

POSITION PAPER STATE FACILITIES

The position of **Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC)** is that all five remaining state institutions operated by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services be closed permanently. The funds yielded by the closure must be redirected to ensure high quality, individualized community support and service options.

The number of individuals living in these facilities has been steadily declining since the initiation of the 1970's international deinstitutionalization movement. Consistent with best practices, the Commonwealth currently supports more than 30,000 individuals with disabilities living in the community. Fewer than 600 individuals continue to live in the institutions that are still in operation (Hogan Regional Center, Wrentham Developmental Center and Templeton Developmental Center) at an annual cost in excess of \$160 million dollars.

We are sensitive to parents and relatives who accepted institutionalization for their family members at a time when few other options were available. State services have evolved so that individuals can be supported to have meaningful lives in their communities – this is happening all over Massachusetts.

MFOFC believes that all individuals have the right to live in the community. We support the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in closing the remaining five state institutions operated by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services. As stated earlier in this paper, it is crucial that funds from the institution closings be redirected into the community system to support individuals served by the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

Adopted by MFOFC Board of Directors on February 1, 2008

****Amended November 2, 2012 – Monson Developmental Center closed August 2012***

****Amended February 5, 2014 – Glavin Developmental Center closed June 2013***

****Amended February 8, 2015 – Fernald Developmental Center closed November 2014***

