

April 14, 2015

I am the father of an 8 year old resident at a state supported Intermediate Care Facility. My son, Mitchell, has lived at this facility, called Brookside Residential Care, for what will be 2 years in June. The care that he has received has had a dramatic impact on his health. Given the benefits to his health from the care at Brookside, I oppose any changes to the ICF program.

The day my wife and I admitted Mitchell to Brookside was a very difficult day. The only way that I have been able to find peace with this decision is to look back on the 6 months of his life before he became a resident. During this time, we were directed by our primary care physician to take him to the emergency room at Cincinnati Children's Medical Center because of complications from seizures or infections. 2 of these visits resulted in Mitchell being admitted for multiple days for both cure and monitoring. He regularly was taken out of school due to illness. And basic caring for him was unmanageable as he is non-verbal. This is no way for a young boy to live.

Today I look back on the 2 years he has been at Brookside and he is a much healthier boy, never having had to be admitted to the hospital in his time there.

When the subject of Mitchell comes up with friends, coworkers or neighbors, I tell them Mitchell needs nursing care and my wife Stacey and I are not nurses.

I am therefore extremely satisfied with the living situation my son has. I would never want him to be in a smaller home because I believe he needs nursing care at the ready 24/7. In addition to the nurses, I see everyone from the receptionist to the caregivers to the social workers to other visitors watching out for each other. It gives me peace that they are watching my son when I'm not there.

I don't believe it's in the best interest of Mitchell or other residents to downsize and convert to a waiver structure. What I believe is best is ensuring parents like us can have a say in a living arrangement based on our loved one's needs.

I am not an expert on the initial or changed proposal. I do understand and appreciate this committee is being earnest and responsive to parents' voices.

Thank you for considering maintaining the large ICF setting.

Respectfully,

Chris Browning
Madeira, Ohio