**Kathryn :** Deinstitutionalization started in the 1960s, as a way to treat the mentally ill by moving them out of state-run institutions and into federally funded community health centers. According to The Balance, this shift was done over the course of several years through the implementation of acts such as the Community Mental Health Centers Construction Act in 1963, the Mental Health Systems Act in 1980, along with movements and movies that brought attention to how mental health patients were mistreated. Pros about deinstitutionalization included providing mental health patients with the proper treatment they needed, while destigmatizing mental health as a whole. Cons were that there was not enough funding for the federally funded community health centers, and "the courts made it almost impossible to commit anyone against their will". I understand why the government does not allow committing people against their will, however, I see the dilemma as we ask ourselves, "how can we treat/help this person without violating their rights?". This is a prime example of how and why change is constant in terms of how our government views and treats its people. **Write a reply here....**

I am in complete agreement with you point of view especially on the con where there is low funding in the federal funded community health centers. This point overrides the fact that these centers will be able to provide the mental health patients with proper health care as this now become difficult without the necessary funding. Hence releasing these individuals to the community without a proper plan and enough funding to support them leads to an imbalance between the pros and the cons and that is why they become subject to crime, violence and drug abuse making them criminals. For this reason their initial treatment continues but in jails and prisons.

**Leslie :** Ignoring proper treatment for individuals who are mentally ill can lead to severe societal consequences and their individual growth leading to more cons than pros. In an article by Curtice Flory MBA and Rose Marie Friedrich they state "Evidence of system failure is apparent in the increase in homelessness (1), suicide (2), and acts of violence among those with severe mental illness (3). Those for whom deinstitutionalization has failed are increasingly re-admitted to hospitals. It is common to find persons who have been hospitalized 20 times over a 10 year period. Tragically, there are more persons with mental illness in jails and prisons than there are in state hospitals (4)." These 5 cons can fuel existing social problems such as those mentioned; homelessness, increased suicide rates, overcrowded prisons, higher violent crimes. Without properly treating mentally ill individuals, throwing them into jails, the systems basically set these individuals up for failure. They deserve more attention, special treatment, and better approach methods, not the loss of individualization which is what prisons are made for. **Write reply here...**

**The response is very well structured and I agree with the mentioned cons. I think it is undisputed that deinstitutionalization if not well-structured does more harm than good to the mental health patients. However, while the cons mentioned are well detailed, I fail to see the pros of deinstitutionalization. But generally the information provided is quite enlightening on the subject.**