

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 320, MS 3-9
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)
(916) 654-1958



April 10, 2013

Anna Agopian, Co-President
Dorothy Juarez-Fulco, Co-President
Parents Coordinating Council
P.O. Box 4408
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear Anna and Dorothy,

There are many people and processes involved in ensuring the health and safety of the residents of Lanterman Developmental Center (LDC) once they move into the community. As we have discussed with you and other families at previous Parents Coordinating Council (PCC) meetings, a number of processes have been put into place to ensure safe transitions for individuals who are moving from LDC. This letter acknowledges your request to capture those discussions in writing to enable distribution to PCC members that may not have been able to attend past meetings.

Every situation brought to the Department's attention is taken seriously. The Department, Regional Centers, Department of Social Services (DSS), Regional Project and providers maintain collaboration to review best practices and will continue to evaluate transition needs on an individualized basis. Safety of individuals in the community is a top priority.

We understand that questions remain regarding the death of an individual who transitioned to a residential home in the Inland Regional Center (IRC) catchment area from LDC. Due to privacy laws, many of the details about the consumer's condition and care cannot be released. A general overview is provided below:

- An IRC consumer moved from LDC into Chateau Battiste on August 16, 2012. This move entailed an extensive transition process tailored to address the consumer's individual needs. Unfortunately, despite receiving timely and intensive hospital care and treatment, the consumer passed away on September 16, 2012.
- Chateau Battiste is an Adult Residential Facility for Persons with Special Health Care Needs (ARFPSHN) licensed to provide 24-hour health care and intensive support services in a homelike setting for up to 5 adults with developmental disabilities. All licensing requirements, operational regulations and guidelines for the development and operation of the facility were, and continue to be, strictly followed. The home's staff includes: two (2) registered nurses (RN), eight (8) Licensed Vocational Nurses and six (6) additional caregivers.

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Follow up and oversight activities to the consumer's passing were conducted by a number of different entities. The Department's nurse conducted two on-site home visits, one of which occurred within three days of the consumer's death. To ensure enhanced oversight, IRC's nurse made daily visits to the home. Licensing staff conducted an on-site home review and the quality assurance staff from IRC has been conducting reviews of the home every two weeks. Although there were opportunities for improvement, after reviewing reports, responses and the coordination of efforts among all parties involved, it was determined that no corrective actions were needed. Both IRC and the Department continue to make announced and unannounced visits to the home on an ongoing basis, as needed.

Once individuals from LDC move into the community, state staff provides follow-up at 5 days, 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 6 months, and 12 months after the move, and onsite training to the service provider as needed to address the individual's service needs. When individuals from LDC move into an ARFPSHN home, they benefit from enhanced oversight over licensure requirements. As required by statute, Regional Center nurses visit 853 homes monthly and more often if needed. The Department conducts semi-annual reviews and the Regional Resource Development project maintains regular contact.

Additionally, the Department recently hired a full-time RN to oversee the ARFPSHN homes located in Southern California. Jaimie formerly worked at Fairview Developmental Center and started with the Department on April 2, 2013. She is responsible for monitoring regional center and service provider compliance with ARFPSHN statute and will conduct on-site visits to each licensed ARFPSHN. She is a liaison for the Department with Regional Centers, licensing staff, residential service providers and physicians related to consumer health care in the community. She will also be providing nursing consultation and technical assistance on issues related to the unique characteristics and health care needs of consumers living in ARFPSHN homes. Jaimie is based in Southern California, allowing for local access and immediate Department response to any ARFPSHN home.

In an abundance of caution, for oversight and to support consumers and providers, the Department remains deeply committed to working collaboratively with all interested parties and continuously reviewing current policies and practices to ensure safe, comfortable, satisfying community living arrangements for all residents who transition from LDC to the community. We appreciate the opportunity to partner with you and the other LDC families to ensure the best possible outcomes for all individuals moving from LDC.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

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If you have further questions, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of our executive team.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

NANCY BARGMANN
Deputy Director
Department of Developmental Services
Community Services Division

cc: Terri Delgadillo, DDS
Carol Fitzgibbons, Inland Regional Center
Patricia Flannery, DDS
Amy Wall, DDS
Cheryl Bright, Lanterman Developmental Center
Danette McCarns, Lanterman Regional Project

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