

**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 10, 2005

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE and OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) is submitting, pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4474.1, a plan to close Agnews Developmental Center (Agnews) by June 30, 2007.

The Department considered it essential that all interested stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in planning for the closure. In developing this plan the Department incorporated many of the ideas expressed by a broad based advisory committee including six planning teams and workgroups.

The plan calls for developing innovative programming and ensuring quality services are delivered in the community. Therefore, this plan is responsive to the following policy goals:

- The stability of living arrangements is assured.
- An appropriate array of service options is designed to meet the special needs of Agnews' residents.
- Systems are in place to ensure continuity of services between the developmental center and the community.
- Ongoing quality of care is assured.

The basic principle underlying this plan is to provide opportunities for the residents of Agnews to remain in their home communities. To achieve this objective, the plan provides for the development of resources and innovative programs throughout the Bay Area. This will be accomplished through:

- Establishing a permanent stock of housing dedicated to serve individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Establishing new residential models by expanding the Adult Family Home Agency to include the Family Teaching Home Model and by establishing a residential pilot project for adults with special health care and intensive support needs.

**“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”**

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE and  
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

January 10, 2005

Page two

- Utilizing Agnews' employees on a transitional basis in community settings to augment and enhance services including health care, clinical services and quality assurance.
- Implementing a Quality Management system that focuses on assuring that quality services and supports are available prior to, during, and after transition of each person leaving Agnews.

Statutory authority will be needed to implement the new community models. Thus, the Department is proposing statutory changes during the FY 2005-2006 legislative session that will:

- Create a new licensing option for adults with special health care needs.
- Identify the conditions under which state staff can be deployed in community settings on a transitional basis.

If the closure plan and legislative proposals are approved, the Bay Area regional centers will be able to move an estimated 326 consumers in the community prior to the closure of Agnews on June 30, 2007. Approximately 50 individuals will be transferred to other developmental centers by June 30, 2007.

The Department will, on April 1, 2005 and April 1, 2006, provide a letter to the Legislature providing an update on our success in achieving the goals of the plan and any impact of our success on the date of closure.

If you have any questions concerning Agnews, please contact me at (916) 654-1897. The plan is also available on the Department's website at [www.dds.ca.gov/agnewsclosure](http://www.dds.ca.gov/agnewsclosure).

Cordially,

*Original Signed by*

CLIFF ALLENBY  
Director

Enclosure