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State of Illinois
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENT
FORECASTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

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October 31, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Patrick Quinn, Governor, State of Illinois
The Honorable John Cullerton, President of the Senate
The Honorable Michael Madigan, Speaker of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Christine Radogno, Minority Leader of the Senate
The Honorable Tom Cross, Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
The Honorable Jesse White, Secretary of State
Michelle R. B. Saddler, Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services

RE: Advisory Opinion of the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability
Regarding the Closure of the Jack Mabley Developmental Center

The Commission met on Thursday, October 27, 2011 at 8:00 am to take final action on the proposed closure of the Jack Mabley Developmental Center (Mabley) and to accept or reject the recommendation for closure submitted by the Department of Human Services for that facility. The Commission, on a vote of 8-3, rejected the recommendation by the Department of Human Services to close the Jack Mabley Developmental Center in Dixon, Illinois. A copy of the motion to reject the recommendation for closure and the vote tally is attached.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Department of Human Services officially notified the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (the Commission) of the intent to close the Jack Mabley Developmental Center (Mabley) on September 8, 2011. According to the State Facilities Closure Act (30 ILCS 608/5-10): "In the case of a proposed closure of: (i) a prison, youth center, work camp or work release center operated by the Department of Corrections; (ii) a school, mental health center, or center for the developmentally disabled operated by the Department of Human Services; or (iii) a residential facility operated by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, the Commission must require the executive branch officers to file a recommendation for closure. The recommendation must be filed within 30 days after the Commission delivers the request for recommendation to the State executive branch officer."

The Commission requested the required recommendation on September 14, 2011. The Department of Human Services submitted the recommendation for closure to the Commission on September 23, 2011. Following the State Facility Closure Act requirements for conducting a public hearing within 35 days after the filing of the recommendation and no more than 25 miles from the facility, the Commission conducted a public hearing regarding the closure of the Mabley Developmental Center on October 17, 2011 at 5:00 P.M. at the Dixon Theatre in Dixon, Illinois.

The Jack Mabley Developmental Center operates in Dixon, Illinois and serves 91 individuals with developmental disabilities according to the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS indicated that 80 of these individuals would be eventually moved to "licensed or certified community-based services" with the remaining individuals being transferred to other state institutions.

Approximately 164 staff members currently work at the Mabley Developmental Center. DHS has not stated in their communications with the Commission what the disposition of these staff members will be, claiming that such information is impossible to know until the final closure agreement is negotiated with AFSCME. DHS also notes that among other unions that will be impacted are the Illinois Nurses Association, the Teamsters and various Trade Unions. The Department has estimated the cost of operating the Mabley Developmental Center at \$10.7 million annually. However, with Social Security and Federal reimbursements taken into account, only approximately \$4 million in state funding is needed to operate the Mabley Center. As a result of estimated moving costs from the Department, the total savings realized from closing the Mabley Center would amount to approximately \$1.1 million.

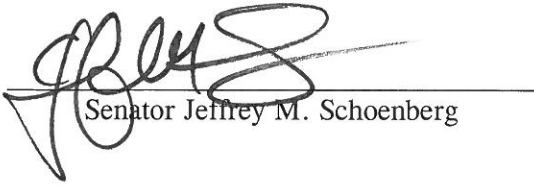
DHS has provided the Commission with an economic impact study conducted by the University of Illinois regarding the potential economic/financial impact of the Mabley Center closing. According to this study, the Mabley Center employs 174 individuals directly, but causes (either indirectly or through induction) an additional 70 jobs within the area for a total of 244 jobs. These additional positions are in many cases subsidiary positions and complementary positions that have grown to accommodate the needs of the Mabley Center and their employees. Also of interest to the Commission is the information contained within the study regarding tax revenues to the State. The study estimates that the Mabley Center is responsible for approximately \$175,000 in state sales tax revenues and \$94,000 in state income tax revenues. According to the study, the closing of the Mabley Center will have additional components that are not measured, including effects on school enrollment/property taxation/etc.

It was noted by the Commission that the Mabley Center is not a true institutional model in the classic sense of a developmental center. At the Mabley facility, individuals are housed in group homes, which is much closer to a community-based setting than at other facilities. In addition, Mabley is a newer facility in excellent condition. Some Commission members noted that labor costs seemed to be driving up the overall facility cost to a certain degree, and suggested the possibility of contracting out certain labor components in an effort to save money. Also of concern to certain Commission members was the lack of a detailed plan for individuals currently residing at the Mabley Center. Given the limited funding available to community-based groups and the very short timeframe for closure (three months), some Commission members expressed concern about the inability of the Department of Human Services to ensure a seamless transition. During testimony, Kevin Casey, the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities indicated that it would take a minimum of one year to close a developmental center, and more likely, it would take two years.

Some Commission members noted that the current status quo could not be feasibly maintained into the future without changes, including the proposed transitioning of individuals from institutional-based settings into a more community-based framework.

Taking these concerns and suggestions in mind and after hearing testimony from the Department of Human Services and numerous other individuals and organizations, the majority of the Commission (on an 8-3 vote) voted to reject the Department of Human Services recommendation to close the Jack Mabley Developmental Center.

Sincerely,



Senator Jeffrey M. Schoenberg



Representative Patricia R. Bellock

JMS/PRB:dkb
S291 Jack Mabley

MOTION 4 VOTE

JACK MABLEY DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 27, 2011 - 8:00 a.m.

Room 400, Capitol Building

Commission Member	YES	NO
Representative Patricia Bellock (R)		✓
Senator Michael Frerichs (D)	✓	
Representative Kevin McCarthy (D)		
Senator Matt Murphy (R)		✓
Representative Elaine Nekritz (D)	✓	
Representative Raymond Poe (R)		✓
Representative Al Riley (D)		✓
Senator Suzi Schmidt (R)		✓
Senator Jeffrey Schoenberg (D)		✓
Senator David Syverson (R)		✓
Senator Donne Trotter (D)	✓	
Representative Michael Tryon (R)		✓
VOTE: MOTION 4	3	8

MOTION: NEKRITZ SECOND MOTION: TROTTER

→ MOTION TO RECOMMEND CLOSURE