



Waivers, Not Walls!



Behind the Walls: Lloyd's Story

In 2024, Lloyd Mills, a 32-year-old Georgian with autism and cerebral palsy, spent more than 8 months trapped in a hospital room after experiencing a mental health crisis.

Lloyd did not need to remain institutionalized. But the state could not find enough community housing, services, and supports for him to safely return to community life.



**This is what happens when
community systems fail.**



A Life on Hold

Lloyd described the experience of institutionalization as isolating and harmful.

During his hospitalization:

- He was separated from community life
- He lost independence and stability
- He spent months waiting for services and housing
- He even lost Medicaid coverage after remaining institutionalized too long



Institutions isolate.

Community supports create stability.

“Being here is not helping me.”

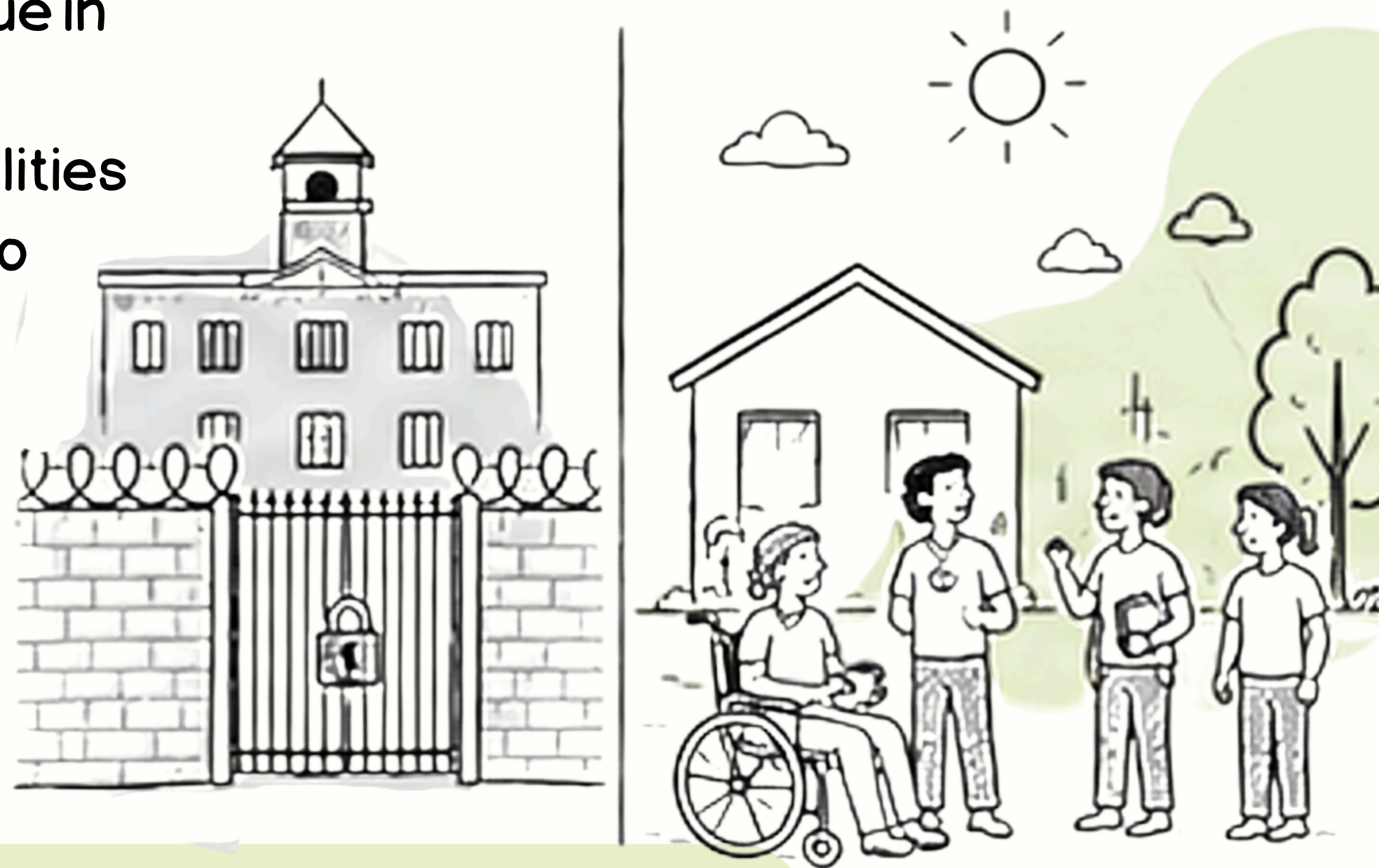


This Is Why Waivers Matter

Lloyd's story reflects a larger systems issue in Georgia.

Advocates say too many people with disabilities and mental health conditions still struggle to access:

- ✓ HCBS Waivers
- ✓ Community Housing
- ✓ Crisis Services
- ✓ Direct Support Workforce
- ✓ Mental Health Supports







Without these supports, hospitals and institutions become the “default” even when people could thrive in community settings.

We Can Do Better. We Must Do Better.

Georgia promised change after Olmstead. And while progress has been made, Lloyd's story reminds us that the work is not finished.

UnlockGA continues advocating for:

-  More waivers
-  Stronger community supports
-  Housing and crisis services
-  Inclusion and dignity for all Georgians

