



Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Michelle R.B. Saddler, Secretary

Office of the Secretary
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607
100 South Grand Avenue East • Springfield, Illinois 62762

January 19, 2012



Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg, Co-Chair
Representative Patti Bellock, Co-Chair
Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
703 Stratton Office Building
Springfield, IL 62706

Re: Community Care Transition and Closure of the Jacksonville Developmental Center

Dear Senator Schoenberg and Representative Bellock:

As you know, on September 8, 2011, the Illinois Department of Human Services ("DHS") advised the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the "Commission") of the proposed closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center. Together, the Commission and DHS completed the statutory steps of the facility closure process under the State Facilities Closure Act, 30 ILCS 608/5-1 *et seq.* As the final step of that statutory process, on November 11, 2011, the Commission issued an Advisory Opinion regarding the closure of the facility.

DHS has carefully considered the Commission's Advisory Opinion along with the public testimony and comments from individual Commission members at the October 24, 2011 hearing and the November 10, 2011 meeting. Likewise, the Quinn Administration worked with the General Assembly this fall, receiving their valuable feedback regarding the reallocation of appropriations. Based on those negotiations and the reallocated appropriations, the Administration agreed to not close any facilities in Fiscal Year 2012 and also agreed to continue the effort to rebalance spending on State-operated facilities. The Quinn Administration received advice from a legislative working group, appointed by the four Leaders of the General Assembly, regarding the Administration's plan to transition people with developmental disabilities and mental illness to community care, as well as in developing appropriate criteria to guide facility closure issues. The legislative working group reviewed proposed criteria and suggested additional criteria, which were accepted.

Taking into account the feedback from the Commission and the General Assembly, DHS has postponed the closure of Jacksonville Developmental Center to September 30, 2012. The later closure date, based on feedback from the Commission and the General Assembly, (i) permits additional time for the orderly and responsible transition of residents, (ii) allows for the further thoughtful development of person-centered care plans, and (iii) better ensures the safety of all residents. Likewise, it provides additional time for the State to explore potential alternative uses for the property.

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We thank the Commission for the role it has played in the facility closure process, for its meaningful feedback, and for its roadmap to a more thoughtful and responsible closure.

Very truly yours,



Michelle R.B. Saddler
Secretary



Mary-Lisa Sullivan
General Counsel

cc: Dan Long, Executive Director, Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Kevin Casey, Director, Division of Developmental Disabilities