

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 240, MS 2-13
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1897



January 29, 2010

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE and OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

The purpose of this letter is to notify the Legislature and other interested parties that the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) is initiating the process to plan for the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center (Lanterman), a DDS-operated facility located in Pomona, California, that provides 24-hour care and treatment to persons with developmental disabilities (consumers) pursuant to Division 4.1 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

The decision to recommend closure of Lanterman was not made lightly, as it will impact the many consumers served, their families and representatives, and the staff, all of whom have worked hard to make Lanterman a caring and positive place to live. Please be assured that the well-being of all who live and work at Lanterman will be of our utmost concern and priority as we move forward.

As specified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 4474.1, the planning process for closure of a developmental center requires that DDS prepare and submit a detailed plan to the Legislature by April 1, 2010, and receive approval prior to beginning closure activities in Fiscal Year 2010-2011. The Department considers it essential that interested stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in planning for the closure, including consumers, their family members, employees, regional centers, advocates, service providers, public officials, representatives from the communities surrounding Lanterman, and other interested parties. The Department will convene various stakeholder meetings and at least one public hearing will be held in the Pomona area to obtain input during development of the plan.

DDS operates four large developmental centers and one small community facility serving approximately 2,145 consumers. Based on the State's obligation and commitment to provide opportunities for consumers to live in the least restrictive environment that can meet their needs (*Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999)), the developmental center population has been steadily decreasing as consumers have moved into community settings and admissions have stabilized. Lanterman has the smallest population and the highest per consumer cost among the developmental centers. In addition, it is one of the oldest facilities and the infrastructure is in need of major repairs and capital improvements, which will drive a significant investment of state funds during the next few years.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

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Lanterman Developmental Center is licensed and certified as a General Acute Care Hospital with services provided within a Skilled Nursing Facility and an Intermediate Care Facility. The campus is located in Pomona, California, on 302 acres of state-owned land. There are a total of 120 structures (the oldest of which is 104 years). The facility employs over 1,300 staff and has an annual budget of approximately \$116 million. Lanterman opened its doors to 61 consumers in 1927, and in 1962 the population was at an all time high of 3,050. Today it serves 398 residents.

DDS will utilize the individualized planning process to achieve the least restrictive living environment appropriate to each resident's needs, either in the community or at another developmental center, and ensure a safe transition for all consumers to their new living options. DDS will also develop strategies and work with employee unions to assist employees in finding opportunities for future employment.

After engaging stakeholders in extensive dialog and comment about the closure, the details of the closure process and timeline will be described in the closure plan that will be submitted to the Legislature by April 1, 2010. While we anticipate that the closure process may take approximately two years, consumers will not move until appropriate services are available.

The recommendation to close Lanterman Developmental Center will be formally incorporated into the Governor's proposed budget through the upcoming Spring Finance Letter process.

If you need further information, please contact my office at (916) 654-1897.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terri Delgadillo". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

TERRI DELGADILLO
Director