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DMR Community Services Expansion and Facilities Restructuring Plan

Consistent with Massachusetts' "Community First" long-term care policy, the successful appeal of the *Ricci* case, and the Governor's recently launched Olmstead Plan, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) are announcing a major expansion of DMR community living services and plans to close four of its existing six institutions over the next four years.

The plan will create real choice for many people with developmental disabilities for whom community living has never been an option, while also assuring an enduring institutional placement choice for those currently living in the developmental centers. Most importantly, the plan will adhere to the central *Ricci* case requirement that people be provided with equal or better care.

Currently, there are approximately 900 people living in the state's six developmental centers; Massachusetts has six of the seven remaining institutions in New England. Connecticut has the other.

Plan Summary

The restructuring plan anticipates a broad array of client support and program development efforts including:

- Significant expansion of community services for people with mental retardation who current live in developmental centers;
- Closure of four of six existing facilities, beginning with Fernald in FY10; closure of Monson, Templeton and Glavin occur the end of FY13;
- Provision of individual service planning and placement choices for residents and their families/guardians that permits placement in a state operated or vendor operated community residences, placement in Wrentham Developmental Center or, on a limited basis, into Hogan;
- Assurance of long-term institutional placement at Wrentham Developmental Center for those residents who choose to remain in an institutional setting. Wrentham was strategically selected to remain open over the long-term, because it is best situated to accommodate additional residents;

- Deferral of future planning regarding the Hogan Development Center until after completion of the current four-year plan;
- Development of new state and vendor operated community settings in areas proximate to the existing centers;
- Anticipated overall reduction of approximately 50% of the institutionalized population by the end of FY13 as a result of over 300 expected community placements, transfers to Wrentham Developmental Center and Hogan Regional Center;
- Projected investment of over \$40M to support the placement of individuals from the four DMR facilities into the community; a reduction of current institutional spending by approximately 50%; and
- Facilitation of new economic and strategic local development options through collaborative facility re-use planning.

Plan Development and Oversight Mechanisms

The Plan will have an ongoing collaborative development process as well as several oversight mechanisms to assure diverse input and transparency. These efforts will include:

- Immediate establishment of departmental and facility level planning groups involving consumers, family members, Center employees, advocacy and provider groups, as well other interested stakeholders;
- Plan review and advisory meetings with the newly re-established Governor's Commission on Mental Retardation; and
- Ongoing review of DMR program planning and practices by the Statewide Advisory Council.

Facility & Campus Re-use Planning

EOHHS, DMR and other agencies are committed to assuring the successful and collaborative planning of campus re-use. This will occur through the establishment of local Facility Re-use Planning Committees, led jointly by the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Division of Capital Asset Management, and including representation from DMR, legislators, local communities, and other appropriate stakeholders.

Workforce Strategies

The 1,596 direct care, operations, clinical and management staff at all of the Centers are critical to the ongoing quality of care and support residents receive and will be crucial partners in the transition process. Plans to support workers through this process include:

- Facility staff involvement in all phases of Center and departmental plan development and implementation;
- Creation of new job opportunities as downsizing occurs, through community residence development and placement options at other developmental centers, elsewhere in the Department, and across EOHHS and other state agencies;
- Provision of re-training and other job development and placement support;
- Development of appropriate incentives to assure adequate quality staffing throughout the closure process; and
- Commitment by the Department to minimizing the impact of facility reconfiguration through close collaboration with unions and other facility staff.