

**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



June 8, 2015

Dear Residents, Family Members, Guardians and Conservators:

As you may know, the May Revision to the Governor's 2015-16 budget proposes legislation to initiate closure planning for the remaining three state developmental centers, including Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC). This proposal needs to be voted on by the California Legislature and signed by the Governor before it becomes law. However, if you have been following the news, you know that it is highly likely that approval for the closures will be given. The closure of SDC is expected to occur by the end of 2018 and a closure plan will be submitted to the Legislature for approval by October 1, 2015.

As residents of SDC and those closest to them, the Department of Developmental Services (Department) would like to invite you to a meeting to get your thoughts on what you would like to see included in the Sonoma Closure Plan. **Please join the Department, the SDC Executive Team and representatives of local Regional Centers on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Wagner Building.** We will be available to answer questions, hear concerns and otherwise obtain your input to help inform the development of a Sonoma Closure Plan. Your long and valued involvement with your family member and SDC makes you uniquely qualified to provide important insight on the content of this plan.

**There will be additional opportunities for you to provide input.** Department staff will continue to make themselves available to family and community members, the Parent Hospital Association, and other interested parties. A public hearing will be held at SDC in July and written comments will be accepted through September 1, 2015. We will also be setting up a web page specific to the SDC closure where you will be able to get the latest information and submit comments online. As details are finalized on these other opportunities for input, we will make them available to you and other stakeholders.

We are strongly committed to ensuring the provision of quality care both at SDC, and as individuals transition to community-based services. The Department is just beginning the multi-phase planning process as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 4474.1. Your participation, feedback and opinions are essential to the development of a comprehensive, thoughtful Closure Plan that best reflects the needs of the men and women who live at SDC.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**

Residents, Family Members, Guardians and Conservators  
June 8, 2015  
Page two

Every family member is invited to the meeting and we sincerely hope for your participation. We look forward to seeing you on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Coppage in our Developmental Centers Division at (916) 651-3230, or [cindy.coppage@dds.ca.gov](mailto:cindy.coppage@dds.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Santi J. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

SANTI J. ROGERS  
Director