

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



January 29, 2010

Dear Residents, Family Members, Employees and Other Interested Parties:

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) is strongly committed to ensuring the provision of quality care to the consumers residing in our state-operated facilities. As the population has decreased over the last several years, the system has been challenged to meet this commitment within existing resources. After careful evaluation, the Department has made the difficult decision to recommend to the Legislature the closure of Lanterman Developmental Center (Lanterman).

The decision to recommend closure was not made lightly, as it will impact the many consumers served, and all of who have worked hard to make Lanterman a caring and positive place to live. Please be assured that the well-being of the residents and staff at Lanterman is our utmost concern and priority as we move forward. An individualized planning process will be used for each resident so that they are able to move to the most appropriate setting that meets their needs. The Department will also work with labor unions and develop strategies to assist the many experienced and dedicated employees in finding future employment opportunities.

Currently, the Department operates four large developmental centers and one small community facility serving approximately 2,145 consumers. Lanterman serves the smallest population and has the highest per-consumer cost among the developmental centers. It is one of the oldest facilities, and its infrastructure is in need of major repairs and capital improvements, all of which would require a significant investment of state funds over the next few years.

The Department is just beginning the multi-phase planning process as specified in Welfare and Institutions Code section 4474.1, for closure of a developmental center. This law requires that the Department prepare and submit a detailed plan to the Legislature by April 1, 2010, and receive approval prior to beginning closure activities in Fiscal Year 2010-2011. The Department 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 convene various stakeholder meetings and at least one public hearing will be held in the Pomona area to obtain input during development of the plan.

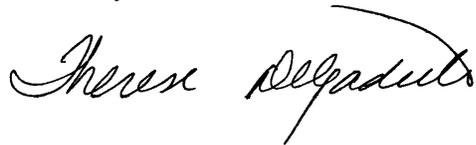
"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

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The closure recommendation is viewed as a necessary step in preserving the quality of services throughout the developmental center system. Although a specific closure date has not been set, it is anticipated that the closure process will take approximately two years. Consumers will not move until appropriate services are available either in the community or at another developmental center.

If you have any questions, please contact the Developmental Centers Division at (916) 654-1963. Thank you for your understanding and support during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terri Delgadillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

TERRI DELGADILLO
Director