

California Update for VOR 2015 Washington Initiative - June 1, 2015
CASHPCR Representative, Bob Hazard

California Background:

California's Lanterman Act is an entitlement for services for all individuals with developmental disabilities. Currently about 280,000 people receive services coordinated through 21 private non-profit Regional Centers, under the Department of Developmental Disabilities. About 1,050 live in 3 Developmental Centers, with about 300 of those forensic commitments. The annual budget for the whole state is about \$5.5 billion, with about total funds, with about (\$3.0 Billion federal funds)

Proposal to Close CA's DCs

Governor Brown has proposed the closure of all the DCs, with the exception of the forensic section. At this time, it appears that the Governor and the Legislature are in agreement on this item, and the DC closures proposal is expected to be signed into law mid-June by the Governor and included in the California Budget for 2015-2016.

The current proposal calls for closure plans developed for Fairview DC and Porterville DC with a closure goal date of 2021 for both centers, along with a with Sonoma DC closure by the end of 2018. This timeline would allow concurrent placement activities at all 3 DCs, instead of finishing one DC closure before starting the next closure.

All the discussion on closing the DCs is marked by the number of legislators; personnel from DDS, Health and Human Services, Legislative Analyst Office, Disability Rights California; community activists/advocates; and others who have publicly stated their understanding and concern that moving DC residents requires prior development of personalized services, expensive services, ongoing support of those services, and careful monitoring and transition. In other words, DC families are supported in these standards, and are not the only ones calling for them.

Other items about Californians with Developmental Disabilities:

- **The Governor's budget** also includes a request for \$49 million to begin developing community services for Sonoma DC residents; support for the development of Enhanced Behavioral Support Homes; and a proposal for an integrated housing project at Fairview DC. (DC Movers receive augmented community funding.)

- **The Self Determination program**, where consumers/families manage their own budgets and determine their own services, is expanding. This enrollment is capped for a few years, but additional spaces may be made available for DC Movers.

- **Lanterman DC Closure** – January 2010 - December 2014 401 individuals
More than \$150 million was budgeted for service development and transition. Of the initial 401, 55 have passed away: 25 at LDC, 17 in subacute care; 13 after community transition. Annual monitoring on the outcomes of these movers will continue for the next 5 years, along with other health and safety monitoring. Current data has mostly positive findings – IPPs followed, health and dental services, skilled staff, stable residential settings, etc. Special Incident Reports analysis shows increased medication errors – program to reduce errors in place. An adjacent state university (Cal Poly) will take over the land – however, there is some legislative interest in developing part of the land for housing for people with disabilities.

- **Community State Staff Program (CSSP)** is now allowed state-wide (DC employees, who may be familiar with DC residents, may remain state employees while working for community providers). Its use is not widespread due to fiscal, geographic, programmatic and other reasons.

- **HCBS Waiver Workgroup** working on transition required under CMS. Concern over changes to congregate settings, of which California has many. Some services will most probably continue without federal support but with 100% state funding.

- **Community services have been seriously underfunded for many years** – the system is called “On the Brink of Collapse” by the Association of Regional Center Agencies. There is a strong push in the Legislature for increased community funding, not included in the Governor’s budget. At this time, state revenues have increased, and negotiations continue on both sides. (DC movers receive additional community funds.)

- **Developmental Services Task Force** (continuation of the Future of the DCs Task Force with several DC families, staff) charged with “examining services for the developmentally disabled in the community. The Task Force will develop recommendations to strengthen the community system in the context of a growing and aging population, resource constraints, availability of community resources to meet the specialized needs of clients, and past reductions to the community system. Issues to be examined will include community rates, the impact of new State and federal laws and regulations, and staffing levels at Regional Centers.”



California Association of Developmental Center Families – Fairview and Porterville

www.cashpcr.com

Membership and Purpose Statement June, 2015

CASHPCR was organized about 4 decades ago when parents came together to work on issues that affected their children who, because of a developmental disability, received services in the California Developmental Centers (then called State Hospitals).

CASHPCR currently represents and speaks directly on behalf of friends, families, and advocates from Fairview Developmental Center and Porterville Developmental Center. The CASHPCR Board contains Officers, Directors, and Advisors from both of these Developmental Centers.

The CASHPCR Board members also serve on the Governor's Advisory Board of Porterville Developmental Center; the Olmstead Advisory Committee; on Regional Center Boards; the Home and Community Based Services Federal Waiver Advisory Group; the Self Determination Work Group; the DDS Quality Assessment Advisory Group; the Developmental Services Task Force through CHHS; and boards of community vendors. The CASHPCR Board includes members whose relatives are receiving services at Developmental Centers or in the community setting, and members whose relatives have passed away.

Our organization, consistent with our bylaws, personifies the commitment that our families have made to work to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. We advocate for a full range of services and supports for people with developmental disabilities, depending upon the needs of the individual. We recognize equally the contributions of developmental center personnel and community service providers toward achieving that goal.

We are proud of the advocacy that CASHPCR has engaged in during its history, including our collaboration with entities seeking to address the issues affecting all individuals with developmental disabilities.

We welcome any inquiries on how we can work together to achieve common goals.

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