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**Report on the DDS Community Services**

**Expansion and Facilities Restructuring Plan**

**December 2019**

**Progress Report to the Legislature on the DDS Community Services**

**Expansion and Facilities Restructuring Plan**

Line-item language for the Department of Developmental Services (“DDS” or “the Department”) included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 General Appropriation Act required that: *5930-1000 “…and provided further, that not later than December 31, 2019, the department shall report to the house and senate committees on ways and means, on all efforts to comply with the decision in Olmstead v. L.C. ex rel. Zimring, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), the enhancement of care within available resources to clients served by the department and the steps taken to consolidate or close an ICF/IID.”*

**The Community Expansion and Facility Restructuring Plan**

On December 12, 2008, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services announced the Community Services Expansion and Facility Consolidation Plan. The Plan provides for the closing of four of the Department’s six facilities (Fernald, Monson, Templeton, and Glavin), the expansion of the community system to create community options for 316 people then living in developmental centers, and the assurance of a continuing intermediate care facility option for individuals with intellectual disabilities for Ricci class members in the closing facilities. The Plan also required that the Department work with the facility stakeholders and participate in the campus re-use committees.

The basic principles of the Plan included:

* Assuring choice and creating options within the community;
* Being consistent with the Community First Olmstead Plan;
* Supporting positive transition experiences for facility residents and their families and guardians;
* Achieving equal or better services upon transfer or placement of facility residents;
* Managing limited resources efficiently;
* Transitioning staff successfully to other employment options; and
* Assuring efficient and inclusive campus re-use process by working closely with officials from the Division of Capital Asset Maintenance and Management (DCAMM).

**DDS Overview**

The Department serves over 42,000 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing a variety of supports that enable people to pursue meaningful lives. Supports include residential services that may be provided in 24-hour group homes, in Shared Living situations where an individual is placed with a family, or in supported living where visiting staff provide flexible assistance as needed to individuals who live independently. The Department also provides an array of employment and day program supports which enable individuals to pursue a career or be involved with making productive use of their time, as well as a variety of flexible supports to over 21,000 individuals who live at home with their families including respite care, in home skills training, and support groups.

Services are arranged and coordinated through our 23 Area and 4 Regional Offices. Most services are provided through contracts with nonprofit agencies which are then monitored through a variety of quality management systems. Individuals who transition from DDS facilities to community settings have their cases managed by DDS staff in an Area Office. Each person is assigned a Service Coordinator who facilitates the transition to the community and ensures that all needed services are in place.  
  
An important aspect of the facility closure process includes efforts made by the Department to preserve the expertise and sense of commitment held by staff who work in facilities. To that end, the Department offered a variety of direct service and clinical job opportunities in the community based system. Some employees chose to retire from state service while others were laid off in situations where there was no state position available. In the instances when layoffs occurred, the Department provided a specialist to assist people in finding jobs in the private sector.

**Facility Consolidation/Closure Status:**

**Monson Developmental Center - Monson**

Monson Developmental Center (MDC) closed on August 30, 2012. As of September 27, 2012, DCAMM assumed responsibility for the Monson property. The Tufts Dental Clinic was relocated to a new site in West Springfield and opened on October 3, 2013. The Assistive Technology Center (ATC) was relocated to Worcester in March 2014.

**Glavin Regional Center - Shrewsbury**

The Glavin Regional Center (GRC) closed on June 18, 2013. DCAMM assumed responsibility shortly after and sold/leased most of the property to the city of Shrewsbury. DDS has retained some of the GRC management and clinical expertise to support the Department’s Community State Operated System and to strengthen the clinical services in our Central State Operated Residential System.

**Fernald Developmental Center - Waltham**

The Fernald Developmental Center (FDC) closed on November 13, 2014. DCAMM assumed responsibility shortly after and sold most of the property to the city of Waltham. **The Marquardt Nursing Facility** located on the campus of the Fernald Developmental Center had a capacity of twenty nine and served individuals with developmental disabilities and major medical issues. Individuals at Marquardt were offered placement in the community or a transfer to either Hogan Regional Center or Wrentham Developmental Center. Per our Ricci Consent Decree, all placements for Ricci class members are equal to or better than the services received at Marquardt. The Marquardt Facility closed in February 2017.

**Templeton Developmental Center - Templeton**

The Templeton Developmental Center (TDC) closed on February 3, 2015 and DCAMM assumed responsibility shortly after. On the TDC campus, three existing homes remained open as Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. These homes operate as community residential programs and provide residential opportunities for 18 total individuals who previously lived at TDC. These individuals are supported by 41 staff. The facility closure plan also included the construction of three duplexes that will support 24 people with approximately 100 staff. Those homes were completed in June 2014.The Department of Agriculture entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Commonwealth to lease the facility’s agricultural land and structures.

**Wrentham Developmental Center - Wrentham**

The Wrentham Developmental Center (WDC) census is 225 individuals supported by 861 full time equivalent positions (FTEs) to provide quality care and meet the needs of the individuals. The FTEs include residential staff working in the units, clinical staff, management, and transportation. The individuals live on the campus and access day services on the campus or in the community. The WDC census of 225 includes 9 admissions from the Marquardt Nursing Facility after its closure in 2017. In 2019, there were two admissions and zero placements back into the community. There were 24 deaths in 2019 due to an aging population.

**Hogan Regional Center - Danvers**

The Hogan Regional Center (HRC) census is 94 individuals, supported by 413 full time equivalent positions (FTEs) to provide quality care and meet the needs of the individuals. The FTEs include residential staff working in the units, clinical staff, management, and maintenance staff. The individuals live on the campus and access day services on the campus or in the community. The HRC census of 94 includes one admission from the Marquardt Nursing Facility after its closure in 2017. In 2019, there were no other admissions and no placements back into the community. There were five deaths in 2019 due to an aging population.