

## Presentation to Senate Finance Subcommittee on Health And Human Resources

10th Floor, January 26, 2009

General Assembly Building, Richmond, Virginia

by W. E. Sivertson, Jr. (President)

### Parents and Friends of Southeastern Virginia Training Center (SEVTC), Inc.

#### Introduction

- I'm Gene Sivertson, President of Parents & Friends of SEVTC, Inc., Speaking on Behalf of the Parents Group and Residents. (Brochure Attached #1)
- The Governor's Proposal To Close Southeastern On June 30th of 2009 is Unrealistic, and Inhumane.
- Planning Specificity is Nonexistent, and Appropriate Community Placement Does Not Exist. (Attached # 2)

#### Losses

- Closing SEVTC Will Deny Olmstead Choice and Will Result in Residents Losing Lives. (Attached # 4, #8)
- Closing SEVTC Will Result in 522 (As Of 1-5-09) Individuals Losing Their Jobs.
- Closing SEVTC Will Not Save Money, but Will Increase Cost to Virginian Tax Payers. (VOR Cost Attachment #3)
- SEVTC is a Profit Center for the DMHMRSAS. The **Profits Support Mental Health Facilities Not Mental Retardation Facilities**. Closing SEVTC Will Lose This Profit. (SEVTC Fiscal Office Data Attached #4)
- Closing SEVTC Will Deny the Community System of Its RCSC (Regional Community Service Center) Safety Net.

#### Renovations

- SEVTC is Safe, Secure, and Is Not In Need of Significant Repairs.
- Recently Over \$8M Has Been Invested In: All New Roofs, Kitchen Additions (Building Addition, High Performance Kitchen Equipment, Cook/Chill Food Handling System, Parking Lots, and Food Delivery Trucks), New Air-conditioning Systems, and Initiation of the Installation of a Heat Pump System for All Cottages.

#### Model Small Facility

- SEVTC is Not a Large Institution. It is a Residential Campus of 20 Small Cottages Clustered In Groups of 4 With a Common Courtyard For Outdoor Picnics and Other Activities. (SEVTC Photo Attached #5)
- Each Cottage Has 4 Bedrooms, 2 Bath Rooms, Foyer, Laundry Room, Kitchen, Dining Room and Living/Family Room.
- These Cottages Are **Home To The Residents**, and Provide the **Least Restrictive , Most Integrated , and Safest Environment** for the Residents and Their Long Time Friends and Care Givers. (SEVTC Photo Attached #5)
- **SEVTC Is a Full Service ICF/MR** (Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation) (Attachment #1).
- **Community ICF/MR are Waivered Service Facilities, and Do Not Provide the Full Care Services Required By The SEVTC Residents.** (VOR Community not Cheaper Attached #6)

#### Remarks

- On a Petition, **11,116** Virginians Have Said **"Do Not Close SEVTC"**. All Over Virginia, **Citizens Say "No" To Closing SEVTC!** (Petition Form Attached #7)
- Risking the Lives of Our Most Vulnerable Citizens to Balance the Budget Or To Advance An Ideology Is Always Wrong (Attachment # 8).
- Appropriate Level of Care is the Issue, Not Simply Housing, and Not An "All In Community" Ideology. (Attachments # 9, #10, #11)

#### Request (Please)

- **Reject Governor Kaine's Budget Proposal To Close SEVTC, and**
- **Provide Funding to Keep SEVTC Open and Serving Its 175 Residents.(VOR Statement 1-14-09 Attached)**

It's  
All About

Level of Care

Not

Number of Beds

# Southeastern Virginia Training Center (SEVTC)

US 64

Surface Water  
Drainage Pond

ICF/MR Full Service

Cottages



## SEVTC Cottage

Bedrooms & Bath Rooms  
Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen  
Foyer, Laundry Room

SEVTC is the Community  
"HOME of CHOICE"  
for its Residents

## Files Sought on Group Home Deaths

washingtonpost.com

NEWS | OPINIONS | SPORTS | ARTS & LIVING | Discussions | Photos & Video | Going

### Abuse, Deaths in D.C. Group Homes

#### Detailed

Citing Scaldings and Starvation, Filing Urge Contempt

By Petula Dvorak  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Plans Emergency Oversight Hearing

Writer

2005: Page 502

The New York Times

Saturday, January 24, 2009

## Health

WORLD | U.S. | N.Y. / REGION | BUSINESS | TECHNOLOGY | SCIENCE | HEALTH | S

RESEARCH | FITNESS & NUTRITION | MONEY

### Agency Criticized Over Group-Home Deaths

### Date set for group home death trial

By KENNETH HART - The Independent

### April death ruled homicide

Two workers at AWS group home where n

By Jeff Wiehe and Jennifer L. Boen

### Group home death suspect pleads not guilty; others accused also in court

By DAVE FOPAY, Staff Writer  
dfopay@ig-tc.com

### Lethal oversight in group homes

Some say more supervision could curb the rash of violence in homes for the mentally ill

### Police investigate death at group home in St. Cloud

Police in St. Cloud, Minn. are investigating group home.

By Tim Harlow, Star Tribune

Last update: September 3, 2007 - 9:31 AM

# KNAPP & ROBERTS

GROUP HOME INJURY LAWYERS

Making a Difference...One Case at a Time



Governor Kaine stated that “no individual currently residing in these closed facilities will be discharged without an appropriate plan of care and full funding to receive that *care in a more appropriate setting.*”

*From Virginia Alliance for Community Press Release December 17, 2008*



**Governor Kaine, Please Explain what is *INAPPROPRIATE* about SEVTC...**