

Developing Community Residential Options for Individuals with Developmental Disability and Severe Behavioral Challenges

Researcher:

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Abstract

California currently has three developmental centers that are open and serve approximately 1,200 individuals with developmental disabilities. Advocates for the disabled have been adamant and effective in promoting an agenda for the closure of the DCs in favor of integrating the residents of the DCs in the community. This advocacy is in concert with fiscal restraints dictating the establishment of less expensive long-term residential options for the individuals who continue to reside at the DCs, most of whom have extreme behavioral challenges. Last year, the Task Force on the Future of the Developmental Centers proposed several recommendations for community facilities that should be developed and in place prior to complete closure of the DCs. Currently, regional meetings are being held throughout the State of California to solicit input from various stakeholders on how these recommendations should be carried out. This poster will highlight the recommendations of the Task Force and the input that was recently gathered at a two-day meeting held in Fresno as to how the recommendations should be implemented. The presenter served as an appointee to the Task Force on the Future of the Developmental Centers in California and also participated in the two-day Fresno meeting.

Learning Objectives

As a result of having viewed this poster, attendees will be able to:

1. Describe the recommendations of the Task Force on the Future of Developmental Centers (DCs).
2. Describe the input of stakeholders at a regional 2-day meeting held in Fresno by the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) of the State of California.
3. Identify opportunities and barriers involved in the construction of new community facilities designed to serve as long-term residences for people with developmental disability and severe behavioral challenges currently residing in DCs.