

Sonoma Closure Comments

Hi Pat,

**Your comments have been received by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).
Your input on the future of the Sonoma Development Center is very important to us.**

Thank you for submitting your comments via the online form on the DDS website.

Below is a copy of your submission:

Your relationship with the Sonoma Development Center: Parent or relative of an individual at SDC

Your name: Pat Walter

Your comments:

Let's talk about the clients at SDC, the consumers of Department of Developmental Disabilities services. What a smart Public Relations move it was to turn people, the patients and residents of the Sonoma State Hospital into economic units: Into clients and consumers. It is hard to view economic units with social compassion and moral responsibility. The decision by the Governor to close SDC comes at a time when it is generally accepted that we have a "Health Care Crisis" and a "Housing Crisis". The Development Centers simply provide the most vulnerable of the developmentally and mentally disabled with health care and housing apart from the general economic competition for these resources. The Governor says that the long neglected and underfunded Regional Center System (RC) will provide for the fragile folks now at SDC. This is while the State has continued to keep the rates the RCs can pay for services so far the going market rate that too few stable homes or care providers exist for the less fragile people already in the RC System. Too many of the disabled being taken out of SDC will wind up in jails, emergency rooms and eventually morgues. These economic units will simply no longer need to be given California State Budget consideration.