

Families & Friends of Care Facility Residents (FF/CFR)

Arkansas' Statewide Parent-Guardian Association

Working in support of the vulnerable residents of Arkansas' Human Development Centers (HDCs)

Families and Friends of Care Facility Residents (FF/CFR) is Arkansas's parent-guardian association. A 501c3 organization, FF/CFR is an all-volunteer entity. Since 1991, families have advocated for our loved ones who live with cognitive and other life-long developmental disabilities through FF/CFR.

Most, but not all, FF/CFR members have family members with developmental disabilities who receive residential care, treatment, and education services at one of Arkansas' five human development centers (HDCs), which are designated intermediate care facilities. See the *attached list of FF-CFR Officers and Board members*.

FF/CFC has no paid staff; we advocate at our own expense. We do not employ a lobbyist.

The majority of HDC residents function in the profound and severe range of cognition. Many are nonverbal, and most have difficulty expressing themselves. None of them, most of whom are adults, are competent enough to make serious life decisions for themselves. *See the attached chart showing the characteristics of residents*.

FF/CFR supports a range of human services programs to meet the diverse needs of the population with developmental disabilities and their families - home and community-based services, human development centers, 14c work programs, and competitive work programs. All are necessary.

FF/CFR supports fair-minded monitoring activities by impartial entities. FF/CFR objects to Disability Rights Arkansas (DRA) 's HDC monitoring activities because one of the stated goals of their parent organization, the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), is to eliminate the option of residential care facilities such as HDCs. This would force residents to use home and community-based services (HCBS) regardless of whether that is the best option for HDC residents.

All Arkansas HDCs are licensed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMMS) to operate. Furthermore, all HDCs are accredited by the Office of Long-Term Care and CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). CARF is an independent, non-profit organization that provides accreditation services worldwide at the request of health and human service providers.

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