutions, officials at DHS concluded that Howe needed to be closed.

It seemed to me that many did not want to hear the facts about abuse, neglect and deaths at Howe. It was easier to scapegoat the individuals and organizations whose job it is to protect individuals with developmental disabilities.

The politics of this process needs to be put aside and reason needs to prevail. We need a plan to downsize and close many of the state institutions in Illinois. We need to invest in community services, and we need to have a zero tolerance for abuse and neglect in any state or community setting.

We should honor the staff at Equip for Equality, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid and the Department of Human Services for bringing these egregious conditions to the light of day and making the hard but just call for closing the state institution called Howe.

Also enclosed is a release on the closing of four state institutions in Massachusetts. Most states are taking a proactive stance on closing state institutions.

Sincerely,


Tony Paulauski
Executive Director

Illinois Voices
P.O. Box 2760
Decatur, IL 62524-2760

Dear Members of COGFA:

My name is Wanda Frye. I have a developmental disability and have formerly lived at Adolf Meyer, a private institution for people such as myself. I think Howe Developmental Center in Tinley Park should be closed so that the people who live there can have their own place to live in. I believe that people should be able to live as independently as possible, like in their own apartment, no matter what their disability is or how much support they need.

When I used to live at Adolf Meyer, it was not so good. Staff would wake you up when the whole place was dark at 6:00 AM. Everyone had to get up at 6:00, whether they wanted to or not. We also had to eat our meals at certain times, and when we weren't eating or sleeping, cleaning our rooms or making our beds, there really wasn't all that much to do during the day at Adolf Meyer. It makes me wonder if Howe is the same way, because I don't know. I can only guess. The staff at Adolf Meyer treated me badly while I was there. They would send me to my room as a punishment whenever they thought I was "acting bad". They got mad at me if they thought I was doing things wrong and making mistakes. I was never allowed to go out into the community while I lived at Adolf Meyer. I couldn't go to the grocery store, to the theater, or even to church! I couldn't go out and visit my family, either—they had to come to me.

I had to take medication while I lived there as well. These medicines made me feel tired, and so I slept a lot. I tried to tell the staff at Adolf Meyer that I wanted to get off my medication, but they said no. Right now, since I live in the community and get services there, I have to take medication, but these meds do not make me feel as tired as the ones I took at Adolf Meyer did. I also take less medication than I did when I lived there. I did have pretty good medical care in this private institution, but I wish that there could be places in the community, like in group homes such as CILA's, where there is a doctor on-site. At Adolf Meyer, I had to have staffings, just like in the community. However, my staffings in the institution were all about what I did wrong, and the staff told me that I wasn't trying hard enough to meet my goals. I said I tried my best, but staff still did not believe me. When I tell the staff here at my agency that I am working hard to reach my goals, they believe me, support me, and respect me.

I think you should vote to close Howe Developmental Center, because if it is anything like Adolf Meyer was, it's not such a great place after all!

Sincerely,

Wanda Frye

Wanda Frye, Self-Advocate, Illinois Voices Project

chicagotribune.com

Howe to close, at last

September 13, 2008

By this time next year, the Howe Developmental Center, a state-run care facility for disabled adults in Tinley Park that houses more than 300 adults, will be closed. State officials announced last week that they will begin relocating residents by winter. Howe will be shuttered no later than July 1.

It's about time. Howe has been plagued by substandard care and health and safety problems. Twenty people died under questionable circumstances at Howe between September 2005 and May 2008, according to Equip for Equality, an advocacy group for the disabled. Conditions were so bad that in March 2007 the federal government stripped Howe of its Medicaid certification-- along with \$26.5 million in federal operating funds.

Rather than close the facility, Illinois spent *more* money to make up the loss of federal funds.

Finally, the state is getting the message.

"Although we think we have made progress, we just don't think that we can get it to the point where we can get it recertified. The issues are systemic," said Lilia Teninty, head of developmental disabilities for the Department of Human Services.

Give the Blagojevich administration some credit for finally recognizing that. But if it wants credit for more than a belated decision, it will have to continue to shift this state away from institutional care and toward community-based care.

Illinois has relied much too heavily on expensive, large-scale institutions to care for its developmentally disabled residents. The state has nine such facilities, housing about 2,300 residents. That's 1,100 fewer residents than it had in 1997. Yet Illinois still relies on institutions more than most states. There is a place for such institutions. But most developmentally disabled residents flourish in smaller, community-based settings. Many people are able to integrate into the community and work outside the home.

Institutional care is also far more expensive than community-based care. Illinois citizens pay about \$140,000 a year for each person in an institution, compared with \$50,000 a year for community care.

Residents of Howe and their families will have the final say on whether they move into community-based settings or other state-run institutions. The state should encourage them to opt for community care where its appropriate. That will likely lead to some initial resistance.

The state has promised to place many of the 755 staff members at Howe in other state facilities.

Those staffing decisions have to be made based on the needs of patients and taxpayers, with a clear eye on creating a smaller, more efficient system. The worst thing the state could do would be to transport some of the problems at Howe to other facilities.

Closing Howe and focusing on a more efficient care system should free up money to improve and expand community-based care. A key: Pay more to the people who work in those facilities. They're often forgotten when the state legislature makes budget decisions.

Howe had to close. Now let's build on a sound decision.

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BY: S. FOX

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TO: COGFA

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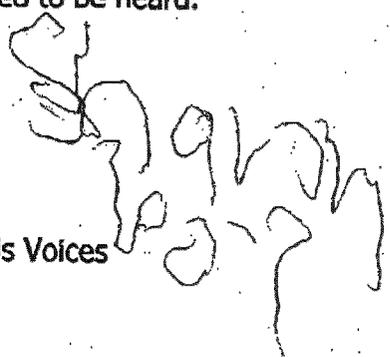
Dear COGFA Members:

My name is Sharon Fox, and I am a person with a developmental disability who lives in her own apartment in Decatur, IL. I like living in my own apartment, and I also think that institutions are NOT the best places for people with disabilities to live in. In my apartment, I have more freedom than I would have if I lived in an institution such as Howe Developmental Center. I can come and go as I please, which I would not be able to do if I lived in an institution. I do not have a roommate, even though I did before, and I'm sure that if I lived in a place like Howe, I would have had several roommates and would not have had my own room! I can watch TV by myself in my own apartment and do whatever I want whenever I please. This has not always been my history.

My mother put me in Lincoln State School as a young adult, which was later called Lincoln Developmental Center, because she did not think I would be able to make it on my own in the community. I have stayed there throughout most of my adult life. I hated life at Lincoln. I was just put in there, and I didn't want to be there! The staff told us when it was time to take a shower, when it was time to go to the cafeteria, when it was time to go to bed...At times I felt like I had time to myself, but mostly not. At Lincoln, there was nothing much to do during the day, and now that I get disability services in the community, I am so busy and glad that when I come home, I'm tired! At Lincoln, there were girls' dorms and boys' dorms, and I definitely feel like I have more privacy now that I live in my own apartment! I left Lincoln Developmental Center when it was closed down, and I am much happier getting services in the community than I was getting services at Lincoln. Howe is just like Lincoln, if not worse, and I think it should be closed down!

You can say whatever you want to say about "the handicapped," but we have rights and opinions, too! Our voices need to be heard.

Sincerely,



Sharon Fox, Self-Advocate, Illinois Voices

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January 8, 2009

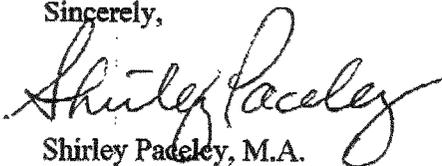
Dear members of Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability:

My name is Shirley Pacey and I have worked in Illinois with persons with disabilities for over 35 years. I have worked in state institutions as well as community agencies. At this time, I am an international trainer and consultant on issues affecting the quality of life of persons with developmental disabilities. I have a Masters Degree in Clinical Psychology and am a published author. Most important, I spend many hours every week communicating with people across the State of Illinois who happen to have developmental disabilities.

Illinois is 51st when it comes to providing small, community homes for our citizens with developmental disabilities. Illinois institutionalizes more people with developmental disabilities than any other state. Our system in Illinois is broken. One step to 'fixing' the system is to close the HOWE Developmental Center which has lost certification because it cannot meet standards of care. It is imperative that we 'stand up' for our fellow citizens with developmental disabilities and welcome them into our communities and make sure that they receive the quality of care that all humans deserve.

Closing HOWE is a sound, policy decision. It has nothing to do with our current political situation with the governor. Please do what is right and vote to close HOWE so that the Division of Developmental Disabilities can continue its work to support those folks who need to move. In my travels, I am often asked what Illinois is doing to improve our service system. Please help us to raise our standards of care and our reputation. I appreciate your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,



Shirley Pacey, M.A.
Director

January 8, 2009

To: The Commission on Government
Forecasting and Accountability

Hello,

My name is Carolyn R. Allin and
I am the legal guardian of
Marcelo B. Shapiro Jr.

Marcelo lived in a state of
Illinois school (Dixon, Illinois)
nearly 50 years. After being transferred
from Dixon (closing), ~~from~~ he
went to Jacksonville (he was
abused), he was transferred to
Meyer Ctr, Decatur, Illinois, (closed)
finally he was placed in a
small setting (Macon Resource).
It took time for him to adjust,
but now the smaller home
provides better care, more one
on one in the community.

Marcelo was never allowed in
the community, but now he
is given some of the same
benefits as you and I.

- 2 -

Marsden is far better off
as a human being today,
because of living in smaller
homes.

We hope that you continue
to consider people in state
centres can be relocated to
places like Macon Resource.

Sincerely yours

Carolyn & Allen
5645 Timberlake
Decatur, Illinois
(217) 422-5817
or
(847) 226-0480

January 7, 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

Hello, my name is Lisa Cesal. I am a disability advocate working for Illinois Voices. I strongly suggest that you vote for the closing of Howe. I consider Howe a very dangerous place for people to reside because of the mistreatment that has been reported. This is 2009; things like this are reminiscent of the human rights atrocities of half a century ago. These atrocities should not be allowed to take place. Please think hard before making your decision. How many more cases of abuse must occur before this institution is closed?

Sincerely,

Lisa Cesal

Lisa Cesal
Disability Advocate



Feb. 8, 2009

The Commission on Government Forecasting + Accountability

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I believe that Howe Developmental Center should be closed because of the poor care individuals are receiving there. I ask that you work to close that facility.

I also believe that many of the individuals residing at Howe could successfully live in community placements.

When Adolph Meyer's developmental disabilities units closed in 1992 my brother who was classified as being severely - profoundly retarded, is non-verbal, and has incidents of self-abuse was moved to a group home. He has lived in that same group home for the past 17 years. Living there has given him opportunities to get out into the community and the home is a much more familylike place. He has had fewer incidents of self-abuse.

The quality of my brother's life has improved since he has been in a community placement. I hope others at Howe will get the same opportunity as my brother had.

Jo Ann Kayne
52 Barnes Dr.
Decatur, IL 62526

From: Carol Flessner [cflessner@mchsi.com]
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2009 3:11 PM
To: webmastercgfa
Subject: Closure of Howe Developmental Center

Dear Committee Members,

It is VERY IMPORTANT that the Howe Developmental Center in Tinley Park, IL, be CLOSED as soon as possible. How many more incidents leading to the death and neglect of residents at Howe have to take place before this substandard institution is closed? There is no reasonable rationale for keeping this troubled facility open. Howe residents need and deserve a better quality of life and living in a community setting would provide that and at far less cost to the taxpayers of Illinois.

Please do the right thing and close this deplorable institution.

Carol J. Flessner, Executive Director
Livingston County Board for the Care and Treatment of
Persons with a Developmental Disability

4/7/2009