

## Executive Summary

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS), along with its state, local and community partners, is in the final stages of safely transitioning Agnews residents to the community. The DDS continues to build and expand the community capacity necessary for the closure of Agnews Developmental Center by June 30, 2008.

As of November 30, 2007, 198 residents remained at Agnews, with 48 residents expected to move into the community within the following eight weeks. A total of 150 Agnews residents have transitioned into the community and are living in a variety of community-based settings.

Housing: Bay Area Housing Plan (BAHP) funds have been used to purchase a broad array of housing options, including Senate Bill (SB) 962 homes, which are designed for consumers with specialized health care needs; family teaching homes (FTHs), which incorporate a consumer into a provider's family; and specialized residential homes (SRHs), which provide augmented staffing and professional services to consumers with behavioral challenges or other specialized needs. In conjunction with these efforts, regional centers have contracted for the provision of residential and support services in accordance with the Agnews Closure Plan. The providers have developed service strategies that address the unique needs of each consumer who transitions from Agnews to the community.

To date, the housing developer has acquired 60 of the 61 properties needed to house the transitioning Agnews residents. The remaining property is under contract and being remodeled by the current owner prior to close of escrow. Twenty-seven of these 61 homes are slated to be completed by December of 2007.

While the BAHP has succeeded in acquiring 60 homes that will provide for the housing needs for residents transitioning out of Agnews, the BAHP team continues to encounter hurdles throughout the housing development process associated with the permit process, utility services, and neighborhood issues. The DDS continues to work closely with the regional centers, the developer and various local entities to identify and address the delays to keep the project on schedule.

Transition Planning: In the fall of 2007, transition guidelines were formalized and shared with key stakeholders including family members, staff members, regional centers and interested parties. These guidelines establish the framework for the residents' transition to the community as part of the individual program plan (IPP) process. As of November 30, 2007, 63 residents had selected homes and were in the process of completing other transition protocols. Of those 63 residents, 39 were in the process of exploratory visits. The remaining 135 Agnews residents were in the process of finalizing home selection.

Health Care Services: The DDS continues to develop innovative and comprehensive health, behavioral and dental care services for residents transitioning out of Agnews.

The foundation of the community medical services strategy is a partnership between the DDS, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), the regional centers and the designated health plans. For this report, references to regional centers mean San Andreas Regional Center, Regional Center of the East Bay, and Golden Gate Regional Center; and, all references to the designated health plans mean the Health Plan of San Mateo, the Alameda Alliance for Health, and the Santa Clara Family Health Plan. By January of 2008, the DDS and the DHCS will complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure appropriate and enduring health care services for former Agnews residents living in the community. At the local level, the regional centers are working to secure health care services for residents transitioning out of Agnews into the community. In addition, regional centers have developed MOUs with health plans to arrange services for those consumers who elect to enroll. On an ongoing basis, the health plans partner with the regional centers, the DHCS and the DDS to recruit and train qualified medical providers so consumers can access the full array of necessary medical services.

Outpatient Clinic: The Agnews outpatient clinic provides a safety net to ensure that health, dental, and behavioral services are seamless during the transition process. Services will continue to be provided by the outpatient clinic, as necessary, during the closure process and after the closure of Agnews until the DDS is no longer responsible for the property.

Behavioral Services: To address the behavioral needs of residents transitioning to the community, Agnews staff support and train service providers on how to prevent and respond to challenging behaviors. In addition, each of the regional centers has developed a working relationship with psychiatric resources in the community to accommodate Agnews residents. The Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB) and Alameda County Mental Health Department are developing a secured-treatment facility in San Leandro that can serve individuals in crisis. The facility, which is expected to open in late 2008, will provide short-term treatment and stabilization available for up to 15 Bay Area residents at a time.

Dental Services: Dental services continue to be a critical component of community resource development efforts. The regional centers are recruiting dental hygienists to provide ongoing dental screenings and cleanings for consumers in the home environment. Additionally, regional centers are supporting the training of dentists to provide prevention and care consistent with each consumer's needs. Finally, the regional centers and the health plans are coordinating services to provide timely and appropriate access to sedation dentistry services, as necessary.

Agnews Employees: As of November 30, 2007, there were 899 employees at Agnews. The employees have been provided information and support services regarding closure and the options that are, or will become, available for employment. Agnews has maintained sufficient staff to protect the health and safety of remaining residents and to ensure the ongoing certification of the facility.

Next Steps for Closure: The DDS will continue working closely with its state and local partners throughout the closure of Agnews – both to ensure the health and safety of each resident in the transition process, and to provide access to the necessary services and supports, in accordance with the consumer’s needs and preference