



Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Michelle R.B. Saddler, Secretary

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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: Closure of the Tinley Park Mental Health 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 Tinley Park Mental Health 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 November 1, 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 individuals 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 the Administration accepted.

Taking into account the feedback from the Commission and the General Assembly, DHS has postponed the closure of Tinley Park Mental Health Center to July 2012. The later closure date, based on feedback from the Commission and the General Assembly, permits additional time to work with local hospitals and community providers on the orderly and responsible development of safe and effective treatment for individuals with mental illness. Likewise, it provides additional time for the State to explore potential alternative private or public 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  
Lorrie Rickman Jones, Director, Division of Mental Health