

**Founding
Members:**

- The Arc of Virginia
- Partnership for People with Disabilities
- Virginia Board for People with Disabilities
- Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy

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Virginia Alliance for Community

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VIRGINIA ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY

*Virginia must reform Central Virginia Training Center.
People with intellectual disabilities want community-based services,
not institutions.*

Today, the Virginia Board for People with Disabilities, the Partnership for People with Disabilities, the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy, The Arc of Virginia and Virginia's 22 local chapters of The Arc announced a collaborative effort to launch the Virginia Alliance for Community. The **Virginia Alliance for Community** provides a unified and collective voice in advocating for the civil rights for Virginians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, especially concerning the need to move away from its historical bias and antiquated practice of institutionalizing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

As its first course of action, the Virginia Alliance for Community calls on Governor Kaine to reform Central Virginia Training Center, one of the oldest and largest institutions in the country. Virginia's 2009 State Budget earmarked \$43 million for the rebuilding and renovation of Central Virginia Training Center. The Virginia Alliance for Community proposes that these capital outlay funds instead be used to create community-based housing for the men and women currently living in Central Virginia Training Center. This action by the Governor would be a bold and long-overdue step toward the transformation of Virginia's support system from an institutional to a community-based model.

"People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a right to live in the community and the state has a right and responsibility to commit to a true community-based system of support," said Howard Cullum, President of The Arc of Virginia. "The time to act is now."

"This proposal is about more than bricks and mortar," said Colleen Miller, Executive Director of the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy. "For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, it is about civil rights."

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Proposed Training Center Initiative Announcement**

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People First of Northern Virginia, a self-advocacy group comprised of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, echoed the concerns raised by the newly formed Virginia Alliance for Community, issuing the following statement of support: "It is about time for Virginia to invest in community over institutions. No one else around the country is investing in institutions. People with disabilities do not want to live in 300-bed facilities. We want "A Life Like Yours!"

Bobby, a member of the group and former resident of CVTC, shared, "I lived in a training center for years and I didn't like it. I love my life now, living in my own home, going to Redskin Games and deciding when to get my hair cut (by the way it is a little longer now)."

Details of the Virginia Alliance for Community's proposal can be found at www.arcofva.org. The Virginia Alliance for Community encourages all organizations supporting community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to join the newly formed coalition's efforts. For more information on how to get involved, contact Jamie Trosclair, Executive Director of The Arc of Virginia, at jtrosclair@arcofva.org or 804-649-8481, ext. 101.

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