

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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**THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO CLOSE
LANTERMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 29, 2010

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SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Developmental Services has announced its intention to close the Lanterman Developmental Center in Pomona, California.

The Lanterman Developmental Center, located on 302 acres of state-owned land in Los Angeles County, is an 82-year-old facility that provides 24-hour residential care for individuals with developmental disabilities, including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, down syndrome, autism and other lifelong conditions. Lanterman at one time served more than 3,000 residents, and today there are fewer than 400 living at the facility, with the population declining 10 percent or more each year. Given the declining population and aging infrastructure, it is no longer economical to operate this facility. The Department will utilize a transition process that enables each resident to live in an environment appropriate for his or her needs consistent with the U.S. Supreme Court's *Olmstead* decision.

“The decision to recommend closure was not made lightly, as it will impact the residents served, their families, and the staff, all of whom have worked hard to make Lanterman Developmental Center a caring and positive place to live,” said Terri Delgadillo, Director of the Department of Developmental Services. “The well-being of all who live and work at Lanterman will be of our utmost concern and priority as we move forward.”

The Department will work closely with the local regional centers in defining and developing resources that will support the needs of consumers who are identified through the individualized planning process as appropriate for transition to the community.

"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"

“The Department appreciates the many experienced and dedicated employees who have worked to improve the lives of consumers served,” stated Director Delgadillo.

The Department will work with labor unions and develop strategies to assist employees in finding opportunities for future employment.

In identifying Lanterman for closure, the Department sets in motion a process defined in statute (Welfare and Institutions Code section 4474.1) for closing developmental centers that will include extensive community outreach, at least one public hearing and a detailed closure plan to the Legislature by April 1, 2010. Legislative approval must be received prior to beginning closure activities in fiscal year 2010-2011.

The Department of Developmental Services considers it essential that interested stakeholders have an opportunity to participate in planning for the closure, including consumers, their family members, employees, regional centers, advocates, service providers, public officials, representatives from the communities surrounding Lanterman, and other interested parties. The Department will be following this announcement with information on upcoming meetings and a hearing on the proposed closure of Lanterman.

For more information please contact Nancy Lungren, Assistant Director of Communications at DDS at 916-654-1820, (cell) 916-616-8265, or nancy.lungren@dds.ca.gov. Visit www.dds.ca.gov for information about programs and services.

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