

**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



November 30, 2015

Dear Residents, Family Members, Representatives, Employees, Regional Centers and Other Interested Parties:

Our system of State-operated developmental centers is at a critical juncture in history. Beginning with the 2012 moratorium on admissions to developmental centers, and now faced with decertification and the loss of federal funding at the remaining developmental centers, California is undertaking the next step in the state's important endeavor to transform how services are delivered to individuals with significant service needs. Our focus today is to achieve the promises and vision of the Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act, and empower the residents of the remaining developmental centers to make choices and receive the services and supports they need to lead more independent and productive lives in the least restrictive environment appropriate for their needs. The process will require careful planning, development of specialized community services and well-coordinated service delivery and oversight.

In the 2015 May Revision to the Governor's Budget, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) proposed to initiate closure planning for the three remaining developmental centers. Based on decertification actions at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) and the need to negotiate a settlement with the federal government to continue federal funding for a limited amount of time, the first priority was to prepare and submit the "Plan for the Closure of Sonoma Developmental Center" to the Legislature. The closure plan for SDC was submitted on October 1, 2015. Consistent with the final settlement agreement with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the goal is to close SDC by the end of 2018. Materials related to the closure of SDC are available on the Department's website at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/SonomaNews>.

Decertification actions are also pending at Fairview Developmental Center (FDC) and the non-secure treatment portion of Porterville Developmental Center (PDC), referred to as the General Treatment Area (GTA). Settlement discussions with CMS are currently underway, and will likely follow a process similar to the one for SDC.

This letter announces the Department's intent to submit a closure plan for FDC and the PDC GTA to the Legislature by April 1, 2016. As anticipated by Welfare and Institutions Code section 4474.1, stakeholder input is critical to the development of the closure plan. The Department is initiating a closure planning process that reaches out to all interested

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stakeholders using various methods and forums, including meetings, opportunities to submit comments, and public hearings to receive testimony. The Department will conduct independent stakeholder processes for each facility so that local interests are properly represented and clearly understood. Significant activity to communicate with stakeholders will occur in early 2016.

I encourage you to refer regularly to the Department's website at <http://www.dds.ca.gov/DevCtrs/DCClosures.cfm> for the latest information for FDC and PDC. It will be updated soon to identify email addresses for transmitting your input to the Department throughout the planning process.

The Department is very aware that closure of a developmental center will directly affect the lives of the residents, their families and representatives, the employees of the developmental center, the local community and numerous others. Your involvement and feedback are essential to the development of the closure plan, and will guide Department policies and priorities going forward. By working closely with you during the closure planning process and as closure progresses, we hope to achieve the best possible futures for the people living and working at the developmental centers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Santi J. Rogers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Santi" being the most prominent.

SANTI J. ROGERS  
Director