



CDCAN REPORT

#026-2010 JANUARY 29, 2010 – FRIDAY

CALIFORNIA DISABILITY COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

**ADVOCACY WITHOUT BORDERS: ONE COMMUNITY –
ACCOUNTABILITY WITH ACTION**

*California Disability Community Action Network Disability Rights News goes out to over 50,000 people with disabilities, mental health needs, seniors, traumatic brain & other injuries, veterans with disabilities and mental health needs, their families, workers, community organizations, including those in Asian/Pacific Islander, Latino, African American communities, policy makers and others across California. To reply to this report write: **MARTY OMOTO** at martyomoto@rcjp.com WEBSITE: www.cdcan.us TWITTER: www.twitter.com - "MartyOmoto"*

REMEMBERING THAT EVERY LIFE MATTERS:

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California Budget Crisis:

LANTERMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER SLATED FOR CLOSURE

***Department of Developmental Services Looks At Two Year Closure
Process Which Requires Approval by Legislature***



SACRAMENTO, CALIF (CDCAN)

[Updated 01/29/10 11:55 AM
(Pacific Time)] - As previously
reported, the Schwarzenegger
Administration announced this
morning that it will propose budget
related legislation to close the Frank
D. Lanterman Developmental Center
in Pomona, which provides 24 hour
residential care for just under 400

persons with developmental disabilities which includes people with cerebral palsy, epilepsy, down syndrome, autism and other lifelong conditions. [*Photo above left is a 1925 picture of the first residences at what was then called the "Pacific Colony" then "Pacific State Hospital" before being renamed in 1979 "Frank D. Lanterman State Hospital and Developmental Center"*]

The closure process, including transition of people currently residing at the facility into the community or transfer to another developmental center, takes at least two years and sometimes much longer to complete under a general process outlined in current State law. The specific request for closure – and the proposed plan itself requires approval of the Legislature.

The Department of Developmental Services, the state agency that oversees the operation of the 4 state owned and staffed developmental centers and one smaller facility, after briefing representatives of families and staff at the facility, made the announcement and also said that the closure process would take about two years to accomplish. (for official copy of the Department of Developmental Service press release issued today, go to CDCAN website at www.cdcan.us or see below for text)

“The decision to recommend closure was not made lightly, as it will impact the residents served, their families, and the staff, all of whom have worked hard to make Lanterman Developmental Center a caring and positive place to live,” said Terri Delgadillo, Director of the Department of Developmental Services. “The well-being of all who live and work at Lanterman will be of our utmost concern and priority as we move forward.”

Under 2,000 People Still Reside in Developmental Centers

Just under 2,000 people with developmental disabilities reside in the 4 remaining developmental centers (formerly called “state hospitals”) and 1 smaller facility in Cathedral City. As of December 31, 2009 the population of the four remaining developmental centers and 1 smaller facility was:

- Sonoma Developmental Center in Eldridge - 648 persons
- Porterville Developmental Center near Bakersfield - 589 persons
- Fairview Developmental Center in Costa Mesa - 465 people
- Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona - 398 people
- Smaller Facility - Canyon Springs in Cathedral City - 53 persons.

Note: The facility known as Sierra Vista located in Yuba City, slated for complete closure in February 2010, has no persons reportedly still at that facility.

The Department of Developmental Services also oversees the 21 non-profit “regional centers” – which are completely different entities from “developmental centers”. Regional centers, under contract with the Department of Developmental Services, coordinate the services and funding provided by community-based organizations and individuals to over 240,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The budget under the Department of Developmental Services for regional center funded community-based services totaled \$4 billion, 2.2 billion of that State general funds. That figure does not include the cost of other services not provided through that department’s budget, including costs related to Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services and in many instances, SSI/SSP.

The budget for developmental centers – also under the Department of Developmental Services, totaled \$603.8 million including federal Medicaid funding, matched by \$261 million in State General funds.

Budget Impact Not Certain

The Department of Developmental Services said that given the declining population and aging infrastructure, it is no longer economical to operate this facility.

It is not clear however what impact the proposed closure will have on the projected State Budget shortfalls projected in 2010-2011 or in subsequent budget years. Closure of a developmental center will take two years or longer to accomplish depending on the details of a closure plan and how it is implemented.

Agnews Developmental Center in San Jose, which closed last year, was authorized for closure in the 2003-2004 State Budget. The transition and eventual closure was delayed for various reasons, including housing related issues, with the last person moved out as of March 2009. The population at Agnews was 436 persons with developmental disabilities as of March 2003, declining to 285 by March 2006, dropping to 244 by March 2007, to 162 by March 2008 and 4 by March 2009, when the facility closed.

A clear picture of what money if any the State ultimately saves from the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center will likely not be known until the facility actually shuts its doors and the initial closure and transition process is over.

Lanterman Developmental Center Once Served More Than 3,000 People

Lanterman Developmental Center at one time served more than 3,000 residents, and as of December 2009, had 380 people with developmental disabilities still living at the facility, with the population declining 10% or more each year. The developmental center employs (as of January 2009) about 1,300 state employees or persons under contract with the State.

Lanterman Developmental Center, which opened in 1927 at its present location in Pomona, consists of 21 client residences, 1 acute hospital unit; a variety of training and work sites; a Vocational Training Center; and recreation facilities, including a swimming pool, playgrounds, camp, carousel, equestrian center, track, and a ballpark. The developmental center borders the cities of Pomona, Diamond Bar and Walnut in Los Angeles County.

Other entities housed on the Lanterman Developmental Center property include a Research and Staff Training Building, the UCLA Student Immersion Research Program, a Child Day Care Center for community and staff members' children, Credit Union, and the California Conservation Corps.

State Says It Will Work Closely With Families, Staff and Regional Centers

The Department of Developmental Services will utilize a transition process that enables each resident to live in an environment appropriate for his or her needs consistent with the landmark 1999 US Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.

The Department of Developmental Services said it will work closely with the local regional centers in Los Angeles County in defining and developing resources that will support the needs of consumers who are identified through the individualized planning process as appropriate for transition to the community and will work with labor unions and develop strategies to assist employees in finding opportunities for future employment.

“The Department appreciates the many experienced and dedicated employees who have worked to improve the lives of consumers served,” stated Director Delgadillo.

What Happens Next

- The Department of Developmental Services in identifying Lanterman Developmental Center for closure, sets in motion a process defined in existing state law (Welfare and Institutions Code section 4474.1) for closing developmental centers that will include extensive community outreach, at least one public hearing and a detailed closure plan to the Legislature by April 1, 2010. No details are yet available.
- Legislative approval must be received prior to beginning closure activities in the State Budget year 2010-2011. That is expected either as part of the 2010-2011 State Budget or possibly legislation separate from the budget if a long budget stalemate develops. There will likely be budget hearings on this specific hearing sometime in April where persons and organizations can testify on the closure and the initial closure plan. No hearing dates have yet been announced.
- The Department of Developmental Services said it considers it “essential” that interested stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in planning for the closure, including consumers, their family members, employees, regional centers, advocates, service providers, public officials, representatives from the communities surrounding Lanterman Developmental Center, and other interested parties. The Department of Developmental Services said it will be following this announcement with information on upcoming meetings and a hearing on the proposed closure of Lanterman Developmental Center.
- Feb 2 Informational Hearing by Assembly Select Committee on Disabilities – though not focused on the proposed closure of Lanterman Developmental Center, the issue is likely to be touched upon by Department of Developmental Services officials who will be presenting updates and other information at this hearing on the “State of People With Developmental Disabilities in California”, at 2 PM, State Capitol in Room 126. The select committee is chaired by Assemblymember Wes Chesbro (Democrat – Arcata). See CDCAN website for more information at www.cdcan.us
- CDCAN Note: CDCAN will be scheduling a specific CDCAN Townhall Telemeeting on this issue with the Department of Developmental Services, the local regional centers in the Los Angeles County area, advocacy groups such as CASH-PCR, Easter Seals and Disability Rights California (formerly Protection and Advocacy, Inc.) and others. Watch for details.

Department of Developmental Services Operates Four Developmental Centers

The Department of Developmental Services directly operates four Developmental Centers located in Costa Mesa, Pomona, Porterville and Eldridge (Sonoma County) and two smaller state-operated community facilities located in Yuba City and in Cathedral City. The facility in Yuba City is slated for closure in February and last year Agnews Developmental Center in San Jose officially closed its doors.

The executive director of Lanterman Developmental Center is Cheryl Bright, who works under Terri Delgadillo, director of the Department of Developmental Services.

The address of Lanterman Developmental Center is:
3530 Pomona Blvd.
Pomona, CA 91769-0100
Public Phone: (909) 595-1221 TDD: (909) 595-3971

Developmental Centers Are 24 Hour Facilities

The developmental centers are licensed and certified as Nursing Facility (NF), Intermediate Care Facility/Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) and acute care hospitals. The two smaller community facilities are licensed as ICF/MR facilities.

These facilities provide an a wide range services and supports for individuals in need of a secure environment, or who have special medical and/or behavioral program needs. Admission to one of these facilities requires either a formal determination that the individual meets stringent admission criteria, or a court order.

These facilities deal with all aspects of the individuals' lives. This includes everything from residential services through skill training, specialized health-care and other therapies to leisure and recreational opportunities.

History of Lanterman Developmental Center

1927 - The California Legislature created "Pacific Colony" as a Southern California facility to detain the "feebleminded". At that time, people with developmental disabilities were "inmates", needing to be locked away from society forever because of their "insanity", according to the Department of Developmental Services. The present location welcomed its first 27 "inmates", on May 2, 1927. At that time, only the city of Pomona existed in the local area.

1946 - Department of Developmental Services records show that over 1,900 people crowded into a facility at Pacific Colony that had only grown large enough to hold 1,512 people. After the end of World War II in 1945, the state allocated more money for expansion and improvements.

1953 - The name "Pacific Colony" was changed to "Pacific State Hospital" that marked a statewide shift (since the 1930's) on how the State viewed people with developmental disabilities. By this point in time, people with developmental disabilities who were residents of Pacific State Hospital were no longer considered "inmates" but "patients" who were sick and needing treatment to be made well.

1979 - In honor of the author of the nation's only civil rights act specifically for persons with developmental disabilities - the 1969 "Lanterman Developmental Disabilities Services Act", Pacific State Hospital was renamed by the Legislature as the "Frank D. Lanterman State Hospital and Developmental Center"

1980's - The name was changed further to the "Frank D. Lanterman Developmental Center", dropping "State Hospital".

1990-2010 - Population steadily drops from 940 persons in September 1994 to 581 people in September 2004 to 398 people as of December 30, 2009.

COPY OF OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE

This is the official press release issued by the Department of Developmental Services late this morning regarding the proposed closure of Lanterman Developmental Center (2 page hard copy available on CDCAN website as a 2 page pdf file, at www.cdcan.us) :

*STATE OF CALIFORNIA--HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY ARNOLD
SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
1600 NINTH STREET, Room 322, MS-3-10
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1884, (916) 654-1820*

*THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES ANNOUNCES INTENTION
TO CLOSE LANTERMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nancy Lungren

Friday, January 29, 2010 (916) 684-1820; (916) 616-8265

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Developmental Services has announced its intention to close the Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona, California. The Lanterman Developmental Center, located on 302 acres of state-owned land in Los Angeles County, is an 82-year-old facility that provides 24-hour residential care for individuals with developmental disabilities, including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, down syndrome, autism and other lifelong conditions.

Lanterman at one time served more than 3,000 residents, and today there are fewer than 400 living at the facility, with the population declining 10 percent or more each year. Given the declining population and aging infrastructure, it is no longer economical to operate this facility. The Department will utilize a transition process that enables each resident to live in an environment appropriate for his or her needs consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's Olmstead decision.

“The decision to recommend closure was not made lightly, as it will impact the residents served, their families, and the staff, all of whom have worked hard to make Lanterman Developmental Center a caring and positive place to live,” said Terri Delgadillo, Director of the Department of Developmental Services. “The well-being of all who live and work at Lanterman will be of our utmost concern and priority as we move forward.”

The Department will work closely with the local regional centers in defining and developing resources that will support the needs of consumers who are identified through the individualized planning process as appropriate for transition to the community.

“The Department appreciates the many experienced and dedicated employees who have worked to improve the lives of consumers served,” stated Director Delgadillo.

The Department will work with labor unions and develop strategies to assist employees in finding opportunities for future employment.

In identifying Lanterman for closure, the Department sets in motion a process defined in statute (Welfare and Institutions Code section 4474.1) for closing developmental centers that will include extensive community outreach, at least one public hearing and a detailed closure plan to the Legislature by April 1, 2010. Legislative approval must be received prior to beginning closure activities in fiscal year 2010-2011.

The Department of Developmental Services considers it essential that interested stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in planning for the closure, including consumers, their family members, employees, regional centers, advocates, service providers, public officials, representatives from the communities surrounding Lanterman, and other interested parties.

The Department will be following this announcement with information on upcoming meetings and a hearing on the proposed closure of Lanterman.

For more information please contact Nancy Lungren, Assistant Director of Communications at DDS at 916-654-1820, (cell) 916-616-8265, or nancy.lungren@dds.ca.gov. Visit www.dds.ca.gov for information about programs and services.

URGENT!!!!

PLEASE HELP CDCAN CONTINUE ITS WORK!!!

We need your help. CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings, reports and alerts and other activities cannot continue without your help.

To continue the CDCAN website, the CDCAN News Reports. sent out and read by over 50,000 people and organizations, policy makers and media across California and to continue the CDCAN Townhall Telemeetings which since December 2003 have connected thousands of people with disabilities, seniors, mental health needs, people with MS and other disorders, people with traumatic brain and other injuries to public policy makers, legislators, and issues.

Please send your contribution/donation (make payable to "CDCAN" or "California Disability Community Action Network):

CDCAN

1225 8th Street Suite 480 - Sacramento, CA 95814

paypal on the CDCAN site is not yet working – will be soon.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO the Easter Seals, California Association of Adult Day Health Centers, Valley Mountain Regional Center, Toward Maximum Independence, Inc (TMI), Friends of Children with Special Needs, UCP of Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, Southside Arts Center, San Francisco Bay Area Autism Society of America, Hope Services in San Jose, FEAT of Sacramento (Families for Early Autism Treatment), RESCoalition, Sacramento Gray Panthers, Easter Seals of Southern California, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Westside Regional Center, Regional Center of the East Bay, UCP of Orange County, Alta California Regional Center, Life Steps, Parents Helping Parents, Work Training, Foothill Autism Alliance, Arc Contra Costa, Pause4Kids, Manteca CAPS, Training Toward Self Reliance, UCP, California NAELA, Californians for Disability Rights, Inc (CDR) including CDR chapters, CHANCE

Inc, , Strategies To Empower People (STEP), Harbor Regional Center, Asian American parents groups, Resources for Independent Living and many other Independent Living Centers, several regional centers, People First chapters, IHSS workers, other self advocacy and family support groups, developmental center families, adoption assistance program families and children, and others across California