

Good afternoon,

I wanted to alert our membership to a statement from The Arc of IL in response to two articles published this morning about abuses at Choate; one is from the [Southern Illinoisian](#) and the other is from [ProPublica](#).

“It is appalling to hear about continued incidents of horrific abuse and neglect out of Choate 13 years after a 2009 US Department of Justice report that found deficiencies violating the Constitutional and federal statutory rights of its residents. Illinois continually fails to prioritize the transition to community-based services which is opposite to federal trends. Over a dozen states and DC no longer fund state operated institutions for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; only Texas has more of these settings than Illinois. Over 1,600 people remain in institutions and thousands more are on the waiting list for community services. Illinois has an opportunity to do better but it is going to take political will to do so. The Arc of Illinois stands ready to assist the Governor’s office and the Division of Developmental Disabilities to begin a safe and thoughtful closure of Choate through a process of transitioning its residents into community settings. Further, we support increased funding to assure that the community system has the capacity to support all people with IDD in the communities of their choosing.”

-- Amie Lulinski, PhD, Executive Director of The Arc of Illinois.