

Nobody saw it coming....from Brandon Shirey

DHS and Tom Wolf, along with The Arc and Temple (among numerous others)...never saw this coming, as well as this "committee" that made a decision in 2 meetings that was exposed by Representative Mullary. The fight we are putting on is unprecedented. Union leaders and politicians.. Among many others have said as much.

They assumed we would just roll over and die, that we and our individuals would just accept our fate. That we would give in to the tyranny that is private corporations and government corruption. That we would accept their ruling as the word of God and righteousness. A false statement that our people would have better lives elsewhere.

We cannot quit, we cannot lose steam, we must keep this freight train moving. There is no victory until we quit being targeted by corrupt and/or uneducated decision makers that simply don't know any better. Their greatest argument is the atrocities that were committed 40-50 years ago in institutions still occur now, atrocities that were committed NATIONWIDE. As if we haven't evolved. That couldn't be further from the truth.

Our protest had a counter protest at the Capital of Pennsylvania. No doubt being influenced by the owners of group homes. "If not now, when?", they chanted outside of Harrisburg...as a rebuttal to our cause. I say when they CHOOSE. And I'm sure the individuals that have a voice would say the same exact thing. As a matter of fact, you could ask them. Most will say they want to stay, a few will say they want to leave. The ones that do want to leave have every right to, and we encourage that and make a comprehensive plan to ensure they can thrive in the community. That is, in fact, the goal of Polk Center and White Haven.

We prepare our people for community living while integrating them into the community at the same time. We do a wonderful job at it. The cold reality is that some of our individuals will never learn to function in a community setting, and those that don't...I assume would be sent off to nursing homes and forgotten (their staffing ratios are double what the state requires). They will not receive the level of care they deserve and NEED.

I applaud everyone going above and beyond to fight for the voiceless, as well as the ones that do have voices but get ignored. We will not give up. We will not be silenced. We will never surrender.

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