

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

SOUTHGATE CENTER CLOSURE PLAN

IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 605(3) P.A. 296 OF 2000

INTRODUCTION

The Michigan Department of Community Health's Southgate Center for persons with developmental disabilities is planned for closure effective January 5, 2002.

The Southgate Center is currently certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly known as Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), under the Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) program. This certification indicates that quality services are provided and supports the operation with Medicaid (federal share) funding.

Public Act 296 of 2000, the Community Health Appropriations Act, Section 605(3), requires the department to submit a closure plan to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on mental health four months after the certification of closure required in section 19(6) of 1943 PA 240, MCL 38.19. This document is submitted to fulfill that requirement.

This plan outlines the process of

- assuring continuity of services for those persons requiring treatment
- maximizing employment and retirement opportunities for current employees
- protecting the physical assets owned by the state
- assuring that all legal requirements are met during the closure process

CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAM

Act 258 of 1974, referred to as the Mental Health Code, clearly sets forth the intent to treat Michigan citizens in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the needs and condition of each individual. In 1996, significant changes were made to the code to address standards and procedures for consumers of mental health services that require consideration and provision of appropriate alternatives to hospitalization after clinical evaluation by the community mental health services programs and included in individualized written plans of services developed in partnership with the recipient and appropriate parental/guardian involvement.

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Earlier this year, the department announced that due to declining numbers of patients, the Southgate Center for persons with developmental disabilities would be closed. This closure, supported by those who advocate on behalf of persons with developmental disabilities, is planned to occur on or before January 5, 2002.

The average daily census at the Southgate Center had steadily decreased since FY 1994. This trend for persons with developmental disabilities can be expected to continue as the community mental health services programs develop new and expanded community based services through the person-centered planning process.

The closure of the Southgate Center is the result of declining census, community service options, and administrative efficiency.

SERVICES FOR PERSONS REQUIRING CONTINUED TREATMENT

On May 1, 2001, there were 55 consumers receiving services at the Southgate Center. Upon completion of each individual's assessment of current presenting clinical condition to determine the most appropriate treatment plan leading to placement or transfer, and the completion of specific individualized plans for placement or transfer, approximately 56% (31) have been placed in an appropriate and adequate community setting. The remainder of the recipients requiring services in a state-operated facility, based upon their current clinical condition, have been transferred to the Mt. Pleasant Center, Caro Center, Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital, and the Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital.

Without exception, every resident released from the Southgate Center either went to an appropriate community placement or was transferred to another state-operated facility.

Staff from the Southgate Center and the department's central office met on a daily basis to assure an orderly transition process. The planning for the placement or transfer included the consumer, parents or guardians, center staff, staff from the community mental health services programs, and advocacy organizations. The community mental health services programs, in conjunction with center and department central office staff, developed transfer and placement packets for each individual.

PERSONNEL SUPPORT SERVICES

At the time of the closure announcement, the Southgate Center had 178 employees with an inpatient census of 55. The department undertook a concerted effort to insure that all employees were provided with all necessary information to make informed decisions about retirement options that exist under current legislation. Of the 178

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employees, up to 25 are eligible for retirement. The remaining employees would be eligible for recall under Department of Civil Service Rules and their respective collective bargaining unit contracts and agreements.

Seminars outlining retirement options, continuing state employment opportunities, employee preference rights, deferred compensation, social security, and employee benefits have been held. Support services including financial planning, job seeking skills, stress management and information about retraining programs are available.

In addition to the programs regarding retirement, the department has an extensive information program to assist employees in finding alternative employment. Resources, including office space, telephones, copying services, and job postings are available for those seeking other employment. The center has sponsored a Job Fair bringing outside employers in contact with current employees who seek work outside the Civil Service system.

The employees assistance and support programs will be ongoing throughout the closure period.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

The closure planning process includes securing patient records, personnel records, administrative records, equipment and supplies. A specific planned closure process has been initiated by the center to assure appropriate accountability and secure use of state assets. The plan details specific tasks, including the cancellation of all lease and rental agreements for services and purchase orders, an inventory of all equipment and furnishings, and the coordination of the transfer or disposition of items to other hospitals, centers, agencies, departments, salvage and disposal. The plan will be used to monitor the closure process to assure timely completion and protection of state assets. The process is directed and monitored through biweekly reports to the acting center director and meetings with the director of the Bureau of Hospitals and Centers Services to assure timely actions. The Department of Management and Budget is responsible for the disposition of the property and physical plant.

There is a requirement that the Auditor General perform a final audit of the center's operations, including the closure process, which has been standard procedure during all other hospital and center closures. Previous Auditor General findings at other closed state-operated facilities have revealed no material weaknesses in the closure process followed by the department.

SUMMARY

The declining census at the Southgate Center, community service options available to consumers of mental health services in Michigan, and administrative efficiency have resulted in the decision to close the center. Individualized planning and coordination efforts with the community mental health services programs have resulted in alternative community placements or transfers to the Mt. Pleasant Center, Caro Center, Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital and Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital, as clinically appropriate, prior to the planned closure date of January 5, 2002.

The Department of Community Health requires the development of individual written person-centered plans for each individual leaving a state hospital or center. The plan, developed by the community mental health services program, in conjunction with the center and department central office staff, is based on established protocols and in partnership with the recipient, parents/guardians, professionals, and rights advocacy organizations.

Programs to support and assist employees during the closure are in place and will continue throughout the process.

State interests in the physical plant, property, equipment and records are protected by well defined procedures, and the Office of the Auditor General will perform an audit of the closure process.