

*PARENTS COORDINATING COUNCIL
AT LANTERMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER*

JULY - AUGUST 2012

CONTACT

THE NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Important Reminder: The PCC Office is staffed by dedicated volunteer family members who donate their time to support the Lanterman families. These volunteers take care of the many organizational and office duties, ranging from sending out the Newsletter to running the fundraiser, to responding to individual family needs and many more activities. The PCC Office is open most but not all days, and may be reached by phone (909-444-7572), fax (909-444-2047), email (ldcpc@gmail.com), or U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 4408, Diamond Bar, CA 91765.

LANTERMAN DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER POPULATION AS OF JUNE 17, 2012 — 257

Parents Coordinating Council Meeting

Date: Saturday, August 11, 2012

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Location: Lanterman Developmental Center
3530 Pomona Boulevard
George DeBell Auditorium**

INFORMATION PACKED MEETING

Patricia Flannery And Nancy Bargmann To Speak On The Community State Staff Program

Dr. Nguyen To Speak On Transition Of Medical Care To Community Based Providers

Patricia Flannery, Deputy Director of Developmental Centers, and Nancy Bargmann, Deputy Director of the Community Operations Division at the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) are set to speak on the Community State Staff Program. Also in attendance will be a representative from Norma Torres' office, Regional Centers and Service Providers.

Attend this meeting to show DDS, Regional Centers, and Service Providers how important state staff in community homes is to the parents and loved ones of Lanterman residents. **We need to make certain that our voices are heard and that Regional Centers and Service Providers hear our message - "WE WANT STATE STAFF."**

Dr. Hao Nguyen, Medical Director of Lanterman, will describe the activities of the medical staff as your family member's new medical team learns about their health history and medical needs. Danette McCarns, Director of the Regional Project responsible for coordinating transition activities, will also have information about moving from Lanterman health services to community ones.

Attend and ask all your questions about the Community State Staff Program and medical care transitions.

Update On The Plan For Closure Of Lanterman Developmental Center

The California Legislature requires DDS to submit an update twice a year on the “progress toward implementing the Plan for the Closure of Lanterman Developmental Center.” DDS has just submitted their fourth such update, covering 27 months of closure activities from January 1, 2010 to April 1, 2012. The following is a synopsis of major points in the Update, with additional information in italics.

Placement Numbers: At the start of the Closure on January 1, 2010, there were 401 residents being served at Lanterman. The population of Lanterman on May 30, 2012 was 263 – a drop of 138 residents. In the first 27 months of the closure from January 1, 2010 to April 1, 2012, **101 residents have left to live in community settings**. Seventeen of the residents left in the 4 months from December 1, 2011 – April 1, 2012. *(Of the thirty-seven other residents not included in this update, some have either moved to the community in the last 3 months, or passed away in the last 30 months.)* DDS and the RCs project that approximately 180 residents will be placed in community living arrangements in FY 2011-2012 through 2012-2013. *(This figure of 180 includes residents already placed – it does **not** mean that 180 additional residents will be placed in the next year.)*

Residential Placements: Of the 101 movers covered in this update, seven of these individuals were from the NF Program (Nursing, Program 1) and 94 were from the ICF (Programs 2 & 3). Three individuals are now living in the medical model homes (962/853 homes), 2 are living in Congregate Living Health Facilities, 3 have moved to an intermediate care facility (ICF), 4 to a Residential Care Facility for the Elderly, and 86 have moved to Adult Residential Facilities. All of these settings are licensed and monitored by the Department of Social Services or the Department of Public Health. Two Lanterman movers are now living in their own homes, under a Supported Living Program, and 1 resident has returned to their family home.

Lanterman Outpatient Clinic: The Outpatient Clinic is serving former LDC clients with a referral for services from their primary physician. As of April 1, 2012, 10 former LDC clients were seen for dental care, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, wheelchair engineering, and psychiatric evaluation.

Health Plans For Lanterman Movers: The closure plan relies on health care through the Managed Health Care Plans. Contracts for these plans are signed with health plans located in the central and southern California counties. As with the Agnews closure, there are Case Managers located at both Regional Centers and the Health Plans to coordinate individual health care needs. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) have been signed which clarify coverage, reimbursements, eligibility, enrollment, and the capacity to care for the unique medical needs. The MOUs also defines roles and responsibilities for Lanterman, the RCs, the Department of Health Care Services, and the health plans.

State Staff In The Community: As of April 1, 2012, no Lanterman employees are working in the community as part of the Community State Staff (CSS) program. The Department expects this to change as more community resources come on line. The contracts are signed with the bargaining units. A marketing plan is being developed to provide info, generate interest, and get employee feedback from employees, RCs, and providers. *(PCC information is that currently there are no LDC staff working in community through the CSS program. Some current and former LDC staff are working with some community providers as direct employees, either full time or part time.)*

The Lanterman Closure Update, including individual Regional Center information and activities is available at: <http://www.dds.ca.gov/LantermanNews/Index.cfm>.

Legislative Report

PCC members met with Assemblymember Norma Torres and her staff recently. She committed to work with the offices of Wes Chesbro and Jim Beall to coordinate a Stakeholders meeting at Lanterman in the Fall. She also agreed to coordinate a meeting with herself, Terri Delgadillo and families to discuss our ongoing concerns regarding the Lanterman closure.

Water Emergency at Lanterman

On Tuesday, July 3, 2012 as Lanterman residents began to celebrate Independence Day with a full schedule of parades, parties, and fireworks, it was discovered that the water supply was interrupted due to the shutdown of an off campus water valve. Thanks to Dorothy Diamond, who attended the early morning events, PCC was notified about the water shutdown and her concern regarding the health and safety of Lanterman residents. PCC immediately contacted Lanterman and DDS for detailed information on the safety of the residents. Lanterman staff promptly implemented emergency procedures and the planned activities were able to take place as scheduled.

In addition, the PCC requested a detailed report from Lanterman, DDS, City of Pomona and Assemblymember Norma Torres regarding the incident. In our request for information, the PCC stated that, **“The health and safety of the residents at Lanterman is the main responsibility of all involved. Lanterman is a medical facility and the health implications of a loss of water could prove catastrophic to the residents. We have heard numerous stories of how long there was a loss of water ranging from seven hours to over twelve hours.”**

Below is the response we received from Cheryl Bright, Executive Director of Lanterman Developmental Center.

The LDC administration initiated an Incident Command Center in the early morning of the incident and because of the very quick responses of LDC staff, the facility was able to ensure no negative impact to any clients during the water loss. Bottled water was immediately deployed to all residences, breakfast preparation and delivery was uninterrupted, and all steps were taken to ensure the safety and welfare of the individuals who reside at Lanterman. Regarding your Questions.

PCC: How was the reservoir able to be depleted without anyone being aware? Is there a system in place to know when the reservoir is low?

LDC Response -- In order to determine the level of water in the reservoir, a visual check is necessary. Absent a visual check, the first indication that the water level is low, would be a loss of water pressure, leading to the lack of water coming out of faucets and/or available for flushing toilets. The expectation at LDC is that a visual check be completed on a daily basis, however this was not what occurred and the reservoir was last checked visually on Saturday, June 30, 2012, rather than on Monday, July 2, 2012, as it should have been. In response, the LDC Administration has incorporated twice daily visual checks to be completed and that checks be recorded at the time of each check. Specific staff have been identified to conduct these checks and responsibility for back-up has also been specified. Additionally, a manager has been assigned responsibility for ensuring that checks take place and that the water level in the reservoir is at the appropriate level at all times.

PCC: When was the loss of water discovered? How was the loss discovered?

LDC Response -- During the early morning hours of July 3, 2012, a lack of water pressure was identified. Upon the arrival of Plant Operations Staff, it was determined that the lack of water pressure was a result of the absence of water flowing into the

Reservoir. LDC made contact with the Pomona Water District on July 3, 2012, to determine whether the water loss was isolated to Lanterman. The Pomona Water District staff went to the off campus site of the meter/back flow device, and discovered the vandalism.

PCC: What is the City of Pomona and Police Department doing about the vandalism?

LDC Response -- The vandalism was reported to the Pomona Police Department by Plant Operations staff. A Police Report from the Pomona Police Department should be available within approximately 10-14 days, following the incident. Lanterman has been in discussion with the Pomona Water District regarding the possible relocation of the meter/back flow valve and we will keep you updated once a final determination has been made. LDC Administration is committed and stands with you in assuring that there are reinforced monitoring efforts in place to ensure Client Safety and Protection from Harm.

PCC Meets with Lanterman Executive Team and DDS

PCC members met directly with the Lanterman Executive Team and DDS on July 23, 2012, with an open exchange on the following concerns:

- Lanterman Administration stated that they had not yet received the Pomona Police Department report on the water valve vandalism (see above report). PCC requested that Lanterman provide us with a copy of this report. Once we receive the Police report, we will provide an update in the next Newsletter.
- The Lanterman Outpatient Clinic has been opened for about a 1 year. There have been 13 former residents from 3 Regional Centers who have been served, primarily for dental work but also for wheelchair engineering, psychiatric consult, and medication management.
- Consolidation of Residences was discussed – Unit 304 is almost completely moved at this time, taking place over several weeks to accommodate the schedules and support needs of the residents. Although the details are not finalized, there will be an additional consolidation of a unit in the nursing program in the future. The PCC has urged Lanterman Administration to work closely with staff, residents, and families from those units receiving residents, besides those units moving, as they are also impacted by consolidation, and that communication on moving be given to families in writing so that it is easier to review. Families will be informed of a special consolidation meeting, where all aspects of the move can be discussed, including new roommates, dates of move, etc.
- Staffing issues were discussed – no layoffs are planned, the units are fully staffed, the use of overtime is decreased from last year, there is extra staffing available to assist with transition activities, and cross-training is ongoing to prepare staff to care for residents in other units.
- Residents' Benefit Fund – money that can be used for the education and entertainment of groups of Lanterman residents has several upcoming events planned, including outdoor movies, concerts, and community visits. The current and future use of the wheelchair swings, along with the carousel, were also discussed. These were gifts from the PCC to the residents of Lanterman. Rustic Camp, another donation from the PCC families, will move some of its animals to Fairview Developmental Center in the next few months. Lanterman is trying to arrange for a community horse-back riding for the disabled program to adopt the horses. Rustic Camp will remain open with some weekend days reserved for Lanterman residents and their families.

Summary Community State Staff Meeting With DDS and Regional Centers

On July 16, 2012, PCC Board members met with Patricia Flannery, Nancy Bargmann, Keith Penman, and George Stevens to discuss the status of the Community State Staff Program. **To date, there have been no state staff hired by any vendor.** The position taken by Keith Penman of San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center is that the program is confusing to vendors. Patricia Flannery committed to set up meetings with service providers in the next four to six weeks to educate them on how the state staff program works. The invitation to service providers will be made through the Regional Centers.

Funding for the Community State Staff Program was clarified by Nancy Bargmann, as she described the role of the Regional Centers and service providers in including state staff costs in their negotiated rates and contracts. Secondly, for an individual, a health and safety waiver can be requested for additional funds for services (the additional funds can include the need for state staff as evaluated by the ID team). Comments from service providers include their desire to hire state staff, although many providers state that they will only hire state staff after they have left state employment.

In the next few weeks Anna and Dorothy are set to meet with the manager of the state staff program that was established for Agnews Developmental Center.

Summertime on the Lanterman Campus

With the warmer weather now here, Lanterman residents and their families can take advantage of some very lovely outdoor areas in which to visit, picnic, or sit quietly and enjoy. These include:

- **Rustic Camp** is a beautiful and cool setting, popular for large unit events and small family gatherings, along with those of some community organizations. Lanterman Administration will soon have details available about a new Rustic Camp schedule that reserves more time specifically for Lanterman residents.
- **Richardson Park** rose garden and grounds have recently been cleaned up making it a very attractive corner of the campus.
- **TK's Oasis** patio garden brings nature into a comfortable and cool setting. Lanterman Administration will soon share details on upcoming activities and additional nature elements at TK's Oasis.

Save the Date!

Next PCC General Meeting set for September 15, 2012.

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The PCC welcomes interested residents, families and Lanterman staff to attend all meetings. Contact the PCC office for information on meeting dates and times.

The Contact, PCC Post, and the Website -- The Parents Coordinating Council communicates regularly with all Lanterman families and others who have shared their contact information with us, regardless of whether or not they are PCC members. We honor the privacy of all families and do not share any contact information given to us. The Communication Committee greatly appreciates everyone who helps us with the following methods we use to distribute information:

The PCC POST is a one-page emailed update sent out on most Fridays that gives condensed information on what has happened in the past week and what is coming up. This format allows us to get information out on a regular (and inexpensive) basis without waiting for the Contact to be published. People who do not have email or who do not get the **PCC POST** by email receive the past issues with their mailed **Contact**.

The Contact newsletter is mailed every 4 to 6 weeks. It contains articles and information on prior and upcoming meetings, important issues facing Lanterman, and updates on resident activities. It is designed to help family members who may not be able to visit Lanterman or attend meetings regularly keep in touch with what is going on.

www.lantermanpcc.org is our website address, where past issues of the Contact and the PCC POST may be found, along with meeting minutes, family resources, important links, newspaper articles, etc.

Parents Coordinating Council & Friends at Lanterman Developmental Center

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The PCC newsletter is meant to educate families. All articles herein are the opinion of the authors.**