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**VOR Weekly E-Mail Update**

**September 19, 2008**  
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**HELPING VOR: OPPORTUNITIES!!**

**1. VOR Publication:** *Future Life and Estate Planning for Persons with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities*, rev. 2008

**2. IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOR: BACKGROUND AND POLICY**

**3. VOR handouts** available for your next meeting!

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**1. VOR Publication: Future Life and Estate Planning for Persons with Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, rev. 2008**  
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Life and estate planning supported by sound financial and legal planning is one of the most important steps parents and family members can take to help ensure the future welfare of their family members with mental retardation and developmental disabilities (MR/DD).

This publication, first published by VOR a few years ago, was recently updated. To view and print the publication, visit <http://vor.net/guardianship.htm>.

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**2. IN KIND CONTRIBUTIONS TO VOR: BACKGROUND AND POLICY**

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During the Annual Board Meeting in June (2008) held in Washington there was discussion regarding what an in-kind gift is and how important these gifts are to VOR.

An in-kind contribution is a voluntary contribution of an asset. In addition to being a gift, an in-kind donation must also be a contribution that is non-cash or not readily converted to cash. As bonds, and certain securities are readily converted to cash, that are not considered in-kind contributions.

In-kind donations generally fall into the following categories: donated goods; donated services; sales discounts and cancellations; or reductions of liabilities.

Throughout VOR's history there have been many in-kind gifts that are greatly appreciated. For more than fifteen years Gerry Cukierski (Arlington Heights, IL) has donated all of VOR's CPA services, with the exception of an independent annual audit. Carol Neiger of NeigerDesignInc. (Evanston, IL) has donated a significant amount of marketing design and consultation for many years. Bill Sherman, and the Sidley Austin law firm (Jim Arden, Mike Rato, Jim Ducayet, and others) have donated hundreds of thousands of dollars of pro bono legal services.

The VOR Board in June made a commitment to better account for these invaluable gifts. We have developed an In-Kind Donation Agreement form that will help VOR track these generous gifts, as well as assist you in determining if your gift is tax deductible. An example of this form is shared below for your interest. If you would like additional information, or hard copy of the form, please contact; Julie M. Huso, Director of Resource Development, [husoj@sio.midco.net](mailto:husoj@sio.midco.net) or by phone at 605-370-4652.

**SAMPLE FORM**

**In-Kind Donation Agreement**

Thank you for your in-kind donation to VOR! Please sign below and fill in any pertinent information.

Please return this via fax to: 605-271-0445

Company/Individual: \_\_\_\_\_

Representative: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In-Kind Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Value (required): \_\_\_\_\_

Occasion for Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date/Method of item Delivery: \_\_\_\_\_

(Example: Gift certificate, materials, etc)

Agreed to this  
day, \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you again for your generous support to VOR!

All concrete item donations are tax deductible and a copy of this form will be given to you within 30 days of receipt/delivery. This will serve as your receipt. Donated services are not tax deductible at this time, however, they are beneficial to VOR and are greatly appreciated. For questions regarding this donation or statement thereof, please contact Julie Huso, 605-370-4652, Director of Resource Development.

For Office Use Only

In-kind item received  
\_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_

Date

Staff

Member

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**3. VOR handouts available for your next meeting!**  
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VOR has a number of handouts available for your next association's meeting. For example, one page handouts include information about VOR, cost comparisons, *Olmstead* and the "Myth of an Institutional Bias." In commemoration of VOR's 25th Anniversary, we also have a "VOR Programs and Milestones" card that slides right into a business

envelope (see below). These can be mailed to your association's membership, or placed as handouts at your next meeting.

For VOR handouts, contact Tamie at [Tamie327@hotmail.com](mailto:Tamie327@hotmail.com), or 605-399-1624.

## **VOR Programs and Milestones**

### **1983 - Current**

#### **About VOR**

VOR is a national, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization advocating in support of family decision-making rights and a continuum of care options for people with mental retardation and developmental disabilities.

#### **The Mission**

The Mission of VOR is to unite in advocacy, educate and assist families, organizations, public officials, and individuals concerned with the quality of life and choice for persons with mental retardation within residential options including home, community residences, congregate and institutional settings.

#### **Awareness and Outreach**

Family-to-family advocacy, publications, media outreach, disability policy forums, and conferences help promote VOR's experienced perspective to affected families, policymakers and the general public.

#### **Legislative and Government Affairs Program**

Leveraging the power of its grassroots membership, VOR coordinates regular communication with federal officials on issues of critical importance, including an annual Washington Initiative, where

volunteer participants hand-deliver VOR's positions to Congressional offices and federal officials.

## **Legislative Milestones**

**1993:** VOR secures individual and family "primary decision-maker" language in the federal DD Act.

**1997:** VOR forms its first Legislative Committee.

**1998:** VOR secures the introduction of federal legislation seeking protections for people with mental retardation in Medicaid managed care. VOR receives commendation by the bill's sponsor in the Congressional Record.

**2000:** VOR secures stronger "primary decision-making" language in the DD Act.

**2006:** VOR hires its first Washington Representative, Larry Innis.

**2006:** VOR presents oral and written testimony in support of the facility option at U.S. Medicaid Commission hearings.

**2007- 2008:** VOR secures the introduction of H.R. 3995, a bill aimed at requiring federally funded lawyers to notify individuals and their guardians prior to filing class action lawsuits, and offer an opportunity to opt out of the lawsuit.

## **VOR's Legal Advocacy Program: Choices for a Lifetime, Options For All**

**1993:** VOR is *Amicus Curiae* in *Heller v. Doe* (U.S. Supreme Court), successfully arguing in support of family participation in placement decisions.

**1999:** VOR, with 141 organizations, is *Amicus Curiae* in the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case *Olmstead v. L.C.* The Supreme Court cites VOR's brief.

**2000:** VOR, with 93 organizations, is *Amicus Curiae* in *Garrett v. University of Alabama*, defending the constitutionality of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**2005:** VOR establishes the Burke Legal Support Fund and recruits Martha Dwyer to serve as VOR's volunteer Pro Bono Coordinating

Counsel.

**2006- 2008:** VOR secures representation for families in nationally significant cases in Florida, Illinois, Maryland, and New Jersey; and participated as *Amicus Curiae* in cases in Washington State, California and Massachusetts.

## **Education Milestones**

**1983:** Editorials, interviews and quotes in major newspapers across the country.

**2003:** VOR's peer-reviewed cost comparison study is published in a respected professional journal.

**2004:** VOR's articles regarding measuring quality care are published.

**2005:** VOR publishes the Grassroots Organization and Advocacy Toolkit and hosts its first member training.

## **Membership Benefits**

Members also receive The Voice, a quarterly newsletter, the VOR Weekly E-Mail Update, Action Alerts with legislative updates and calls to action, and individual advocacy. Thousands of individuals, families, professionals and organizations support VOR through annual membership dues and additional contributions.

## **VOR's Presidents**

1983: Marty Pratt, co-founder and first President

1990: Polly Spare

1998: Marilyn Straw

2001: Nancy Ward

2004: Mary McTernan

2008: Robin Sims

***For more information or to join  
VOR (\$25/year/individual)***

**877.399.4VOR \* [www.vor.net](http://www.vor.net)**

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Tamie Hopp

**REFERRAL/MEMBERSHIP/CONTRIBUTION  
FORM**

**THREE EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT VOR**

**REFER, CONTRIBUTE OR JOIN**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

**TO JOIN OR CONTRIBUTE:** \$25 per individual, \$150 per family organization, or \$200 per provider/professional organization.

Extra donations are welcome! You may pay by credit card or check.

**TO REFER SOMEONE TO VOR:** Use the form below, including the additional sections for referrals.

Mail the completed form (if joining or contributing) with payment to:

VOR  
836 S. Arlington Heights Rd., #351  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007  
847-253-0675 fax (for referrals or credit card payments)  
[Tamie327@hotmail.com](mailto:Tamie327@hotmail.com) (for referrals or credit card payments)

**FOR REFERRALS:** \_\_\_\_\_ The contact information provided is for someone I think would consider membership with VOR.

**FOR REFERRALS:** \_\_\_\_\_ You may use my name in any correspondence with this individual. My name is

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address (if paying by credit card, use billing address). All forms must include complete address including zip code)

\_\_\_\_\_  
City St Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Fax

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail

\_\_\_\_\_  
Family/Professional Organization Affiliation (if applicable)

VOR accepts Master Card and Visa. If paying by credit card, please provide the following information:

Amount to charge to card:

\_\_\_ \$1,000 \_\_\_ \$500 \_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other amount

\_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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