



March 2021

Dear Governor Jay Inslee and members of the community:

The Shut Them Down Coalition believes that Washington State should close the state institutions to end a chapter of segregation and institutionalization of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For the past 50+ years, self-advocates and the DD partners have worked on moving people out of segregated institutional settings and back into the community. We strongly believe that building any new dedicated I/DD nursing facilities is sending us backwards in time. 17 other states<sup>1</sup> have all moved away from the old restrictive institutional model to the newer community residential model. The Shut Them Down Coalition believes Washington State should be next.

The Coalition is advocating for a person-centered approach that would begin with a referral to, "Roads to Community Living." The Coalition believes that regional nursing homes used for the general disability population should be allowed to serve all people with I/DD. We feel that if we can educate and add to the nursing staff at these facilities, they can care for people with I/DD from the Fircrest Y Buildings on a temporary basis while people look for a permanent community placement. SOLA's, companion homes, adult family homes, and supported living options should also be considered.

DDA Assessments should be given to each person to determine supports and needs. A person-centered planner should work with each person to discover their current support network and individual preferences. DDA Case Managers can begin to map what community placement should look like using person-centered planning options. Individuals can be helped to direct their own services, through the supported decision making process.<sup>2</sup> Self-advocates should have the ability to connect with residents to ensure that they have support and the DD Ombuds should be monitoring to ensure that people have their voices heard.

The Coalition will be willing to advocate and work to create more community based residential options, to grow and improve in-home care. It is critical that individuals are given multiple options on where to live at. Individuals should be able to receive most nursing home level care in their community. Some individuals may need more assistance in finding providers with a higher level of expertise. We need to make sure there is a higher level of provider with more expertise to do medical level tasks and/or mental health support. The unions should be engaged in how to meet this unmet need and how to increase staffing ratios and care hours to a level that allows for 1:1 community access. New community housing options close to public transportation may need to be created to support everyone as the cost of living is high in Washington State. It is our belief that when the State has enough community residential options and community services in every community, all people with I/DD can live successfully in their community.

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<sup>1</sup> Developmental center Closure study. (2015). Retrieved April 20, 2015, from <http://www.lsc.ohio.gov/documents/reference/current/ddcc-report-2015.pdf>

*The State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities: 2017, 11th Edition*, published by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) "States" includes the District of Columbia.

<sup>2</sup> Washingtonlawhelp.org. (2020). Retrieved March 05, 2021, from <https://www.washingtonlawhelp.org/resource/supported-decision-making-agreements?ref=OCMV>

Sincerely Committed to Inclusion,

The Shut Them Down Coalition

Michael Raymond, Resa Hayes, Anthony Nash, Katrina Boik, Jessica Renner, Ivanova Smith, Krista Milhofer, Cody Cohan, Michelle Broeckling, Mike Gantala, Justin Maxwell, David Lord, Aimee Champion, Robert Wardell, Margaret Lee Thompson, Corinna Fale, William Fale, Shawn Latham, Lonnie Parker, William Elliot, John Lemus, Sebastian Rubino, Cheryl Monk, Tracy Turner, Terri Hansen, Tommy Debord, Courtney Thom, Jason Self, Diana Stadden, Julie Clark, Brian Dewitt, Michael Rogers, Karleena Hall, Darla Helt, Craig Sicilia, William Elliot, Eric Matthes, Wesley Shockey, Rusty Allphin, Darci Ladwig, Kyle Matteson, Sharon Remsen, Josie Schindler, Adrienne Stuart, Melissa Lund, Leigh Spruce, Sorretie Jaro, and growing...

In partnership with:

Self Advocates in Leadership (SAIL)

Allies in Advocacy (Allies)

People First of Washington

Online Chapter of People First of Washington

King County Champions Chapter of People First of Washington

Spokane Lilac Chapter of People First of Washington

Thurston County Chapter of People First of Washington

Lewis County Chapter of People First of Washington

Kitsap Chapter People First of Washington

Pierce County Chapter of People First of Washington

People First of Snohomish County

Student First East Valley

Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)

Disability Rights Washington (DRW)

The Arc of Washington State

The Arc of King County

The Arc of Spokane

The Arc of Whatcom County

The Arc of Snohomish County

The Arc of the Peninsulas

Project ID

Supported Solution

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Planning the Next Steps

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Concerned Citizens

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Pierce, Jones and Associates

Washington Multicultural Services Link

Kitsap County Parent Coalition

Community Employment Alliance

Able Opportunities

TJ Consultation and Training

Fox Associates

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Disability Art Society  
EEI News Network  
Blog Talk Radio  
Recovery Now  
Michael F. Ciafone Author Silent Cries  
Don't mess with M.S.  
Dream Catchers  
Les Paul LTD  
Broken Head Productions  
Head Injury Resource Center  
Kim Justice Jefferson Author In A Flash  
Brain Injury Radio  
Ability Network

And supported by:

A Change.org petition. 268 people signed on, it can be found at <http://chn.g.it/j9bqNS8Gs7>