



# Eldridge Press

## Message from the Executive Director

by Karen Faria

**K**aren Faria, Executive Director of Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), held three Town Hall Meetings during the month of May following the announcement from the Health and Human Services Agency on the establishment of a Task Force on the future of the Developmental Centers.

Ms Faria had this to say:

“On May 22 at 2:00 PM, Secretary Diane Dooley announced that a Task Force will be initiated to address all of the issues confronting the operations of developmental centers. Ms Dooley made this announcement to the members of a California Assembly Budget Subcommittee during a hearing. Ms Dooley was questioned if this meant the closure of developmental centers. She said that issue is for the task force to evaluate and to make recommendations to California’s Health and Human Services Agency. She does not know, nor does anyone else know, at this point in time, what recommendations the task force will present.”

Ms Faria went on to say, “This announcement does not change our current mission. We, the staff of SDC:

- **Must** continue to improve the services and care we provide to the men and women who live here,
- **Must** work to become fully certified by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services,
- **Must** remember that this is their home, now and for the foreseeable future, and we are working to make this the best it can be for them.

If any staff member or family member have questions or concerns please direct those questions to me, as Executive Director. I will provide all the information I have. All the staff of Sonoma have lived and worked through some hard times lately and I am confident, that despite the unpredictable future we face, we all will continue our commitment to the people we serve.”

Other topics discussed at the Town Halls included:

- Breaking up larger tour groups (when possible) while visiting offsites, day programs and residences
- Discussion on timelines regarding the Preamble Agreement and PIP (Program Improvement Plan)
- Allowing part time level of care staff to go to full time status

Ms Faria added, “Our vision is still the same, do it because it is the right thing to do for the people who live here, the people who work here, and the taxpayers of California.” Many came up to the Executive Director following the Town Halls and thanked her for her genuine honesty and commitment to SDC.



Karen Faria

# Take Pride Moments at SDC

- The overtime summary report for April 2013 indicated a decrease of 890 hours of overtime from the previous month.
- The Cohen Team was acknowledged for their collaboration and positive approach to a resident who has requested to move. She has visited many of the places she has wanted to move to within SDC and in the community. The collaboration by the team, specifically Amelia Baio and Deborah Dado, is to be commended.
- To Juanita, Lourdes, Claudia and the Malone RT's for providing some great outdoor Active Treatment recently, including, music, dancing, coloring, small trampoline, nature walks and creating activity boxes with a great variety of items to use.
- To Evelyn Fernandez who was observed by the Executive Director over the three day holiday weekend, demonstrating the best Active Treatment skills all three days. She was upbeat, cheerful and thoroughly engaged with the residents.
- To Ray Gilbert who witnessed a resident running away from his group. Ray stopped his vehicle and assisted the resident back to his group. He helped keep the resident safe and calm.
- Megan Gordon and the Corcoran Team have been successful in working with an individual who has resisted leaving the residence. He now successfully goes to his offsite at least two times a week and he recently was observed at the Cinco de Mayo event having a great time.
- To everyone who worked to improve medication passes. From the residence staff to the custodians, quality assurance department, and the many others who worked together to make it happen.
- Sara Pelayo in the mailroom has been taking on many projects at the last minute. She recently helped with fliers that were sent to the local schools regarding the footrace and has been active in making binders regarding Active Treatment. She is also mentoring two individuals who live at SDC, whose dream

job was to work in the mailroom.

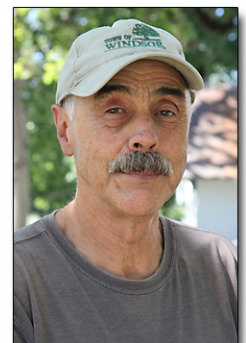
- The Footrace and Festival Committee which provided the community of Eldridge with a well put together and enjoyable event for the residents and staff, as well as the greater community. They provided the public a true picture of what we are all about! Kudos to you!
- I would like to thank the many staff at Sonoma Developmental Center who provided a Lathrop resident with copies of *People* magazines. He enjoys looking through them and it helps him with another enjoyable activity.

- Many have been commenting on how pretty our campus looks and how the lawns and trees all look so healthy and green. Thanks to the landscaping department for the great job they do in keeping the grounds looking so pristine.
- Crystal Garrison, for coming up with the idea to have the SDC Pride logo on the cover of the new SDC phonebook. It was well received by many and reminded us all to take pride in SDC.



## March Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for March is Baldemar Ruiz, Custodian from the Housekeeping Department. His nominator says, "Wherever he is on campus, Baldy is always positive, energetic and enjoys helping others. He models the SDC values of service to others, respectful communications and effective leadership." He demonstrates respectful communications by "keeping his peers informed on what is going on at Sonoma Developmental Center and assisting them as needed; and effective leadership by demonstrating and articulating the positive difference we all make and need to make for the people we serve." Way to go, Baldy!



Baldemar Ruiz

# Did You Know?

## April Employee of the Month

The April Employee of the Month is Kristofferson Dizon, Food Service Technician II from Nutrition Services Department. His nominator states, "Kris models all of SDC's values. His organization and motivation skills have been valuable in client movement and residential and offsite consolidations." His supervisors and coworkers say, "Kris is one of the most respectful and pleasant employees to work with in our department. He can be counted on when we are in a pinch." Mr. Dizon has recently volunteered to do an out-of-class assignment in another department and is much appreciated by that team as well. Congratulations, Kris!



*Kristofferson Dizon*

## May Employee of the Month

Marylor Selinger, Psychiatric Technician from the Roadruck residence, is the Employee of the Month for May. Ms Selinger is considered a positive role model for Psychiatric Technicians (PT). Her nominator says, "She completes all tasks that are the responsibility of PT's thoroughly and performs them correctly. She has thorough knowledge of the care plans of the residents residing on Roadruck." Many state that Ms Selinger's greatest asset is that she simply loves the people who live on the Roadruck residence. Her nominator goes on to say, "I have learned some of the most effective strategies for positively directing clients, by working with her." Good job, Marylor!



*Marylor Selinger*

## Did You Know? Historical

Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is the oldest facility in California established specifically for serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. The facility opened its doors to 148 residents on November 24, 1891, culminating a ten-year project on the part of two prominent Northern California women who had children with devel-



*Classroom 1894*

opmental disabilities. Their names were Julia Judah and Frances Bentley, and they were responsible for forming the California Association for the Care and Training of Feeble Minded Children.

## Did You Know? Clinical

Central Program Services (CPS):

- Farrell is now a vocational site and Sifford will be an activity center effective Tuesday June 4.
- CPS provides a work crew to assist with setting up for facility wide events. The crew was out in force setting up chairs, tables, and activities for Cinco De Mayo. The work crew had a good time and was paid as well!
- New jobs that have been started in CPS are mail-room assistant and farm worker.
- With the arrival of 7000 napkins CPS will be employing more individuals to fold and deliver napkins to the homes and off-sites!
- The annual Horse Show will be on June 15, at 10:00 AM at the Horse Arena, and plans are in the works for the annual Independence Day Celebration on July 3, from 10:00 AM to noon and 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Sonoma House. There will also be a fireworks show.

## New Hires

Sonoma Developmental Center would like to welcome its newest employees that were hired during the month of May:

Akiko Burns, Individual Program Coordinator  
Vicki Campbell, Clinical Social Worker  
Kimberly Davis, Registered Nurse  
Fiona Day-Coffer, Psychiatric Technician  
Victoria Elliott, Teacher  
Jessica Mendoza, Psychiatric Technician  
Ethel Namazzi, Registered Nurse  
Irma O'Bannon, Registered Nurse  
Catherine Tirao, Psychiatric Technician  
Judy Walters, Clinical Social Worker  
Ma Gairle Zamora, Registered Nurse  
Kathlyn Acosta, Registered Nurse  
Kristal Baxter, Psychiatric Technician  
Ramon Cabal, Registered Nurse  
Athena Cayetano, Registered Nurse  
Keith Cheng, Registered Nurse  
Amylyn Costales, Registered Nurse  
Michael Dunn, Pest Control Technician  
Bon Duong, Psychiatric Technician  
Ma Rowena C Lim, Registered Nurse

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# Advocacy

## New Hires, continued from previous page

Mercy Mbae, Psychiatric Technician  
Maureen Roberto, Registered Nurse  
Diana Rodriguez, Psychiatric Technician  
Brad Salyer, Psychiatric Technician  
Ambreen Tirmazi, Psychiatric Technician

## Why Your Active Treatment, Engagement & Activities Are so Important to Me:

- I live my existence through your eyes and where you take me. You sense my needs by looking into my eyes and feeling what I feel, and by acknowledging my sounds and knowing what they mean. You look forward to the excitement in my expression when I first see you and the calmness in my demeanor when you approach. Because of you helping me to go outside, I've learned to appreciate the sun, the smell of the rain, the birds flying freely through the sky, and the many other beautiful things in this world that exist naturally and without much effort. I depend on you in many ways to exist in this world and am appreciative for the assistance you provide me.
- I know that it can be difficult to understand me, because of my behaviors. I sometimes follow the rules and sometimes I do not. I react sometimes without thinking, and later feel bad for what I have done. Yet you come back each day, and try to help me understand and to have a better day. You encourage me when I am doing well and following my plans. You acknowledge my efforts when I am able to stop, breathe and think, and not react in the moment. Your goal is to protect me and others around me from harm, and to help me try to do



*Horse Show, June 2012*



*Carousel Dance/Hoe Down, August 2012*



*Client Town Hall  
July 2009*

better when I fail. Thank you for not giving up on me, for believing in me.

- I don't know why I need to eat things I shouldn't, but I do. I know you try every day to set up my environment in a way that is meaningful and filled with engagement. Yet, I still look for things that I shouldn't ingest. You take me out and pay attention to what I am looking at or sometimes, running to, in hopes of getting to the item I may ingest, before I do. You try to provide me with as normal a life as possible. I appreciate your efforts, for I know you are trying to protect me from harm. You don't give up on me, because I matter to you, and for that I am grateful. Know that I know, you care.

## Clients' Rights Awareness Month

At Sonoma Developmental Center, the month of June has been declared Client's Rights Awareness Month. Lots of activities and events will be occurring throughout the month, including:

- Opportunity Fair at SDC on June 6 from 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM. This yearly event features several vendors that provide services and supports to individuals with developmental disabilities and showcases a wide spectrum of work, leisure, and living opportunities out in the greater community as well as within the Center.
- Tuesday night movie night at REACH related to clients' rights, as well as viewing past performances of plays at SDC, with performers available for questions and answers after the viewing.
- Articles from members of the Human Rights Committee in this issue of the *Eldridge Press*.
- Focus Calendar topics will be on Choices and Rights.
- Choices Training is occurring through June 28 and focuses on supporting choices, making transitions and more! This one-hour training is for employees from various disciplines, who are members of the Interdisciplinary Team. Trainers consist of representatives from SDC, Regional Centers and Sonoma Regional Project.
- Choices DVD and workbook with stickers are avail-



*Opportunity Fair  
June 2012*

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## **Clients' Rights Awareness Month** *continued from previous page*

able on the residences.

- Advocacy Block Party on June 12 between the Smith and Brent courtyard. (Watch for flier.)
- Advocacy events at REACH on June 16 and 26. (Watch for flier.)
- Employee Survey with end of the month paychecks in June regarding Clients' Rights.

## **Whole Person Review**

*by Brad Backstrom*

In January, the Human Rights Committee (HRC) combined the Health Related Restraint Committee, Behavior Intervention Review Committee, and HRC to create HRC Whole Person Review (WPR).

The purpose of WPR is to embrace the philosophy that individual's rights and the use of all restrictives must be considered together. WPR believes we get a better perspective of the person's real life experience when looking at all restrictives and rights together than if we were to look at a person's life in small bits and parts.

Individual reviews include: ensuring proper informed consent was obtained, use of sedation and restraints used for routine clinics, health restrictives, behavioral restrictives, access restrictives, denial of rights, and anything related to the rights outlined in the Lanterman Act. Each restrictive must be based on individual assessment, informed consent, and infringe on the person's life in the least restrictive way possible. If a restrictive must be used, it must be justified, rational, and ethical. WPR ensures that the person receives training in skills so that one day the frequency of the restrictive use could be faded or the restrictive is no longer necessary, no matter how daunting a challenge this may be.

Thank you to all of those professionals who have participated in WPR this year with patience as we evolve our new process. WPR prides itself on Dr. Wymore's acronym FFF: Fair, Firm, and Friendly. We encourage you take these values as you make important decisions in support of the people we serve.

If you have any questions, please contact Brad Backstrom, Psy.D., Senior Supervising Psychologist and Chairperson HRC WPR, (707) 938-6614.



*Brad Backstrom*

## **What Social Workers Believe and What They Do** *by Deborah Dado*

Each person living here at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) is unique, with varying strengths and needs. In addressing their unique needs, Social Workers draw from the mission of the social work profession, which states:

- The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of the people who are vulnerable.

The role of social work is all encompassing. As social workers we assess, monitor, model and advocate. We focus not only on the well-being of the individuals we serve but also the well-being of their families, the staff who serve them, and the culture and community of SDC.

Specifically, you will find social workers assuring that:

- Rights of individuals are afforded to them,
- People live in the least restrictive environment that they can safely manage,
- Individuals maintain supportive relationships with family and friends, i.e. phone calls, visitations, etc.,
- Lives are as fulfilling as they can be,
- People are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve,
- Money is managed in a responsible fashion,
- Staff understand their importance in the lives of the people they serve,
- Support level of care staff, upon whom, individuals depend upon greatly.



*Deborah Dado*

## **Clients' Rights Advocate**

*by Tobias Weare*

I am the Clients' Rights Advocate (CRA) assigned to Sonoma Developmental Center through Area Board IV. Area Boards on Developmental Disabilities were created by state law in 1969 to plan and advocate for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The mission of the area boards is to protect and advocate for

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# Advocacy

## **Clients' Rights Advocate,** *continued from previous page*

the civil, legal, and service rights of individuals with developmental disabilities, and to ensure that their services and supports are of the highest possible quality and designed to increase the independence, inclusion, productivity and self-determination of each individual throughout their lifetime.

Area boards are federally-funded affiliated offices of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Because of the vast size, complexity, and diversity of the State of California, the Legislature finds that the legal, civil, and service rights of persons with developmental disabilities will not be adequately guaranteed throughout the state unless monitoring responsibility is established on a regional basis through area boards on developmental disabilities.



*Tobias Weare*

Area Board IV (AB4) is one of 13

Area Boards covering various regions in California. AB4 covers Sonoma, Napa and Solano counties with the main office in Vallejo California. In 1999 the Department of Developmental Disabilities entered into an Interagency Agreement with the Area Boards to provide clients' rights advocacy services at state developmental centers and state-run community facilities.

### **What are the responsibilities of the CRA?**

- The CRA is responsible for ensuring that the rights of each resident of a developmental center are guaranteed, protected, and asserted.

### **What are "clients' rights"?**

- Like all residents of the United States and California, people with developmental disabilities have the same legal rights and responsibilities guaranteed all other individuals ([Lanterman Act § 4502](#)). These rights, including the right to advocacy services, are clearly stated in [Title 17 § 50510](#) and have been incorporated into the developmental center's policies.

### **What are the rights of people living in residential care (under [Title 17 § 50510](#))?**

1. To keep and be allowed to spend one's own money for personal and incidental needs.
2. To keep and wear one's own clothing.
3. To keep and use one's own personal possessions including toiletry articles.
4. To have access to individual storage space for one's private use.

5. To see visitors each day.
6. To have reasonable access to telephones, both to make and receive confidential calls and to have calls made for one upon request.
7. To make and receive unopened correspondence and to have ready access to letter-writing materials, including sufficient postage in the form of United States Postal Stamps.
8. To refuse electroconvulsive therapy ("ECT").
9. To refuse behavior modification techniques which cause pain or trauma.
10. To refuse brain surgery.
11. Other rights as specified by administrative regulation of any federal, state, or local agency.

Clients' rights #1-7 may be denied under certain circumstances. Ask the CRA for help if you think a right has been denied.

### **What kinds of issues could involve the CRA?**

- The CRA is mandated to investigate all suspected rights violations under [Title 17](#) and the Lanterman Act.
- The CRA can provide assistance or representation to ensure the resident's right to due process.
- The CRA monitors and reviews the facilities' denial of rights.
- The CRA provides training and information to center staff, residents and family members on rights.

### **Who can contact the Clients' Rights Advocate?**

- Anyone who has a question, complaint or problem can call the CRA. This could be a resident, their family, advocates, staff, conservators, regional center representatives, or concerned community members.

The CRA office is located in Osborne building, office #114. I can be reached by phone using the following numbers: Office # (707) 938-6501 and work cell phone # (707) 980-5853. Please feel free to contact me and I will try to respond as soon as possible.

*Editor's note: Text underlined and in blue are links. For those reading this in electronic format, clicking on a link will take you to more information.*

## **Foster Grandparent & Senior Companion Program by Cindy Nelson**

The Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs have been at Sonoma Developmental Center since 1972. Many words describe the Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions, such as volunteer, advocate, supporter, champion, ally, friend, helper, buddy, companion and guide.

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## **Foster Grandparent/Senior Companions. . . continued from previous page**

Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions are part of Senior Corps. The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that engages more than five million Americans in service through its AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, Social Innovation Fund, and Volunteer Generation Fund programs, and leads the President's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. For more information, visit [www.NationalService.gov](http://www.NationalService.gov).

The Corporation of National and Community Service provides grants to national and local nonprofits, schools, government agencies, faith-based and other community organizations and other groups committed to strengthening their communities through volunteering. The State of California also funds the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Programs through the Department of Developmental Services.

One of the agency-wide priority measures is to increase the percent of individuals who report having increased social ties/perceived social support. The Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents are able to provide that for clients and students at Sonoma Developmental Center and at schools in Sonoma County.

Foster Grandparents serve individuals under the age of 21. We connect caring, capable people with students who benefit from their time and personal attention. Senior Companions are volunteers who make a difference by providing friendship to adults who have difficulty with daily living tasks. Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents serve 15 to 40 hours per week helping an average of two to four people that have Developmental Disabilities.

The program is open to all U.S. citizens, nationals, or lawful permanent resident aliens, 55 years of age and over. Volunteers receive pre-service orientation, training from the organization where they serve, supplemental insurance while on duty, and may qualify to earn a tax-free hourly stipend. Serving as Foster Grandparents or Senior Companions, these dedicated citizens are sharing their lifetime of skills and experience to make a difference in the lives of others.

The Senior Companions and Foster Grandparents facilitate or "enable" clients to grow socially and help them have *relationships* that create and add meaning to life.



*Cindy Nelson*

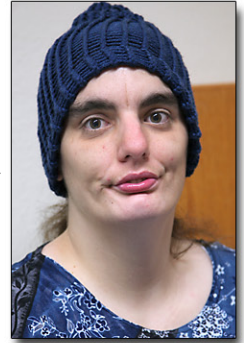
## **Donna's Story**

**by Donna Shields**

**M**y name is Donna. I live at SDC and work at the SDC mailroom Monday through Friday, with a job coach. I'm learning to become independent. I would like to study for my GED and in the future, get a good job in the community.

I would like to work in a post office, landscaping or in a bowling alley. One important job skill I have learned is to be on time. Another one is to follow directions and ask for help.

Since living at SDC, I have developed a plan to be and live independently with supports in the community.



*Donna Shields*

## **The Sonoma Valley Footrace and Festival**

**T**he Seventh Annual Sonoma Valley Footrace and Festival was held on the grounds of Sonoma Developmental Center on Saturday, May 18, 2013 and was a huge success.

The Footrace started at 9:00 AM with a 5k run/walk and an advanced 10k run. The 5k run/walk course was throughout the beautiful streets of SDC, with the advanced 10k continuing off road on the surrounding hillsides. There was also a kids' fun run at noon. All race participants received a commemorative t-shirt and goodie bag. In addition, adults received a souvenir glass and two drink tickets.

The Festival was open from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and featured events and activities to entertain people of all ages. There was a car show, beer and wine tasting, food vendors, a raffle, carnival games and attractions, and music all day by Harvey and the Wallbangers.

The Sonoma Valley Footrace and Festival committee would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped out this year. Karen Faria, Executive Director said, "It is events like the Footrace that brings the Eldridge and Sonoma communities together for recreation in, and enjoyment of, our beautiful valley."



*This year's festival*



# Some Community Happenings in 2013!



**Above: Sock Hop**  
March 13, 2013



**Above: Cinco de Mayo**  
May 2, 2013



**Above: Spring Fling**  
April 6, 2013

## Note:

If you would like to receive the *Eldridge Press* electronically, please e-mail your request to [Jorge.Fernandez@sonoma.dds.ca.gov](mailto:Jorge.Fernandez@sonoma.dds.ca.gov).

## Submitting articles to the *Eldridge Press*:

The *Eldridge Press* gladly accepts submissions of articles about events at Sonoma Developmental Center, news about the Center's departments and programs, employee recognition, and other information of interest to the Center's employees, consumers and other stakeholders. Articles may be edited for grammar, punctuation, and clarity. To submit your article, send it to the Office of Planning and Communications, Room 102, Sonoma Developmental Center, P.O. Box 1493, Eldridge, CA 95431. Deadlines are the 15th of the month prior to the publication date (for instance, June 15 is the deadline for the July 2013 issue).

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# **FW: California Health and Human Services Secretary Diana S. Dooley Appoints Members to the Future of the Developmental Centers Task Force**

**From:** Faria, Karen@DDS

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 4:12 PM

**To:** SDC

**Subject:** FW: California Health and Human Services Secretary Diana S. Dooley Appoints Members to the Future of the Developmental Centers Task Force

**Attachments:**  FINAL DC Appointment Release.pdf (128 KB)[[Open as Web Page](#)]

SDC staff:

Please see the public information release below. This is the expected announcement of the members of the Health and Human Services Agency Task Force for the Future of Developmental Centers. The only new information contained below is the name and qualifications of the people who will be on the task force. As stated before, this announcement does **not** change our mission: to improve our services to the men and women who live here and to be completely certified. Our focus must still be on the well-being, protection, health, and development of individual potential for every person we serve. There will be Town Hall meetings for each shift starting Thursday night, then Friday morning and finally, Friday afternoon for any staff who may have questions.

Please print out this message and announcement for all staff who do not receive email. Thank you.

*Karen A. Faria*

Executive Director

Sonoma Developmental Center

15000 Arnold Drive

Eldridge, CA 94531

[faria.karen@sonoma.dds.ca.gov](mailto:faria.karen@sonoma.dds.ca.gov)

707-938-6409

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**From:** Lungren, Nancy@DDS [<mailto:Nancy.Lungren@dds.ca.gov>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 05, 2013 3:28 PM

**Subject:** FW: California Health and Human Services Secretary Diana S. Dooley Appoints Members to the Future of the Developmental Centers Task Force

## **State of California HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: (916) 654-3304

June 5, 2013

### **California Health and Human Services Secretary Diana S. Dooley Appoints Members to the Future of the Developmental Centers Task Force**

Sacramento – California Health and Human Services (CHHS) Secretary Diana S. Dooley today announced the members appointed to the Future of the State Developmental Centers Task Force which includes consumers, consumer advocates, regional centers, community service providers, organized labor, families of developmental center residents, members of the Legislature and the Department of

Developmental Services staff. California operates four large developmental centers and one small community facility serving a total of 1,510 residents statewide with an annual budget of \$545 million.

“It is essential to listen honestly and fairly to all the different points of view about how best to provide quality care for the people we serve at the developmental centers,” said CHHS Secretary Diana S. Dooley. “The Task Force will gather facts, share opinions and seek agreement on options for the future of developmental centers.»

The Task Force will develop a plan to assure quality, effective and efficient delivery of integrated services to meet the special needs of current residents living in the developmental centers. It will consider the fiscal implications of developmental center operations, including the maintenance of the aging infrastructure, staffing, and resource constraints; the availability of alternative and community resources; a timeline for future closures; and any statutory and regulatory changes that may be needed to ensure the best care possible for this special population.

The Secretary will convene the first meeting of the Task Force on Monday, June 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Sacramento at the California Department of Rehabilitation, 721 Capitol Mall, Room 242. The Task Force will complete its work by mid-November and the meetings will be open to the public.

### **Task Force Members**

**Mark Barr, MS**, has been a special education teacher for the Department of Developmental Services for over 23 years and is an elected labor representative for Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 1000. He and his wife are parents of a child with special needs whom they recently lost.

**Catherine Blakemore, JD**, is the Executive Director of Disability Rights California (DRC). DRC provides a broad range of advocacy services state-wide to Californians with disabilities. She has worked in the disability advocacy field for more than 30 years.

**Ronald Cohen, PhD**, is the Chief Executive Officer of United Cerebral Palsy of Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties since 1987. Cohen is an expert on developing housing for special needs populations and has testified before the California State Legislature and the United States Congress on alternatives to institutional living.

**Theresa “Terry” DeBell, RN**, is the President of CASHPCR (formerly called California Association of State Hospital Parent Councils for the Retarded), representing families from Fairview and Porterville Developmental Centers. She is the Chair of the Governor’s Advisory Board at Lanterman Developmental Center where her brother Patrick lived for many years.

**Terri Delgadillo, MSW**, is the Director of the California Department of Developmental Services, the lead agency through which the State of California provides services and support to children and adults with developmental disabilities.

**David De La Riva, JD**, is the Senior Legal Counsel, California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA). David joined CSLEA in 2005 as Legal Counsel where he oversees the day to day operations of the CSLEA satellite office in Huntington Beach and represents the Department of Developmental Services’ peace officers.

**Carlos Flores** is the Executive Director (ED) of the San Diego Regional Center. He has 38 years of



experience in the field of developmental disabilities. Carlos was the Branch Manager for the Prevention and Children's Services Branch of the Department of Developmental Services. He also has been the ED of the Redwood Coast Regional Center and ED of the Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10 in Los Angeles County.

**Dana Hooper, MBA**, is the Executive Director of Life Services Alternatives, Inc. (LSA). Dana is a technology industry veteran with extensive sales and marketing experience. He was previously a vice president of U.S. operations for a German software developer and on the leadership team at Speech Machines, Lernout and Hauspie and Centigram.

**Connie Lapin** is a co-chair of the Government Relations Committee for the Autism Society of Los Angeles. She is a speech pathologist, lecturer and consumer advocate for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities. Her son, Shawn, has autism.

**Kevin MacDonald, MBA**, has been the CEO of The Arc of Los Angeles and Orange Counties for the past 20 years. The Arc provides work and day services. Kevin established The Arc's Center for Human Rights. He did his Masters Internship at Fairview Developmental Center in Orange County.

**Christine Maul, PhD, CCC-SLP**, is a speech language pathologist and assistant professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies at California State University, Fresno. She is a parent of a resident at Porterville Developmental Center.

**Kathleen Miller, LCSW**, is President of the Parents Hospital Association for Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC), an organization that represents the families and friends of the SDC residents. Kathleen previously worked as a clinical social worker at SDC. Her son Dan is a resident at SDC.

**Marty Omoto** is an Advocate and Founder of the California Disability Community Action Network (CDCAN). He publishes a newsletter about the state budget and legislation with a following of over 65,000 people across the state. Marty had an older sister with developmental disabilities.

**Ray Rocha** is the President of the board of People First of California. He was previously vice president of People First of California and president of People First of Bakersfield. Ray works for Kern Regional Center where he helps other individuals with disabilities to access services.

**Robert Riddick, LCSW**, is Executive Director of the Fresno-based Central Valley Regional Center covering Tulare, Kings, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa and Merced counties, including the Porterville Developmental Center in Tulare County.

**Will Sanford** is the Executive Director of Futures Explored, Inc., a community-based organization that provides support to over 500 individuals with developmental and other disabilities each year.

**Savaing Sok** is a member of People First of California- Region 4 for Sonoma, Solano and Napa Counties. He is a 21-year-old resident of Sonoma Developmental Center and a member of the center's Human Rights Committee.

**Kecia Weller** is a member of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. Weller was formerly a teacher's assistant at the University of California, Los Angeles Extension Pathway Program, and has been a county supervisor appointee on the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities since 2002.

**Brad Whitehead** is a California-licensed Psychiatric Technician at Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona where he has provided a broad range of medical and therapeutic services to center residents. Brad also serves as Lanterman Chapter president for the California Association of Psychiatric Technicians.

**Note:** The Assembly Speaker and the Senate President Pro Tem will each designate one member to represent the Legislature.

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