

Executive Summary

The Department of Developmental Services (DDS), in collaboration with the Bay Area regional centers (Regional Center of the East Bay (RCEB), Golden Gate Regional Center (GGRC), San Andreas Regional Center (SARC)), consumers, families and other stakeholders, is nearing completion of a significant initiative grounded not only on the closing of Agnews Developmental Center (Agnews), but on the underlying principle that Agnews residents should be provided the opportunity to live in the community. The closure process is unlike any prior endeavor and the innovative housing, staffing and service delivery models are providing opportunities for consumers and families alike. This process has relied on establishment of a stable source of housing with new residential service options, a community health care system that assures access to needed services, and state staff who can support the transition of these residents to the community.

Together with other state, local and community partners, the DDS is in the final stages of safely transitioning Agnews residents to the community. The closure process is not driven by a specific date for closure but rather individuals are transitioned to the community when the housing and support services are available. The health and safety of each consumer continues to be the DDS' highest priority. Transition to the community occurs only when all necessary services and supports are in place.

As of November 30, 2008, 80 residents remained at Agnews. Between July 1, 2004 and November 30, 2008 a total of 264 Agnews residents transitioned to other living arrangements.

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.

As of November 30, 2008, all 61 properties have been purchased and financed; 52 have been remodeled and either occupied or ready for occupancy; 8 are under construction; and one remains in the permitting phase. One of the 61 homes has since been removed from the "critical path" to closure, as waiting for the home's completion would have significantly delayed the closure of Agnews. Instead, the home will be available for consumers moving from other developmental centers. It is anticipated that the remaining homes will be completed by December 31, 2008, and that the remaining consumers will be transitioned when supports and services are available.

Transition Planning: As of November 30, 2008, all Agnews residents had either selected homes or were in the process of finalizing placement plans. A comprehensive transition plan is completed for each person. It includes specific plans for health and behavioral services as well as identification of needed services to assure continuity of care.

Health Care Services: The DDS has developed 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 Bay Area regional centers and the designated health plans including Santa Clara Family Health Plan (SCFHP), Alameda Alliance for Health (AAH), and the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM). The DDS, the DHCS, Agnews staff and the Bay Area regional centers have developed a transition process to health services in the community, including in-depth consultation and assistance with the enrollment and transfer process. At the local level, the Bay Area regional centers and designated health plans continue to secure health care services for residents transitioning out of Agnews into the community through signed MOUs to assure access to comprehensive services for those consumers who elect to enroll.

Outpatient Clinic: The Agnews outpatient clinic continues to provide a safety net to ensure that health, dental, and behavioral services are available during the transition process. The DHCS submitted an amendment to the Medicaid State Plan (State Plan Amendment or SPA) to establish a reimbursement methodology for the freestanding outpatient clinic that will continue to operate as the Agnews Community Clinic (ACC) after Agnews closes. Upon the closure of Agnews, the ACC will continue to provide primary medical care, psychiatry, and dental services, as necessary. The DDS has secured authority to provide these medical and dental services from the time of closure until the DDS is no longer responsible for the property.

Behavioral Services: To address the behavioral support of residents transitioning to the community, Agnews staff support and train service providers on how to prevent and respond to challenging behaviors. Each of the regional centers and the designated health plans are identifying psychiatric resources to accommodate Agnews residents in the community. Each regional center has also established a behavioral and crisis service that emphasizes prevention and early intervention. In addition, the Bay Area regional centers and Alameda County Mental Health Department will be opening a secured-treatment facility in San Leandro that can serve former Agnews residents, providing short-term treatment and stabilization available for up to 15 Bay Area residents at a time.

Dental Services: Dental services are a critical component of community resource development efforts. The Bay Area regional centers continue recruitment efforts to identify community dentists capable of providing prevention and care consistent with each consumer's needs, as well as dental surgery suites and hospital-based dentistry resources that can provide timely and appropriate access to sedation dentistry services, as necessary. In addition, the Bay Area regional centers provide in-home registered

dental hygienists' services through a contract for dental screening and preventive services. The Agnews Outpatient Clinic remains a resource for persons who need general dentistry and sedation dentistry services.

Agnews Employees: Agnews continues to maintain sufficient staff to protect the health and safety of remaining residents and to ensure the ongoing certification of the facility. As of November 30, 2008, there were 559 employees at Agnews with 103 employees participating in the community state staff program, including 73 working in assignments, and 30 waiting for report dates. In addition, 16 positions are currently being advertised for 3 providers, with 32 applications received.

Next Steps for Closure: The DDS will continue working closely with its state and local partners – 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

