

For Immediate Release

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Center for Outcome Analysis Supports New Freedom Initiative

Narberth, PA – President Bush’s proposed New Freedom Initiative is an important first step to ensuring equitable choices to those with developmental disabilities and their families. Dr. James Conroy of the Center for Outcome Analysis has followed over 4,000 people in 10 states who have left institutions and found that across the country, the quality of people’s lives have improved, while the cost of supporting them has fallen or stayed the same. Dr. Conroy feels that with the proposed Initiative, people who have been suffering in institutions will be able to finally gain control in their lives, and be able to lead a more normal life. Because of this, the Center for Outcome Analysis heartily welcomes President Bush’s resolution in this matter.

The Center for Outcome Analysis is a world leader in quality of life research, especially in the field of developmental disabilities. Having just submitted a report on Self-Determination to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Center now houses one of the largest databases in the world on deinstitutionalization and its effects on movers. Currently, the Center is in the 13th year of the Oklahoma Quality Tracking Project, following former residents of the Hissom Developmental Center, and their transition into community life. Altogether, with pre- and post-data collected from 10 states, the Center for Outcome Analysis has found that deinstitutionalization programs significantly improve the quality of the people’s lives and are fiscally conservative.

For more information about research done by COA on deinstitutionalization, please visit our website at www.outcomeanalysis.com.