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Welcome to the June 2009 issue of the Real Choice Newsletter

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About REAL CHOICE

The Campaign for Real Choice in Illinois is people with disabilities organizing for freedom and choice. We are a grassroots, citizen action organization consisting of people with disabilities and their supporters. For more on the Campaign, go to realchoiceinillinois.org

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Freedom Quest '09- A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

On May 19 – 21, 2009, people with disabilities and their supporters caravanned throughout Illinois to call for their freedom and equal opportunity to live independent lives. Freedom Quest '09 followed three routes, starting at three different locations. Riders joined in the ride at each stop where local organizations hosted a media event to bring public awareness to the issue. Freedom Quest '09 was an

opportunity for self-advocates from around the state to come together with their supporters about creating a person-centered service system for people with developmental disabilities in Illinois. We brought attention to the need to decrease the PUNS waiting list, which has nearly 17,000 people; to decrease Illinois' dependency on large institutions; and to increase community capacity so that we can better our community services.



The stops for Freedom Quest '09 included: Alton, Bloomington, Charleston, Decatur, Joliet, La-Salle-Peru, Mt. Vernon, Murphysboro, Peoria, Pontiac, Rock Island, and Zion. All three routes met at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield on the night of May 20th. On May 21st a police escort led the caravan through the streets of Springfield to the Capitol for the Freedom Quest '09 Rally! Riders and supporters from around the state gathered to speak to legislators about the need for change!

For More Information about Freedom Quest '09 check out our website...www.realchoiceinillinois.org

Blueprint Resolutions Pass in Both the House and Senate

House Joint Resolution (HJR) 28 and Senate Joint Resolution (SJR) 30 both received overwhelming support as they passed through the legislature earlier this week. These resolutions direct the Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Developmental Disabilities to develop a 7-year plan to enhance and expand quality community services.



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