
The last resort

Life in Maine's emergency rooms



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The 'complete nightmare' of 2 men who lived in Maine emergency rooms



Without enough crisis beds in the state, people with intellectual disabilities, such as Robbie Faloon, who has autism, have ended up living in emergency rooms. Faloon is pictured here at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center in Lewiston, where he spent 21 days in July. Contributed by Sandy Davis

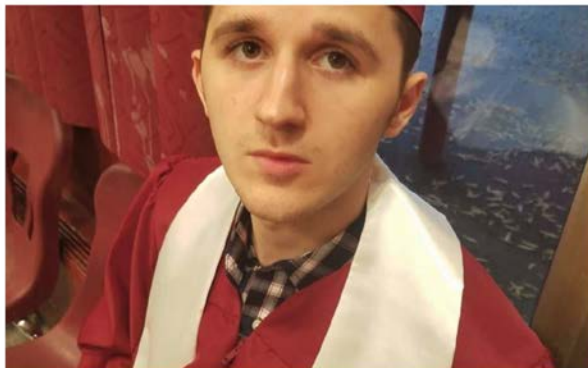
By Matthew Stone, BDN Staff
August 22, 2018 6:00 am

Kyle Roderick and Robbie Faloon weren't injured or physically ill, but the local hospital emergency room was the only place for them to go.

Both men, who have autism, were living in separate group homes for adults with intellectual disabilities. But due to their tendency to act aggressively and violently, it became dangerous for housemates and group home staffers to be around them.

In the week before he arrived at the Eastern Maine Medical Center emergency department on July 14, 2017, Roderick, 20, headbutted his housemate at a Bangor group home, giving her two black eyes. He had previously punched a group home staff member, overturned a table, broken his tablet, and damaged an SUV.

Group monitoring services for Mainers with disabilities down to 5 of 15 members



Contributed photo | BDN

State lacks records on how many people with autism, intellectual disabilities have stayed in ERs



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DHHS head said he'd 'move quickly,' but Maine still has no fix for disabled people in crisis



Darren Fishell | BDN

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services offices on State Street in Augusta, shown in this December 2017 file photo. The department has allowed the number of crisis beds for adults with developmental disabilities to dwindle, which caregivers say leads them to rely on local emergency rooms.

By [Matthew Stone](#), BDN Staff • February 22, 2018 6:00 am
Updated: February 22, 2018 6:38 am

When a Houlton group home resident became a danger to himself, his housemate and the staff members assigned to care for him late last fall, he ended up in the emergency room of Houlton Regional Hospital.

The man, who has an intellectual disability, remained there the next 39 days, until Jan. 18. Staff from the Community Living Association, the nonprofit that runs the group home where he lived, stayed with him at the hospital 24 hours a day.

"We don't want housemates getting hurt and staff getting hurt," said Rob Moran, executive director of the Community Living Association, which runs six group homes and two other facilities in Houlton that house adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "Both of those are the most important things to us."

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