

**Summary of Remarks of Jane Anthony, Co-President
Parents and Associates of the Northern Virginia Training Center
Before the Subcommittee on Health and Human Resources
Senate Finance Committee
January 20, 2014**

Speaking for the families and residents of Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) and the four Virginia Training Centers scheduled to close, we request your support of the Howell and Newman amendments, Items 1#1S and #2S and Items 307#6S and 7S, to:

- Suspend scheduled closures of Virginia’s Training Centers until quality community placements with well-trained staff are in place and
- Conduct a thorough analysis of the comparative costs of providing care in community and training center settings.

Adoption of these amendments will prevent training center residents from being moved 160 miles from their homes while waiting for community options to mature and give the General Assembly the information necessary to determine the best plan to meet resident needs in a cost-efficient manner that assures both quality and family choice.



Jason Kinzler has unique needs yet typical of today’s remaining training center residents. Jason’s condition:

- Profound intellectual disability with 6 month to one year’s development
- Not toilet trained, non-verbal, somewhat mobile, quick, and strong
- Eats inappropriate items (pica) that are choking hazards
- Incredibly high pain threshold and would not indicate injury or abuse

What NVTC offers Jason but would be hard to replicate in the community

Multiple, highly experienced, and well trained direct care staff with low turnover:

- Know the residents and think of them as family
- Have benefits and nearly a living wage

- Support one another to prevent error, accidents, and abuse or neglect

On campus access to doctors, therapists, nurses, and social workers who are:

- Deemed essential according to doctor's professional judgment
- Accessible on a moment's notice
- Able to provide frequent contact and supervise lesser trained staff
- Specialists in serving those with I/DD based on years of experience
- Training the next generation of specialists - NVTC ha 23 interns
- Sought after by those in the community through the Regional Community Support Centers (RCSC)

Coercion to leave NVTC and other training centers

- Not honoring the Settlement Agreement guarantee of a choice between an appropriate community placement and the right to training center care - A choice between an unprepared community, a declining NVTC, and a distant move that would make it impossible to visit our children is not a choice any family member should be forced to make

The inadequate existing waiver

- Three DBHDS studies report inadequate waiver rates and supports
- Bridge funding too uncertain in long term to induce providers to build capacity
- Local Community Service Boards and 18 major providers report the community is not ready to accept NVTC residents and will not be until there is a new waiver

Understanding Costs

- Mortality risk of 10% of those with I/DD greater than average by 4 to 5 times
- Most center residents in the 10% and cost far more than DBHDS's assumed average for transitions
- Comparable professional supports in community: 25% time lost to travel or much higher staff ratios with onsite staff serving fewer clients
- Chimes of Maryland group homes costs equal to NVTC, as academic research predicts
- Northern Virginia Regional Plan, developed by all stakeholders, with efficient use of NVTC integrated into community - not considered as yet