

Saturday, October 3, 2009

Family and Friends Support Group

Jody Zacharias welcomed family members, friends and their residents as well as BF's Board of Directors to our meeting.

The Board spoke about BF developments. There will be a highway extension into Godfrey that could make BF more accessible. We can expect more people making use of the Godfrey area. BF's newsletter will continue this story as it occurs over the next few years. After questions, the Board excused themselves to get back to their meeting. This exchange of information is clearly helpful to our group and the Board. We welcome them back for future updates.

Moving on, Jody announced the anticipated retirement of our long-time secretary, Karen Hamp. She has been dependably serving for TEN years! Jody was able to thank her with a gift from BF's ceramics department. Her replacement will be a challenge. Jody asked for a volunteer secretary. Leslie Hicks accepted, temporarily.

As BF's lead social worker, Amy Arnold introduced her team of Carolyn Duval and Joel Curry, each representing different campus halls. They spoke about health safety (which was great timing, given the continuing Swine Flu development). Each social worker fielded individual questions.

John Hilgert spoke about going to Chicago to appear at the Objection Hearing for the Ligas vs. Miram class action lawsuit. This involved disabled individuals in Illinois who reside in ICF/DD (Independent Care Facilities for the Developmentally Disabled) like Beverly Farm. The judge decertified the class, basically ending the class action suit. It is now up to those individuals to seek action against the State on an individual basis. The judge received over 2,300 letters from families, guardians, and individuals who were opposed to the settlement.

John, also, spoke about the need to make pre-burial arrangements for our loved ones at Beverly Farm. The State of Illinois, because of the economic situation, had stopped paying for Public Aid burials in July & August, but lawmakers added some funds to cover the last four months of the year. In 2010, it is doubtful that the State will pay anything.

We are a group in NEED of a new secretary.
Temporary secretary & chair, Jody Zacharias