**ADVOCACY DAY FOR EVERYONE OUT!   
OF INSTITUTIONAL SETTINGS**

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD)

**Everyone Out! Of Institutional Settings -** Georgia’s community and economy are stronger when everyone is a part.

For too long, people with disabilities have been shut away in institutional settings. But people aren’t objects, and they should not be warehoused as such.

**Where are children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities being stored across Georgia?**

**21:** Children are stored at Parkwood Developmental Center, an intermediate care facility

**11:** Young Adults are stored in skilled nursing facilities

**217:** Adults are stored in DBHDD’s state hospital system

*Forty-year-old nursing facility resident Nick shared, “Quite honestly, I think these facilities should not exist … everyone is grouped together like animals.” — Royston, GA*

**Why we should move EVERYONE OUT!**

* Decades of research have shown the institutionalization of children and youth under age 22 results in profound developmental delays across nearly all domains, including cognitive, social, and physical development (Beren & Nelson, 2015).
* Community living is cheaper than institutional living.
* Georgia can stop pumping millions into propping up its crumbling state hospital system.
* People living in the community contribute to the local economy through hiring caregivers, holding jobs and shopping at local businesses.

**What Georgia needs:**

* To close its state hospital system and *safely transition all residents into the community*
* To ensure that before the state pays to have a child housed in an institutional setting, ***a parent or guardian must have affirmatively rejected adequate supports for keeping the child in the home***

Let’s move people out of storage and into a life well lived in the community.

**Questions?** Want to help? Contact **GCDD’s Public Policy Director Dawn Alford** at 404.805.9741 or *dawn.alford@gcdd.ga.gov* or **GCDD’s Planning & Policy Development Specialist Hanna Rosenfeld** at 404.275.8119 or *hanna.rosenfeld@gcdd.ga.gov*.