



CASHPCR

California Association of Developmental Center Families – Fairview and Porterville

California Update for VOR 2016 Washington Initiative - June 3, 2017

CASHPCR Representative, Bob Hazard

California Background Our Lanterman Act entitles services for all individuals with developmental disabilities. About 306,000 people receive services coordinated through 21 private non-profit Regional Centers, under the Department of Developmental Services (DDS). The proposed 2017-18 budget is about \$6.9 billion, including \$2.7 billion federal funds. California is bracing for federal changes that may impact services across health care, housing, education, employment, etc.

California's Developmental Centers Closing Three state-operated Developmental Centers (DCs) are in the process of closing, ending the era of DC care in CA. The DC population is estimated to drop to 495 on July 1, 2018, with all individuals transitioning to a community setting by the end of 2021. The area of one DC that serves forensic commitments will remain (200 beds), along with one 48-bed community facility that focuses on individuals with behavioral challenges.

Development of Community Services for DC Movers The development of residential resources, day programs and other services specifically for DC movers has been supported by \$256 million allocated for 2015 through 2017. A number of homes and services focusing on the specialized needs of DC movers has been developed including the 5-bed residential health care homes, enhanced behavioral supports homes, secured perimeter and delayed egress homes. The 2 **STAR** programs which currently offer short term (less than 1 year) behavioral Stabilization, Training, Assistance and Reintegration at 2 DCs will be expanded and continue as State-Owned State-Operated services in the community setting.

Safety Net for Californians with Developmental Disabilities DDS has prepared a "Plan for Crisis and Other Safety Net Services in the CA Developmental Services System," with input from consumers, families (including DC families), service providers, health professionals, legal advocates, and others. The Plan and the request for \$21 million is expected to be approved by the Legislature. Highlights include:

1. Establish two state-operated mobile acute crisis teams.
2. Develop intensive wrap-around services for persons with co-occurring developmental disabilities and mental health needs.
3. Plan for the relocation and expansion of the current state-operated acute crisis services.
4. Increase options to serve individuals with challenging service needs by developing stepdown services for individuals transitioning out of Institutes for Mental Disease.
5. Develop wrap-around services for people transitioning out of forensic commitments.

Other California Items:

CASHPCR, loosely representing families from 2 of the 3 remaining CA DCs, has, like many family groups across the country, become much smaller and “grayer” over the years. Our members have relatives living in DCs, in the community, and some have passed away. Despite the passage of time, our members remain quite active advocates, and are included on pertinent local and state-wide Boards, Family Groups, Commissions, Task Forces, Work Groups, etc. We are also active in the national VOR! Like many other states, California can be proud of the families who have stepped up and worked with others to make a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities.

DC Closure Plans contain augmented funding, staffing, resources, and monitoring. However, the rest of the DD system in California is considered to be on the brink of collapse because of low rates and the loss of providers. CA is doing a Rate Study (estimated to take 2 years to complete) that will show how much it costs to run the system and hopefully lead to more stable funding.

The Developmental Services Task Force, assembled by the CA Secretary of Health and Human Services with representation from DC residents and families among other advocates, continues to recommend improvements to the system focusing on services, employment, and housing. The System Rate Study, and elements of the Safety Net initiative, are based on the work of the Task Force.

Proposal to use former DC funds and assets for community services has been introduced by members of the CA Legislature, and would deposit savings from the DC closures into a special trust fund for community services. The proposal has not received enough support and is not expected to progress. However, it has furthered understanding about the need to fully fund the system. There may be bilateral support for a proposal to use income from DC assets (land) for such a trust fund.

The California Self-Determination Program waiver application is still being reviewed by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). This program will allow consumers/ families to manage their own budgets and arrange for services outside of the Regional Center system, and may allow access to “what is necessary and desired” instead of just “what is available.” When the waiver is approved, the program will begin on a limited scale for 3 years, then be open to anyone.

Community State Staff Program allows DC employees, who may be very experienced, licensed, and familiar with DC residents, to remain state employees while working for community providers, or to start their own community facilities. The program has had varying success depending on the area of the state served, and what providers are participating.

HCBS Waiver Compliance Deadline Extension by CMS of 3 years to March 2022 will be helpful to California. Our Transition Plan has not yet been approved by CMS. There is concern over changes to congregate work, day program, and residential settings, of which CA has many. Some privately-funded congregate residential settings in both rural and urban areas are reminiscent of the beginnings of the Developmental Centers started in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in the US and across the world. The historical pendulum still swings.

Our best regards and thanks to VOR and wishing you a successful Washington Initiative!

Terry DeBell - CASHPCR President