

2003-04 SESSION
COMMITTEE HEARING
RECORDS

Committee Name:

Senate Committee on
Health, Children,
Families, Aging and
Long Term Care
(SC-HCFALTC)

Sample:

Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01a
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt01b
- 03hrAC-EdR_RCP_pt02

➤ Appointments ... Appt

➤ **

➤ Clearinghouse Rules ... CRule

➤ **

➤ Committee Hearings ... CH

➤ **

➤ Committee Reports ... CR

➤ **

➤ Executive Sessions ... ES

➤ **

➤ Hearing Records ... HR

➤ 03hr_sb0057_pt06

➤ Miscellaneous ... Misc

➤ **

➤ Record of Comm. Proceedings ... RCP

➤ **

Jermstad, Sara

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2003 9:18 AM
To: Jermstad, Sara
Subject: FW: SB 57 & Task Force
CR email

Karen Asbjornson
Office of Senator Carol Roessler
(608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720
Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----
From: krr.underwood@verizon.net [mailto:res0818g@verizon.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2003 9:14 AM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Cc: sen.kanavas@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: SB 57 & Task Force

Senator Roessler:

I am contacting you to express my strong desire to be a participant in any task force created dealing with the State Centers for the Developmentally Disabled. I would come as a parent representing residents in the State Centers.

I also wanted to thank you for allowing me to testify early yesterday which made it possible for me to make it home in time for a previously scheduled meeting at our daughter's high school.

As for the task force, it sounds like all interested stakeholders will be at the table. It is important that all facts & figures used to form decisions be presented honestly. And that just is not happening. I will continue to be a thorn in the side of DHFS and the Legislature until honest cost data on the bottom line cost to taxpayers for the Centers comes out.

Kevin shared with me the remainder of the hearing and the discussion on how the Centers can - and should be - used as a resource. The state of Virginia has developed a fantastic model for this when they created their Centers for Excellence.

Thank you in advance for considering me as a participant of any task force created to look at the State Centers for the DD.

Rebecca Underwood
669 McCarthy Drive
Hartford, WI 53027
(920) 474-4201
krr.underwood@verizon.net

Jermstad, Sara

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2003 8:32 AM
To: Jermstad, Sara
Subject: FW: Senate Bill 57

CR email

Karen Asbjornson
Office of Senator Carol Roessler
(608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720
Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----

From: fnkywmn@tds.net [mailto:fnkywmn@tds.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2003 5:35 PM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Senate Bill 57

ATTN: Senator Carol Roessler, Chairperson
Room 8 South
State Capitol

My name is Fran Felton, and I am Music Therapist working at Orchard Manor, a county residential facility in Lancaster, WI which houses a 50-bed ICF-MR unit. I am writing to express my opposition to Senate Bill 57 proposing the closing of Central Wisconsin Center.

In 1994 I was a Music Therapy Intern at Central Wisconsin Center when the Center's census was near 500. I understand the current number is half that, due to efforts to downsize to save state budget costs and to provide less restrictive community housing and opportunities for residents of the Center. I believe integration continues to be important to assure that children and adults with disabilities are given the opportunity to be as independent as possible within the community; however, closing all state institutions is not the answer.

Addressing cost-effectiveness: Many of the residents of Central Wisconsin Center have extreme medical needs. Providing medical equipment and 24-hour medical staff to meet the needs of these individuals in smaller community-based settings would be more costly than continuing the operation of the Center with a smaller census.

Addressing quality of life: From my experiences both at Central Center and Orchard Manor, I know that some residents of these facilities have known no other "home" in their lifetime. Despite active treatment to

teach home and community living skills, a mandatory transition to a "less restrictive", "community" placement would be difficult for people with disabilities (and the staff who care for them) if the person has not reached that level of independence. Providing adequate care and education/training to meet the needs of these individuals in smaller homes would be costly, requiring staff in several locations, and may not compare to the quality of a facility that has immediate access to a team of professionals. Necessary services such as Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Music Therapy would be more difficult and costly for individuals to access, which in many residential facilities is included in the cost of care.

Thank you for your time to consider my views and hear my opposition to Senate Bill 57.

Respectfully,

Fran Felton, MT-BC
Orchard Manor
8800 Hwy 61
Lancaster, WI 53813

Jermstad, Sara

From: Seaquist, Sara
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2003 3:44 PM
To: Jermstad, Sara
Subject: FW: Northern Center

CR email...

-----Original Message-----

From: Paula Kohlbeck [mailto:paulak15@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2003 9:59 AM
To: sen.breske@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Northern Center

Dear Wisconsin State Senators and Assembly Persons,

I hope you had a chance to listen to the bill presented and the testimonials concerning Northern Center. We are asking for your help and support to continue to provide "a home away from home" for our behaviorly challenged, medically fragile, and vulnerable clients. Out residents, out employees major job loss, and the Chippewa Valley's already 6.5% unemployment needs your help.

Please help keep the Northern Center open. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Ahlen
Resident Care Technician
Northern Center

LindaBoom-GaryA@webtv.net

Do you Yahoo!?
Yahoo! Web Hosting - establish your business online
<http://webhosting.yahoo.com>

Senator Carol Broessler,

MAR 14 2003

Concerning the closing of the Northern Center.

We as staff have a real concern for the individuals that live here. They are the fragile people, who are hard to place. Many have dual diagnosis and behavior problems. Many have been in group homes, other health care facilities and mental health facilities, and are now living at Northern. They are doing very well here. So why when they couldn't survive anywhere else are they being uprooted again? Isn't their welfare the thing we should be looking at? Not the dollar signs.

At Northern we cover 52 counties. Think of these families and the travel distance they would have to visit their children. Many parents are older and would never make that trip.

We are being penalized for doing the job that was mandated by the State, to all Centers, to place individuals into the Community. We worked ourselves right out of a job, because we did our JOB! We placed 64% of the placements. Is it a practice to fire your good employees and keep the ones that don't do their job? I don't think so!

The Chippewa Valley is hurting for jobs already, and now the Governor wants to take away 400 or more jobs. Not all of us can move because of other ties to the Valley. So those 142 jobs at Central Center don't do us any good.

Please take the welfare of our individuals into consideration and to what is best for them.

Please consider the economical impact on the Chippewa Valley if N.W.C. closes.

Please take a closer look at the Governors recommendations. There are alternatives.

We really need your help. There is Life North of Madison, and we would like to keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Kay Stelzer

Kay Stelzer

26404 Cty 0
Cadott, WI. 54727

715 289-4883

MAR 14 2005

This is the kind of sneaky, lying, underhanded politics I hoped never to be involved with, but as a proud employee of Northern Wisconsin Center, I will fight against their decision to close us with all I've got. This new government has stabbed us through the heart. (The Heart Will Go On!). When I say us I mean: The employees of NWC and their families, Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire businesses, and the Chippewa Valley in general, but most important of all, our residents who can't speak for themselves and their families! They will suffer the most from this outrageous, cold-hearted, slap in the face disguised as politics.

At a meeting with the families of our residents Doyle said, "..... I reluctantly came to the decision I did." "This was a decision that was gut-wrenching and painful for everybody." How can this be so when Secretary Nelson, just hours earlier at a meeting at NWC, stated Doyle left the decision of which Center to close up to her and he just OK'd her decision. Who's lying??

I attended the meeting where Nelson spoke. She admitted her decision was based solely on numbers (\$\$). Crucial facts about the Centers were not considered. When NWC presented her with some of these facts all she could say was, "I was unaware of that." This was the most uninformed woman I have dealt with in a long time. Crucial facts she did not seem to know (or care) about include:

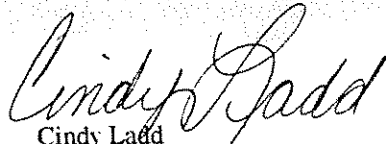
1. Hardships to the residents and their families who live in the northern part of the state.
2. The scope of the area NWC supports (52 out of 72 counties).
3. The impact of losing jobs in the hard-hit Chippewa Valley.
4. Poor survey results at another Center.
5. The excellent job performance of NWC employees.

Nelson also praised community placement and in the same breath mentioned a private facility that was closed down because of unfit living conditions for 150 residents. Will our residents suffer like those? Will they be deprived of the basic necessities (coats, shoes, etc.)? Will they be neglected and abused?

NWC employees are some of the most caring, professional people I've had the pleasure to work with, and because we do care so deeply for our residents, this poor political decision has hit us in the heart.

I do NOT salute you Doyle and Nelson. I give you two thumbs down! And a friendly reminder:

"THE HEART WILL GO ON!!!!!!!!!"


Cindy Ladd
New Auburn
(2003)

MAR 14 2003

State Senator Roesster,

I work at the Northern Center to close this place down it will ruin alot of businesses in the Chippewa Valley, we have no jobs here as it is. I would never relocate and have my kids leave their school and friends. Some day they would like to go to college and if you close this center I will have to tell them they can't attend school. I enjoy my job taking care of the people at NWC, to put them in a strange place with strange people is very cruel. I hope you will keep the northern center open for the people who live here and the employees.

Thank you.

Kelly Larson
1113 Ripley St.
Cornell WI.

51732

MAR 14 2003

Rebecca Revoir
16516 State Hwy. 124
Bloomer, Wi. 54724

To who ever may care,

As an AT RISK employee of Northern Wisconsin Center I have been encouraged by my coworkers, union officers and my government representatives to write each of you a letter to encourage you to do the right thing and help us keep NWC from downsizing and future closing. I hope that when Sen. Zien and Rep. Wood introduce and argue the bill to close Central Center instead of Northern you listen with an open mind.

It makes much more financial sense to close CWC. As we have discovered here, checking the internet for state jobs, the job market in Dane county could absorb the work force from CWC. Here in the Chippewa Valley we have one nursing home closing. One of our largest factories is taking their business to China, and the computer industry here is always laying off workers. Where are my co-workers to find jobs here? Must they uproot their families.

CWC sits on the banks of the beautiful Lake Mandota. If that center were closed the profits from the sale of that property would bring MILLIONS of dollars to the State coffers. Doesn't that make sense?

As I told Governor Doyle's person on the phone when we were told of our future demise NWC is a very small piece of the PIE of state employment in northern Wisconsin.

With downsizing the facility he will be leaving us with a very, very small piece of crust. Losing my jobs and the jobs of many of my co-workers will make it very hard to send any of you apples or cherries (tax dollars) to fill your PIE.

Please help Mr. Zien and Mr. Wood to pass the bill to close CWC and keep us here in the Northern half of the state viable.

Thank you for your time,
Rebecca Revoir, LPN NWC

MAR 14 2003

Dear *Senator Russell*

I am an employee of Northern Center for the past 25 years. It saddens me to the looks on clients' face as they wonder what is going on. Most of our people are high functioning and can read the local newspaper and watch the news. How do you answer when they ask, "What's going to happen to me?" I don't have the answer.

I think that it's very unfair the Governor Doyle wants us for make up a 3.2 billion dollar budget in 2 years when it took many years to get that far in debt. Why can't it take 3 or 4 years? Why the big push to be out of debt in 2 years? Is Governor Doyle trying to look good? If he eliminates the 1900 state jobs here is he going to look then to the public?

Governor Doyle needs to slow down and study the facts. Closing Northern Center is not the best solution. He appointed Helene Nelson to the position and after a few weeks on the job she makes the decision to close Northern Center. Does she even have the facts? I think both Governor Doyle and Ms. Nelson need to slow down and get all the facts. It makes the most sense to keep an institution in the Northern part of the state and one in the Southern part. Why 2 next to each other?

If the Northern Center closes not only will our clients suffer but so will our community! We already have several industries closing and closing Northern Center would be devastating. We were hoping the opening of the Geriatric prison would keep us open and working. With that not opening our promise of jobs is gone. Please take time to reconsider and study the facts. Closing Central is the best solution as Madison and Milwaukee could absorb the people. The Chippewa Valley can not! Please reconsider.

Sincerely

Judy Davis
Judy Davis

208 South Culver Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

MAR 14 2003

Robin Lein
12547 St. Bridget's Dr.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Dear *Senator Roesler*

I am writing this as a concerned citizen of the State of Wisconsin and as an employee of the Northern Wisconsin Center for the Developmentally Disabled, in Chippewa Falls.

I am sending this to voice my support for the proposal made by Senator Dave Zien and Representative Jeff Wood to close the Central Wisconsin Center in Madison. In response to your challenge to come up with alternatives to "downsizing" the Northern Center, I believe that Mr. Zien and Mr. Wood have come up with a viable plan.

I urge you to consider the facts before continuing with what amounts to the closing of Northern Wisconsin Center.

According to DHFS Secretary Helene Nelson, closing Northern Center would save the state \$2.2 million over the next biennium. This is less than 1/10 of 1% of the budget deficit. Closing Central Center would save even more money than this. The property in Madison is valued at \$30 to \$80 million and the sale of this property would add considerably to offset the deficit.

If we are assuming that it is in the best interest of the individuals who live at the state institutions to be placed in community settings, Northern Wisconsin Center has proven that they are the best equipped to prepare these people for community placement. Northern Center's placement rate is the highest of the state's three centers. Northern Center employees have the experience and expertise to provide quality care for both medically fragile and behaviorally challenged individuals. The consistency in staff is an important reason for Northern Center's success in helping people achieve their full potential and enabling them to move to the least restrictive environment. By shifting the population within the centers to Northern Center and Southern Center, the state would see a continued effective placement rate, reducing costs to the State of Wisconsin over time. The individuals who live at Central Center come from all over the State of Wisconsin. They could receive the same high level of care at Northern and Southern Centers that they receive now in Madison. The Chippewa Valley has the medical experts at Mayo and Marshfield Clinics and area hospitals can provide medical services equal to anywhere else in the state.

Closing or "downsizing" Northern Center would also prove to be very costly to the State of Wisconsin. Displaced state workers in the Chippewa Valley will have a hard if not impossible time finding new jobs. There are many more jobs available for state workers in Madison as proven by the high staff turnover rate there.

The loss in money to the state for unemployment payments, welfare payments and lost tax revenue are figures that are not taken into consideration when figuring the "savings" to the state budget. The economic impact of the loss of jobs at Northern Center plus the delay in the opening of the Highview Prison in being estimated at \$40 to \$55 million a year.

The quick fix would be to close Northern Center. But it is more humane and economical to close Central Center. This solution would be good for both the people who reside at our state institutions and the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Robin Lein

MAR 21 2003

March 15, 2003

Senator Rosendel

We at Northern Center takes pride helping people achieve goals everyday, be it getting a button into a button hole, creating a piece of woodwork, art, or getting through the day without an incident. Seeing their eyes light up when they accomplish something is rewarding. It says "We've done a good job".

We have many positive programs for the communities Northern Center serves such as: community capacity team, dental, and consultation. Northern Center has buses for residents with wheel-chairs for transportation to the workshops that run from 9am to 11am with lunch time followed by workshop - 1pm to 3:30 PM keeping residents productive by inserting circulars into newspapers, assembly line work, and Leinenkugel's Brewery, working in Crafts shop through the day where as group homes offer limited services. If group home residents could come to the workshops at Northern Center instead in-house activities... they could stay productive all day also. This is something WE all want isn't it? for Developmentally Disabled to be independent, and yet be able to function in the outside world, and live a normal life as possible, as we try to live ours. To be productive as they can be, and be just as proud of a job as we are?

At the same time we as State Employees of Northern Wisconsin Center could keep our jobs, striving to help the Developmentally Disabled be productive, and still help people that live there, prepare them for the outside world. There are some developmentally disabled people living there with behavioral problems that need to be there, and need our assistance. For instance, in the building I work in, we work with the behavioral residents. When there is a person that gets extremely upset, becomes violent, one of the aides on the apartment sounds alarm, 12 people come running...(2-5 min.) helping the resident that's extremely upset or is violent at the time, to calm down, get themselves back in control of themselves, where as in a group home when there is such a problem, the aide has to call the police and it takes 15-20 minutes and at most 1/2 hour to get to that group home, they land in jail where they don't need to be.... Northern Wisconsin Center Employees are qualified to help them succeed and helps the Developmentally Disabled who have violent behaviors to understand to keep their behaviors under control so they CAN achieve goals pursuing life in group homes or apartment settings.

As I understand there are people with developmental impairments that are in our communities needing our services. As our records show, we at Northern Wisconsin Center are the best at our jobs. We work with our residents daily, helping them towards independence. Where they feel useful and complete as human beings. It is with great pride Employees of Northern Wisconsin Center serve the public.

The death of one of our residents at Northern Center was a very unfortunate incident to say the least, and our hearts go out to loved ones of that resident. That should not be another "reason" to close NWC, it could have happened anywhere.

Barb Dixon

MAR 21 2003

March 16, 2003

Senator Carol Roesler

I am employed at the Northern Wisconsin Center. I work in the behavior building, Parkview. I would like to tell you a little about the people who live here.

There are six apartments, three Excel and three PATU, each apartment holds six people. Each person has his or her own room. We are locked unit, meaning no one can get out without a key. There are two floors; there is a large day area on each floor and a nice living room in each apartment, along with four kitchens in the building. Our apartments are nicely decorated, like a home, except our pictures are bolted to the wall. The dressers are also bolted to the wall, the TV's are in a cabinet with plexi-glass to protect them.

Many of the people living here have been out in group homes and have returned to us after the group home failed. Where will they go if there are no Centers to return to?

I would like to tell you a little about some of our people.

Admitted to NWC	To Group Home	Returned	Group Home	Returned
Client #1 12-16-98	9-16-99	10-28-99	1-19-00	10-3-02 Court ordered back
Client #2 8-24-98	6-1-00	8-2-01		
Client #3 1952	7-16-96	5-15-01		
Client #4 2-2-00	April 01	10-30-01	June	
Client #5 4-5-95	11-17-98	6-5-00	1-7-01	
Client #6 1-29-96	2-26-97	Died		
Client #7 6-23-94	10-26-95	Died		
Client #8 6-4-01	Sept. 01	Died		
Client #9 2-21-96	6-3-99	8-12-99	Court ordered back	
Client #10 12-19-94	11-3-95	Died		

These are just a few of our many people who have lived here. Don't get me wrong, many have done well in-group homes. But there are those that do need our help.

At the present time both of my arms have large black & blue marks from people living here. One of my co-workers was pushed into a wall last March and ended up with a broken right wrist and a broken left elbow, she was off work 8 months. Another co-worker was bitten on the top of her head and 3 stitches and a sprained neck, off 6 weeks. She was bit on the thumb (same person) got infection, off again. One staff hurt by client and had to have two shoulder surgery's, off 11 months. Two staff had large amounts of hair pulled from their heads. There are many more incidents to numerous to mention. And yet we keep coming back to work, because we do love these people and they do love us.

Please do all you can to keep us alive here at Northern Wisconsin Center. Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Kay Stelzer
26404 Cty O
Cadott, WI. 54727

Opinion

Alternative plan available for the Northern Center

On Tuesday, I had the opportunity to take the bus to Madison along with other interested parties to hear testimony on Senate Bill 57.

S.B. 57 is a divisive bill that places the Northern and Central Center staff members, along with their residents and guardians, in competition for the opportunity to continue to give and receive the services they have come to rely on for Wisconsin's most at-risk citizens.

After listening to over 4 and 1/2 hours of testimony on Senate Bill 57 from several sources — including legislators, parents/guardians, former Center residents, Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS) officials and advocates and lobbyists for community placement — it became clear that the challenge to close the state's developmentally disabled centers is very complicated and complex. Parents/guardians and caregivers testified on behalf of individual center residents, shedding light on the human issues involved.

Testimony revealed that each of Wisconsin's three D.D. centers has a unique role in providing for needs of the developmentally disabled. An honest person has to admit that Central Center has the most medically and physically fragile

population (76 percent). Therefore, it's accessibility to the University Hospitals and Weisman Center makes it the most suitable option for the continued treatment of our most severe at-risk patients.

There was agreement that all three D.D. centers would be closed within five years. Testimony revealed that a number of former D.D. center residents who were part of the community placement program are now in the prison system.

There may be as many as 200 prisoners with an IQ of 40 or less. Imagine what the lives of these individuals are like among the regular prison population. There are also numerous individuals in our prison system that are suffering from physical disabilities, including those associated with aging.

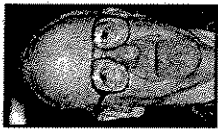
Since DHFS lacks a reliable data base for tracking community placements, the actual numbers are anybody's guess. The Department of Corrections should also develop a database to identify persons within the prison system who are at risk.

Testimony also revealed that closing the Northern Center is the result of an executive order from Gov. Doyle, based on a cost analysis by Secretary Helene Nelson and officials from DHFS. The state's per diem costs, which were presented by DHFS, seem to lack accuracy. Medicaid reimbursements are being enriched by additional Social Security, SSI and SSIE funds. The state's projected cost savings to justify the immediate closing of the Northern Center were not proven.

It should be clear that cost should not be a factor in the closing of the Northern Center. While we recognize the fact that Northern Center will be closed as a D.D. center, it needs to be done in a well thought-out manner.

Using the state's budget deficit as an excuse for closing a D.D. center, without regard to pain and human suffering, is shameful. Since the closing of the Northern Center is being implemented through executive order from Gov. Doyle, it is also within his power to assure that it is completed in a manner that is sensitive to the needs of our residents, their loved ones and the community.

Gov. Doyle may best serve the residents their loved ones and the community by



Jim Campbell Sr.

Guest columnist

imposing a three-year moratorium on the closing of Northern Center. Such action would allow the state to take advantage of the highly-trained staff at the Northern Center, to support continued community placements and transition of the remaining Northern Center residents to other D.D. centers.

During the three-year moratorium, the governor could initiate the opening of Highview Prison to Wisconsin's prisoners with special needs. We need to be concerned when people with severe mental and/or physical disabilities are being forced to live among the general prison population. The potential for physical and sexual abuse in our prisons is well documented.

As members of a civilized society, we cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of our most at-risk prisoners, especially when the Highview prison offers a more humane setting.

Opening the Highview Prison while downsizing of the Northern Center would provide the continuance of decent-paying jobs that are needed to support a healthy economy in the Chippewa Valley.

Jim M. Campbell Sr. of Chippewa Falls is a retired employee of Northern Center, and past president of WSEU's Local 116.

Jermstad, Sara

From: Asbjornson, Karen
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2003 8:37 AM
To: Jermstad, Sara
Subject: FW: Fiscal Estimate SB 57
CR email - not constlt

Karen Asbjornson
Office of Senator Carol Roessler
(608) 266-5300/1-888-736-8720
Karen.Asbjornson@legis.state.wi.us

-----Original Message-----

From: krr.underwood@verizon.net [mailto:res0818g@verizon.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 16, 2003 9:48 PM
To: bovefe@dhfs.state.wi.us; daggeca@dhfs.state.wi.us
Cc: Rep.LehmanM@legis.state.wi.us; sen.kanavas@legis.state.wi.us; sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Fiscal Estimate SB 57

Fredi Ellen Bove & Cindy Daggett:

Reading the fiscal estimate for Senate Bill 57 which calls for the closure and sale of CWC, I agree with the majority of your findings but question the validity of the "average" Medicaid card services cost for waiver participants.

The latest published (by DHFS) Medicaid card costs for the CIP 1A waiver - for calendar year 2001 - were \$46.68. The published "average" Medicaid card costs for CIP 1A waiver participants in calendar year 2000 were \$43.10. The prior year Medicaid card costs were \$37.10 in 1999.

I fail to see how the Medicaid card costs can go down to \$38.94 per day considering the extensive level of nursing care, physical and occupational therapy, respiratory therapy and MD costs, etc., which will be required to community place the current residents of CWC. 24 hour nursing care alone will cost in excess of \$20 per hour. Checking today's Milwaukee Journal Sentinel found nursing salaries far in excess of this amount.

I would like to know how the Department determined that 296 CWC residents could be community served if the CIP 1A waiver daily rate is raised to \$325, as stated on the comparative data document provided at the SB 57 hearing, yet in the SB 57 fiscal estimate report it is stated

03/17/2003

that 70 residents can be placed if the placement rate is raised to \$325. Why the big difference in number of anticipated placements?

Please supply me with the dated data which was used to arrive at the Medicaid card service cost rate of \$38.94 per day to community place CWC residents. It will be appreciated if this data can be supplied within the next 7 working days as it is obviously readily available due to the development of the fiscal estimate.

Thank you.
Kevin Underwood
669 McCarthy Drive
Hartford, WI 53027
krr.underwood@verizon.net

APR 02 2003

**Fran Schneider
1605 Deerfield Road
Eau Claire, WI 54701
March 17, 2003**

I would like to thank the people that listened to the Northern Center testimony at the meeting on March 11, 2003. I hope that we all learned something from it.

The Northern Center has some wonderful programs that could be expanded to serve the community better. We have the Out Reeach program which has Dentists and Doctors, we have great workshops where the people learn skills that will help them hold a job, we have access to teachers that are right on grounds, and we have the best staff that is possible. Our turnover in staff is next to "0" as we are dedicated to our jobs.

Our ITP program is one of the best and we take great pride when we are able to put one of our behavior clients into the community. A lot of our people have been in many group homes before they come to us and most of the time we are able to place them back out. There are some that might not ever be able to move out because of their behaviors but they lead meaningful lives at NWC. They get work skills, cooking skills, learn to generally take care of themselves. We take them dancing, to movies, out to eat, boat riding, horseback riding, to WI Dells, camping and everything that normal people do.

We have the facilities to expand all of these programs and would like the opportunity to do so. We place in group homes the people that can make it in the community but that is not for everyone. We do not want these people ending up in jail where they don't belong and where they don't get the help they need.

Please help to keep us open! Thank you for your time.

Sincerely


Fran

MAR 17 2003

Dear Senator,

I am writing to you to ask you to please examine the facts more closely as to why Governor Doyle is in favor of closing Northern Center. It is strictly political. He figures that because we are "up North" and nobody really knows where we are, that he can make these devastating cuts and it really won't hurt anyone. This is an unacceptable attitude of "out of sight out of mind" mentality.

This area is already economically depressed. We are slated to lose 80 jobs in a large nursing home, over 400 jobs at Mason shoes and 500 jobs at Northern Center. All of these cuts will occur in an area of the state that has over a 6 percent unemployment rate.

The Governor proposes to shift 148 new jobs to Central Center from Northern Center so we can move down there and work. He is proposing to add 148 jobs to an economy that has a 2 percent unemployment rate, does that make good economic sense?

The trickle down effect from closing Northern Center would devastate all the small towns in this area. Car dealerships, grocery stores, gas stations, clothing stores, restaurants and the vendors who supply Northern Center to name a few, will all be affected. This is very unfair

Doyle stated that the budget cuts he is proposing would be spread fairly over the entire state. This is simply not true. He has also delayed the opening of Highview Prison at Northern Center and this was also a great economic blow to this region. When you look at the figures, many of the cuts to the other agencies are not really "people cuts". For instance, it shows that an agency will need to cut 64 jobs but they have 84 openings. Therefore 64 jobs don't get filled but a "real person" doesn't lose their job. Most of the job cuts he proposes are this type of cuts. Those types of cuts don't hurt anyone. When all is said and done the bulk of the actual cuts of real people will come from Northern Center. Please tell me how the pain is equally distributed?

Northern Center has an excellent history of providing outstanding care to our residents. They have wonderful community outings, Par Te Rec, the fair, zoo, trips to the Cities, picnics, restaurants, swimming and the circus to name a few. They have long term caring staff who take them into their homes for outings, holidays, and their lives and their hearts. They have beautiful apartments, vocational workshops with "real" jobs and real wages. They get Doctor, Dental and nursing care on a regular basis.

Not all community placements have fairly tale endings. Many clients have died within weeks or months of leaving Northern Center. They have been scalded, abused and choked on food leading to their deaths. There are lots of these cases if you would care to investigate.

Please vote to keep Northern open. We are not faceless and nameless people. Please come see what we do for these people and the full and rich lives they lead before you make your final decision.

Yes, it is true that hard choices need to be made in order to solve the state deficit. But let's provide an economically and distribution of state jobs and services that doesn't penalize on part the state unfairly.

Dave LaGesse
1510 11th St
Eau Claire, WI, 54701
715-836-0910

Dave La Gesse



State of Wisconsin
Council on Physical Disabilities

1 WEST WILSON STREET, ROOM 450
P O BOX 7851
MADISON WI 53707-7851

MAR 19 2003

Voice: 608-266-9667
TTY: 608-267-9880
Fax: 608-267-3203
www.pdcouncil.state.wi.us

March 18, 2003

State Senator Carol Roessler, Chairperson
Health, Children, Families, Aging and LTC Committee
State Capitol, Room 8 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Roessler:

The Wisconsin Council on Physical Disabilities opposes passage of Senate Bill 57, which would close Central Center and leave the Northern and Southern Centers in operation. While the Council favors the eventual closing of all the Centers, we feel that the Governor's proposed downsizing of Northern Center is the most prudent at this time.

Northern Center has the highest percentage of residents who can be safely and appropriately supported in the community at current rates. In addition, the Northern or Southern Centers are not equipped to support the children who would have to be transferred there if Central Center were closed. It is especially noteworthy that Northern Center has the highest costs for the fewest residents, making it the best choice for budget savings.

We understand that the closure of any Center will have an adverse economic affect on nearby communities. But it is more important to consider the needs of the citizens with developmental disabilities who deserve the best transition possible to life outside an institution.

Sincerely,

JorJan Borlin
Chairperson

cc: State Senator David Zien, sponsor of SB 57
State Representative Jeffrey Wood, sponsor of AB 145

MAR 21 2003

Dear *Sen. Carol Boessler*:

I am a Direct Care employee in the ITP program at NWC. The people I work with are real people with challenging behaviors and some people have a dual diagnosis (developmental disabilities and mental illness).

I support continued admissions to our program per a fitting criteria not just a numbers game. People that come to our program have fallen through the cracks, some ending up in jail through the legal system, some in Winnebago or Mendota (which are more restrictive). Many have moved many times, up to 9 times in 2 years.

We provide a needed service. We have vocational training (ADL skills) social activity, money management and workshops where the people are gainfully employed. The people are very proud of their work and look forward to receiving their checks which they cash at the local banks and are able to spend the money as they desire.

I am also involved in home care of D.D. people for over 10 years. My experience has taught me that the skills they acquired at NWC can make their community placement a positive experience.

Please get back to me with any questions.

Thank you,

Mary Krei
E18454 Cty Rd D
Fall Creek, WI 54742
715-877-2591

MAR 21 2003

Dear

Senator Roosevelt

I am an employee of Northern Center. I attended the hearing on Tuesday, March 11, 2003 at the State Capitol. I just wanted to "thank" each and everyone of you for listening to the testimonies of everyone concerning the individuals that are in institutional care. A lot of positive information was shared with all of you, and with each center. As you heard during the testimony there are a lot of very caring parents, friends, and employees that are concerned with what's going to happen to the clients.

As we heard from Central Center they talked about their very fragile, and medical people. You heard from Northern Center that we have a lot of dual diagnosis, and many challenging behavior problems. We also heard in testimony about the 300 developmentally disabled people in our prison system. Does this really seem fair?

We have 3 centers that offer quality care, job training, medical, dental facilities, and an opportunity to learn how to live out in the community. We need to get our people out of the prison system, and back into the centers where we can have an opportunity to be trained for community living. They don't stand a chance in prison.

Also during the testimony you heard about the wonderful things that Northern Center has to offer, if given a chance. We have an Outreach Clinic which at this time offers dental, and medical services to the people in the community. If we could expand services such as respite care to the 52 counties, offer workshops as the development center is full, and has a waiting list, and expand our ITP units as the county pays \$300.00 a day per client.

There are a lot of opportunities that Northern Center could offer the developmentally disabled if we were given a chance. It was a very unfortunate accident that happened on February 25th, but Northern Center still offers quality care. Please consider all these alternatives to keeping Northern Center open, and allowing us to give the Quality care to our clients here, and the ones we serve in the community. Our clients need us and we need them.

Judy

Judy Davis
208 S. Culver St.
Chippewa Falls
Wisconsin 54729

MAP 9 1 2003

Dear *Sen. Carol Roessler*:

As a employee of Northern Center now for 2 years I would like to express my concern over the Proposed Downsizing at Northern Center to a 17 bed Intensive Treatment Program.

There are many people who live at the Northern Center that have come to think of staff as family and the staff feel the same way in return in working with these people everyday. As for the 17 bed Intensive Treatment Program it is suppose to be short term but in some cases turns out to a extended period of time in helping these people to get the care they need to go back into the community.

I am asking how can the Northern Center survive with only 17 beds. I think that Governor Doyle has forgotten that there is life North of Madison and that the people who live at Northern are not just Developmentally Disabled but are real people to. With each day that passes at least one of the people who reside at Northern Center is continually asking if they are going to have to move from this place in which they have come to think of as home and have for many years. It really chokes me up inside to have to answer this and try to stay positive when in return we do not have the answer to this question.

If Governor Doyle could see the looks on the people ho live at Northern Center everyday when they smile or when they laugh it would melt your heart as it does for those who work with these people day in and day out. Allot of people do not realize that the people who live at Northern Center have feeling to and they can sense what is going on and they lead normal lives just like the rest of us in which they go to workshop everyday and get a check for the work that they do and many of the people who live at Northern Center do much of their won banking along with a lit help with from staff and many of them also go on home visit routinely and go for walks and out on van rides, tractor rides and go the fair when it comes to town and so on.

As for them going into the community to a unfamiliar place and unfamiliar surroundings and staff you have to ask yourself with this continue to happen when they are out in group homes and what will happen to the people who live here at Northern being able to trust in there care givers. It is a very scary thing for the people at Northern to have to leave a place where they have felt comfortable all these years and have come to think of this place as there home and making lasting bonds and friendships with the people they live with what will happen to that I am asking.

The people who live at Northern are human beings and have feelings to and it makes me feel like this decision was made without taking their feeling into consideration and what would be the best for them. It needs to be said that We need to think about the feelings of the people at Northern Center how it will affect them after all it is those people who matter the most.

Sally Wick
307 N Maple St
Cadet, WI 54727

Asbjornson, Karen

From: Kathy Swanson [kjswanson@jrec.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2003 11:22 AM
To: sen.roessler@legis.state.wi.us
Subject: Institution-Northern Center

I am submitting this letter for the "letter to the editor" of the *Eau Claire Leader, Chippewa Herald* and also sending it to committee chairs. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Most of us like to hear success stories. It is wonderful to know that people who once lived in institutions are living with or without assistance in their own apartments. If we could track down all the people who were institutionalized 20 or 30 or more years ago, we might find that many of them got married and had families after leaving the institutions. Certainly, many of them learned a trade and became productive members of the working class. Since that time, institutions have changed. Society, itself, has changed. Hopefully, we are more educated and understanding. The medical field has brought about much change in treating illnesses and conditions, including many that could keep people institutionalized many years ago. Did you know that people could be institutionalized just because they had seizures? Thankfully, that doesn't happen in today's world. Unfortunately, we do have people who cannot live on their own. Some of those people might be your parent, spouse, or friends, who have fallen to the grips of something like Alzheimer's, a stroke or any of the diseases that take away the ability to care for ones self. These people might need nursing home care. Do people stand on the street corner and condemn the fact that people need to live in these institutions? Of course not. Lakeside has a licensed bed capacity of 336 and is set up and staffed for 320 and the Clairmont in Eau Claire has 199 licensed beds with 160 set up and staffed. Is it possible for either of these places to empty their beds so people do not have to live in institutions? **NO!**

These places provide the services that are needed to help people live the most independent life that they can. They exist to provide assistance in daily needs with dignity and respect to people who cannot accomplish these things on their own. Northern Center provides the same services to about 170 individuals who are severely disabled. Northern Center residents are assisted in learning and enjoying all walks of life including personal cares, daily living skills, job training, campus activities and community outings in an environment where they are accepted, protected and loved. For many of these people, it is the best of all worlds. Until group homes and foster homes are held to the same inspection and scrutiny that Northern Center is, there are no guarantees or proof that community living is an improvement in the lives of many.

Community placements will not ease the taxpayers' burden. These human beings still require job sites, activities, housing, staff, medical and dental services, OT, PT, psychologists, special diets, etc. Where do you think the money comes from for that? It all comes from federal, state, or county taxes in one way or another. It is still our responsibility, as taxpayers, to provide this money. "Institution" is only a word. It is not a dirty, four letter word like some people would like you to believe. In the case of Northern Center, this "institution" is the home and learning center for differently abled people.

The Committee on Health, Children, Families, Aging, and Long Term Care have not made a recommendation on the status of Northern Center. The chairperson for this committee is Sen. Carol Roessler from Oshkosh. The only local person on the committee is Sen. Ron Brown from Eau Claire. Please continue to express your concerns over this entire issue to your local representatives or to those in Madison. Don't let them forget who we are and what we stand for.

Thank you.

03/24/2003

Kathy Swanson
Cornell, WI.

110 Chippewa Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

March 24, 2003

To the Honorable Governor Jim Doyle
Dear Governor Doyle

I am writing this letter in regard to the proposed closing of the Northern Center for the Developmentally Disabled. I am enclosing an article I wrote that was published in the *Chippewa Herald Telegram*. In this article, I proposed a compromise which I believe will serve everyone better.

I am well aware of the large budget deficits which you are not responsible for but which you are forced to solve. However, I sincerely doubt that a \$2-4 billion deficit can be absorbed through cutting state jobs and services. If you are only going to propose programs that shift costs from the state to the counties and municipalities, once the taxpayers receive their property tax bill in the mail, they will realize how you addressed deficit reduction.

Closing the Northern Center will not save money, but in fact, may cost more. My opinion is based on a number of reasons, but for the sake of brevity, I will touch on labor costs.

1. Wages and benefits represent the lions share of any company's operating budget. IF you compare the average hourly wage of Northern Center direct care staff to Southern and Centrals, you will find that Northern's is higher. This is the result of longevity among Northern Center employees. While all three Center's have dedicated staff, longevity translates to experience and expertise in job performance. When one suffers from a serious health affliction, wouldn't they want the more experienced, knowledgeable care provider as opposed to someone new to the duties and responsibilities?

Does it make sense to spend hundreds of thousands and perhaps as much as a million dollars to hire and train people to care for residents already receiving quality care? I worked in direct care at the Northern Center for over 32 years before my retirement. I am well aware that caring for people with individual personalities and needs is a challenging and continuing learning experience. Longevity and experience are something to be valued and appreciated.

Freezing all hiring may expedite your cause, but given the fact that the State of Wisconsin is self-insured on matters such as unemployment benefits, is it prudent or wise? Out of one hand the State would be paying one group to work, while out of the other hand it would be paying people not to work to provide the same service?

Considering the high unemployment rate and lack of decent paying jobs in our local community, the cost of most unemployment benefits would probably last for six months. Will welfare programs have to absorb the cost of continued unemployment after six months?

The welfare and well-being of the residents living in all of our Centers for the Developmentally Disabled and their immediate families should be the key factor to consider when making decisions that impact on their rights and their quality of life.

To suggest that the closing of a DD Center at this time would result in a cost savings is wishful thinking. If you or one of your representatives would like to discuss this matter further, you may contact me at 715/723-5495.

Respectfully Submitted

James M. Campbell

cc. Senators and Assembly members serving on the Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long Term Care Committee.

APR 02 2003

110 Chippewa Street
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

March 26, 2003

Chairperson Senator Carol Roessler

Dear Senator Roessler;

For your information I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Governor Doyle and a copy of an article I wrote that was printed in the *Chippewa Herald*.

I attended the Senate hearing on SB 57 on March 11, because I wanted to become better informed about the proposal to save the Northern Center for the Developmentally Disabled in Chippewa Falls. I was impressed with the way that you conducted the hearing. I found the testimony to be very informative and while I didn't agree with some things that were said, I hope I came away with a reasonably accurate viewpoint regarding the issues.

I took early retirement from the Northern Center in 1992, after over 32 years of working in direct care. I served as union president of WSEU Local 116 for 10 years. I also served as President of DMH 6 which was a union coalition representing workers from the three DD Centers, Mendota and Winnebago Mental Health Institutes and the King Veteran's Home. I also served on a statewide Labor- Management Committee to Advise on Residents and Employees (CARE).

My union involvement made me aware of the challenges we all faced in providing the best care possible for our residents. Many old programs have been abandoned and replaced by new and more innovative ones. I firmly believe that the dedication of the direct care staff at all three DD Centers and Mental Health Institutes has not changed.

I'm sure that the workers of the Northern Center are concerned about the economic impact of losing their jobs. But I'm equally sure that they are aware that a carefully planned closing of the Center is in the best interests of the many residents that they have grown to love.

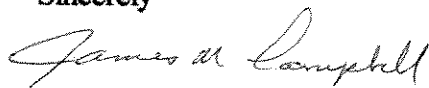
I heard testimony that Minnesota no longer has any State facilities for the Developmentally Disabled. About 14 years ago, I had a Northern Center resident at the Gillette Children's Hospital in St. Paul. While sitting in the waiting room I struck up a conversation with a Minnesota state employee who also had a resident there for treatment.

As I remember, he told me that Minnesota was establishing group home settings for their most severely handicapped residents. I had to leave for my appointment, so I was unable to gain more details. In thinking back it seems that he said he was from Cambridge, Minnesota. Perhaps we should be studying Minnesota's methods. (We should also study their criminal justice system to find out why a state with a population that is only one million less than Wisconsin has almost 75% less people in their prison system).

In any event the complete closing of any DD Center needs to be done in an extremely thoughtful manner, rather than to fit the personal agendas of bureaucrats and/or politicians. We all need to be willing to find a compromise solution where no one wins entirely, but we can all live with the outcome.

The dictionary definition of a diplomat and a politician is quite different. What both the State and our World needs today are more diplomats and less politicians. In short we need more problem solvers and less problem makers.

Sincerely



James M. Campbell

APR 02 2003

Dear

Senator R. Besseler

- I am a NWC employee and would like to express my view of the downsizing or closing of NWC. I am a parent of a special needs child. He was diagnosed with Microcephaly, Cerabab Palsy, and Epilepsy. He has never been with any one else but family. If you are a parent of a special needs child you are grateful to spend as much time with them as possible. Including DR. visits, therapy and all the things you do as a parent. Not to mention holidays and family get togethers. Relocating away from my child would be difficult but it seems to be my only option. I have worked here at NWC for 5 years and have had the most wonderful experience extending my family with the staff. It has been a pleasure. There are many people here that are dedicated to make the individuals here at NWC loved and well cared for. I know that I have got a God given gift as many of my coworkers do. We would like to stay with them and to be a part of their lives also. Training them to be the best they can be.

Thank you

Bonnie Stewart

APR 02 2003

Dear *Senator Boessley*,

I am an employee at NWC I am very concerned about the people that live here. I wonder where they will be placed in the community and if their placements will now be based on dollar signs only. We have been told that they will keep 48 beds open at central center for the people that can't be placed into the community. That means that some of the families will have to travel across the whole state to visit their family member. Many of our people that live here are in there forty or fifties, which mean those there parents, are elderly. This will be quite a burden on them.

We also have one of the best workshops in the state of Wisconsin. We do contract work for many private businesses, which supplies our people with paychecks every 2 weeks. Our workshops are adapted so that the majority of the people that live here can take part in the assembly line.

We do contract work for the local newspaper, Fastenal Company, PopCO company, Wal-Mart, Leinies brewery, and we have a arts and crafts workshop that holds a craft sale that is open to the public every year.

At the same time I would like to let you know how much closing NWC is going to hurt our community NWC is one of the biggest employers in this area, and with the geriatric prison not opening there is not much in the area for state employment to transfer to. So I am just asking you to look at this closely and read all the facts and figures before you make a decision. It affects our whole community not just the people that live at NWC, or the staff that take care of them.

Sincerely,

Bette Colbert

20958 190th St.
Cornell, WI. 54732

April 8, 2003

Shannon McKinley and Janice Beebout
3525 Patch Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481

Committee Chairperson
Attn: Senator Carol Roessler
State Capitol
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

APR 9 2003

Dear Senator Roessler,

We are writing as employees of a private human services agency located in Stevens Point/Plover/Waupaca area in central Wisconsin. We have been providing services to persons with developmental disabilities, chronic mental illness and traumatic brain injuries in our area since 1995. Our main office, in Menomonie, has been providing services throughout northwestern Wisconsin since 1986.

Our agency employs 90 staff members throughout Portage and Waupaca counties and serves approximately 25 individuals in 9 homes, at a lower daily rate per individual than the large state institutions. We believe very strongly in a person's right to "live-free - in the community".

Our agency provides state-approved training for staff members so that they can provide superior care and services to individuals with limited abilities. We develop Individual Program Plans (IPP) to assist and teach the individuals to be as independent as possible and empowering them to stay in their chosen community. We also develop Provisions of Care (POC) for medical concerns so that the staff are given the tools they need to address these concerns. In addition to the IPP and POC mentioned above, we also develop individualized Behavioral Program Plans (BPP) that assist people in modifying their behavior without restrictive measures.

We are urging you to close all 3 state institutions and to adequately fund services for individuals with limited abilities in their chosen community. The United States Constitution granted us the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Let's make this true for everyone!

Shannon McKinley
Janice Beebout

APR 9 2003

Ben Linzmeier
3701 Robert Place, Apt. 206
Stevens Point, WI 54481

April 8, 2003

Committee Chairperson
State Capitol
Attn: Senator Carol Roessler
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Roessler,

My name is Ben Linzmeier. I have worked for Aurora Community Services in several group homes in both the Eau Claire and Stevens Point areas, assisting people with developmental disabilities.

I would like to communicate to you some of the benefits of community placement. Primarily, people get the opportunity to receive individual attention. This may mean someone who listens to their needs, teaches skills and, at times, manages behaviors in a constructive way. Also, these people have ample opportunity to get out and experience their community.

I have fond memories of taking people swimming at the YMCA, shopping at malls and going to many parties. One of my favorite experiences was going to Noah's Ark with a deaf/blind individual. To my great surprise, he was willing to climb all the way to the top and slide down a *real* waterslide. I will never forget the huge smile he had on his face when he got to the bottom!

I also believe that by placing individuals with developmental disabilities into group homes in the community, possibly through companies such as Aurora, would be more cost-effective and more enjoyable and rewarding to these people.

Thanks for your time.

Ben Linzmeier

APR 23 2003

Jennifer Brooks
215A Sherman Avenue, #7
Stevens Point, WI 54481

April 9, 2003

Committee Chairperson
State Capitol
Attn: Senator Carol Roessler
P. O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Senator Roessler,

Hi! My name is Jennifer Brooks and I have been employed by Aurora Community Services in Stevens Point for 1 year now. My job as a caregiver is a career that I would like to keep. I take care of two individuals.

One of these individuals, Mary, was a resident in a state institution. Mary has been in her own place for almost 5 years and is involved in so much! She is involved with her community; she goes shopping, to the movies, walks in the park, swimming in the summer, attending parties, visiting friends' homes and much more! In an institution, she wasn't able to do these things.

Mary's housemate is involved with employment through Community Industries Corporation. He is also involved in the YMCA, swimming, fishing, walks, shopping, visiting others.

I believe these two individuals and others in the community are happy being able to make their own decisions. I know of the 3 state institutions. The direct care staff community in our area would like these institutions closed. Direct care staff can handle medications, assist in physical and psychological needs, plan events, transportation, handle budgets, meal planning and maintenance of their home together with the people we provide cares to. We do a lot of things to make their lives better.

The things we hear about the institutions are ridiculous. Everyone deserves a chance to be free, even if they have disabilities. When I was young and in school, I was taught that no one is different and everyone should be treated as an equal.

I would like to stay at this job permanently, but the budgeting is a huge concern. I believe there is not enough in the budget to adequately pay caregivers for what we do. You would be saving so much more money getting people out of the institutions. Staff members are also concerned about benefits, we all believe benefits should be raised and we should get comparable benefits to those given to employees at the state institutions. We are providing better care for a lower cost per day.

What I'm asking is that the state institutions be closed and the people to come and join us in the community for a better life and to be free. We would love to have them here to give them individual attention and make their lives a life of choices and independence, just like our lives.

Thank you for your time.

JBS7



MOMENTUM CHIPPEWA VALLEY
RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

WHEREAS: Efforts have historically been underway to keep staff and facilities employed at the Wisconsin Northern Center for the Developmentally Disabled (Northern Center) while the State developed a policy of community placement for its residents; and

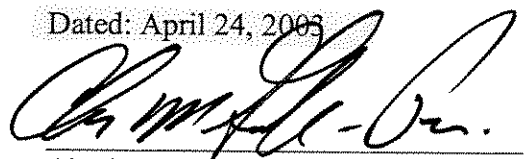
WHEREAS: Development of the Highview Special Needs Correctional Facility is a primary component of that effort; and

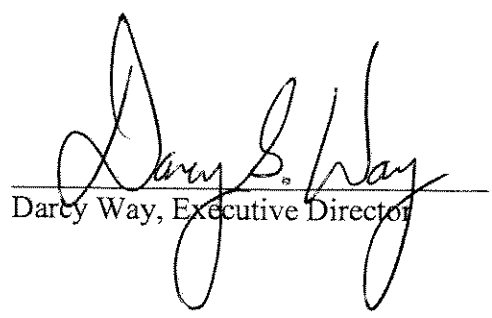
WHEREAS: The Northern Center has an economic impact of more than \$50 million dollars annually to the State of Wisconsin and employs approximately 600 workers in the Chippewa Valley; and

WHEREAS: Closure of the Northern Center shifts significant costs and responsibilities for patient care to their home counties at a time of fiscal stress for local governments;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Momentum Chippewa Valley supports keeping the Northern Center open, with retention of staffing, until alternative uses for the facility, such as the Highview Correctional Facility, are established; and affordable, quality services are assured for all existing patients, with minimal, additional burden placed on home counties to fund community placement services.

Dated: April 24, 2003


Charles Grossklaus, President


Darcy Way, Executive Director

WISCONSIN'S **BEST** WORKING TOGETHER!

620 West Clairemont Avenue • CVTC – Room 32 • Eau Claire, WI 54701-6162
PHONE: (715) 833-6276 or (800) 469-0215 • FAX: (715) 833-6470

NET: info@eauclaire-wi.com • WEB: chippewavalley.org