

MOVING ON PROJECT

<http://namichicago.org/about-us/partnerships/moving-on-project/>

In 2005, four residents of Illinois nursing facilities, considered IMDs (institution for mental disease), filed a class action lawsuit against the state of Illinois alleging that they were being needlessly segregated and forced to live in a nursing facility with hundreds of other people with mental illness and not being given the opportunity and support to live independently in the community.

The state of Illinois was found in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (<http://www.ada.gov/>). The plaintiffs asked the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (<http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov/>) to order state agencies to develop suitable community-based alternatives for them. The plaintiffs cited the 1999 Olmstead decision by the United States Supreme Court (<http://www.supremecourt.gov/>), which requires states to serve people with disabilities in the least restrictive setting.

In March 2010, the plaintiffs and the state of Illinois agreed to a settlement. The settlement, which was approved by the court in December of 2010, obligates the state of Illinois, over a period of five years, to offer IMD residents the opportunity to live and receive services in integrated, community settings.

NAMI Chicago has been contracted by the Illinois Division of Mental Health (<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29728>) to do outreach for the Moving On initiative and has hired eight Outreach Workers. Beginning in October 2011, Outreach Workers have been going into the 24 Illinois nursing facilities categorized as an IMD and explaining to the residents their rights under the Williams Consent Decree (<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=51836>). Outreach Workers participate in community meetings, answer resident, guardian, and staff questions, and help residents complete quality of life surveys when they begin the transition process.

Mental health professionals hired by the University of Illinois (<http://www.uillinois.edu/>) at Chicago's School of Nursing (<http://www.uic.edu/nursing/>) will evaluate each resident to determine their needs for services and/or supports in the community. Community Mental Health provider agencies will assist residents in the transition to the community including finding housing of their choice in the community and addressing other medical and social service needs.

Read more about our partnerships (<http://namichicago.org/about-us/partnerships/>).