

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, with staff available to support the transition and stabilization of the residents. The closure process is unlike any prior endeavor and the innovative housing, staffing and service delivery models are providing phenomenal 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 being driven by a specific date for closure but rather a *rolling* closure process whereby individuals are transitioned to the community when the housing and support services are available. The health and safety of each consumer is the DDS' highest priority. Transition to the community occurs only when all necessary services and supports are in place.

As of April 30, 2008, 157 residents remained at Agnews. Between July 1, 2004 and April 30, 2008 a total of 198 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 April 30, 2008, all 61 properties have been purchased and financed; 37 have been remodeled and either occupied or ready for occupancy; 6 are under construction; 13 are at the bank awaiting financing approval to move into construction; and 5 remain in the permitting phase. It is anticipated that the remaining homes will be completed shortly after June, 2008, and that the remaining consumers will be transitioned when supports and services are available.

Transition Planning: As of April 30, 2008, all Agnews residents had either selected homes or 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 Bay Area regional centers and the Santa Clara Family Health Plan (SCFHP), Alameda Alliance for Health (AAH), and the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) (designated health plans). In February of 2008, the DDS and the DHCS completed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to ensure appropriate and enduring health care services for former Agnews residents living in the community. In addition, the DDS distributed a document to former and current Agnews residents and their families, outlining the provision of health care services in the community. 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. In December of 2007, the DHCS received approval from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for its State Plan Amendment (SPA), effective July 1, 2007. The SPA describes how services are to be provided to specified former Agnews residents in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. In January of 2008, the DHCS received approval for its waiver for the HPSM, which also describes how services are to be provided to specified former Agnews residents in the community.

Outpatient Clinic: The DDS is working with the DHCS to establish Agnews outpatient clinic as a community clinic (Agnews Community Clinic) after Agnews closes. The clinic will continue to provide a safety net to ensure that health, dental, and behavioral services are seamless during the transition process. Upon the closure of Agnews, the Agnews Community Clinic will continue to provide primary care and other specialty services, as necessary, 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. The Agnews Community Clinic will continue to provide mental health services to current and former Agnews residents, as necessary, and until the clinic no longer is in operation. In addition, the 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 Bay Area regional centers contract with Pacific Center for Special Care at the University of the Pacific (UOP) School of Dentistry for dental screenings and teeth cleaning services. In partnership with UOP, the Bay Area regional centers will provide services through registered dental hygienists in homes where Agnews clients reside. Additionally, regional centers are supporting the training of dentists to provide prevention and care consistent with each consumer's needs. The Bay Area regional centers and the designated health plans are in the process of identifying and contracting with dental surgery suites to ensure timely and appropriate access to sedation dentistry services, as necessary.

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 April 30, 2008, there were 822 employees at Agnews. On December 28, 2007, the Department of Personnel Administration notified all impacted Bargaining Units of intent to close Agnews on or about June 30, 2008, and on March 5, 2008, State Restriction of Appointment notices were sent to all employees except those employees assigned to warm shut down (facility closure process) and the Agnews Outpatient Clinic. Impact negotiations began in late January 2008, and focus on non-economic and economic proposals with unions that have identified an impact associated with the closure.

As of April 30, 2008, a total of 77 employees are participating in the community state staff program, with 41 employees currently working in assignments, and the remaining 36 waiting for report dates. In addition, 21 positions are currently being advertised for 5 providers, with 66 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 preferences.