



Principles for Closure of Missouri's Habilitation Centers

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Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities

Over the last several years, the Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities has placed its emphasis on efforts on systems change intended to expand community capacity and prepare for a large-scale transition from institutional care or habilitation center closings. The Council believes that all of Missouri's citizens with developmental disabilities should have an opportunity to live in the community; however, the Council further believes that certain principles must be honored to assure the health and safety of the individuals transitioning to the community. These principles are based on research and best practices from institutional closures across the nation and have been shared with the Governor and Department of Mental Health officials.

1. Any movement of individuals from habilitation centers must be done from a person-centered approach or allowing the planning process to be directed by the individual with assistance as needed from a representative.
2. Individuals moving to the community should be assisted in finding small, inclusive community options rather than large community facilities.
3. New admissions to Habilitation Centers should be eliminated and alternative emergency placements should be developed and funded.
4. Adequate resources to support the community system shall be put into place including a crisis management system and training for staff.
5. NO one moves from the institution until ALL of the necessary community services are in place.
6. Institutions will remain open as long as it takes to accomplish #5.