



Name of proposal: **Preserve and make available historical records at Lakeland Village**

Your name: Stacy Dym

Organization: The Arc of Washington State

Email address: stacy@arcwa.org

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

There are 2 reports coming that disagree on the need to preserve historical records and artifacts found at the Lakeland Village residential habilitation center (RHC). This means critical records and artifacts important to the intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) community may not be fully protected or made available to the public.

What is your proposed solution?

Save and make available historical records of how people with IDD in Washington were treated in IDD institutional care. Require records from Lakeland Village and other RHCs to:

1. Not be destroyed
2. Be preserved at state expense within the Washington State Archives
3. Require DSHS to release the records and artifacts that are critical to an analysis of the treatment of people with IDD in our state care

We must be able to tell the history of treatment of people with IDD in Washington state.

What CAC values & principles does it promote? See: [Core values principles.docx](#)

Equity and Civil Rights

Cost estimate:

☒ No/low (up to \$5 million)

- ___ Middle (up \$30 million)
- ___ High (more than \$30 million)
- ___ Unknown

Is there a legislator or state agency working on this?

We believe that Rep Farivar and Rep Taylor will work on this

Are there other advocates working on this, such as a coalition?

The Arc of Washington State and Washington State Developmental Disability Council have been taking the lead on this issue. [SB 6125](#) was sponsored by Sen Kauffman. It is unclear what her position will be once the reports are released.

Why should the Community Advocacy Coalition for Developmental Disabilities support this?

The historical treatment of people with IDD needs to be clearly documented, including the historical role of RHCs/institutional care so that we ‘don’t go back’ to a time where institutional care was commonplace. The state archives office has a responsibility to hold the records and artifacts for public access.

This means, in part, that a report mandated 2 years ago by [SB 6125](#) be considered along with a dissenting report, and that the state legislature mandates preservation and access to materials needed to tell the story of how people with IDD were treated.

SB 6125 required the preservation of records for Lakeland Village, including artifacts, that have historical value. It required an assessment of records and determination if they had historical value and should be kept at State Archives.

There are two reports coming out soon. One is a separate ‘dissenting’ report from the University of Washington. We understand there is significant disagreement between the state archives office, the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and the University of Washington researchers who specialize in eugenics regarding the complexity of records and what should be archived and made public.

Our goal should be to support the preservation of records at the state's expense within Archives, and that DSHS be required to release the records and artifacts that are determined critical to an analysis of the treatment of people with IDD in our state care.

We want to ensure that the records are not destroyed, are made available, and tell the history of treatment of people with IDD in Washington state.

If you have additional materials you would like to share, please provide links here:

(For example, a short video, a related detailed policy paper, etc)

Background: <https://hpod.law.harvard.edu/events/event/reckoning-history-state-institutions>

<https://www.disabilityrightstn.org/willowbrook-51-years-later-a-look-at-history-and-modern-advocacy/>

<https://hogg.utexas.edu/research/dmhr/landscape-analysis>