

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
95814

June 9, 2015

Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

We are writing to urge you to ensure that the input of families and the greater Sonoma County community are included in the Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) closure plan. The SDC residents, family members and local organizations have been working together for decades and have invaluable, real-world experience that we believe is crucial to this process. While we realize the plan itself is still in process, we respectfully request that you include the following tenants in your trailer bill:

- Ensuring that appropriate and individualized community services are in place before residents are moved from the SDC to community placements.
- Ensuring that critical services that exist at the Developmental Center currently are maintained after the closure of the SDC, including, specialty doctors and medical staff with experience treating this specialized population, specialty equipment such as shoes and wheelchairs, sedation dentistry, and other unique services.
- Consideration of the SDC's unique workforce assets, including helping employees transition to community jobs with equivalent compensation in order to provide services to former residents, and staffing new facilities developed on the SDC foot print.
- Ensuring that the crisis unit which was recently opened at the SDC continues to exist after closure.
- Consider placing a "Placement Center of Last Resort," facility on the existing footprint, providing a Northern California safety net for residents who are unable to transition to the community.
- Ensuring that the concerns and desires of residents and family members are clearly heard and carefully considered.
- Ensuring that the work of the Sonoma Developmental Center Coalition is an integral part of the closure planning process and that the recommendations are included in any plan.
- Ensuring that the work and recommendations of the Transform SDC Community Planning Project are considered and incorporated into any plan.
- Ensuring that the property will not be deemed surplus and that open space will be transferred to county or state parks.

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These are just a few of the important elements that are critical to make the SDC closure successful. Some of these stakeholder groups have timelines for study projects that extend past the Administration's Oct. 1, 2015 deadline, and we are asking you to consider and incorporate those recommendations as revisions to the plan.

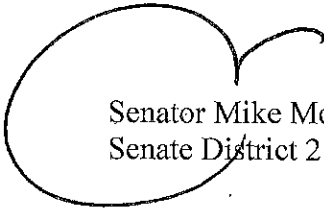
Finally, we appreciate your perspective that the 2018 closure date is a target and the acknowledgement that closure will not happen until every consumer has a safe and appropriate place to live outside the SDC.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you, your staff, and the stakeholders at the Sonoma Developmental Center to ensure that consumers are transitioned safely and that there is appropriate consideration of the community in deciding how to proceed with the facility after closure.

Sincerely,



Assemblymember Bill Dodd
Assembly District 4



Senator Mike McGuire
Senate District 2