



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

November 22, 2017

Representative Laurie Jenkins, Co-Chair
Senator Randi Becker, Co-Chair
Select Committee on Quality Improvement in State Hospitals (SCQISH)
P.O. Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Honorable Representative Jenkins, Senator Becker and Members of the SCQISH Committee,

On October 30, 2017, the DSHS Aging and Long-Term Support Administration (ALTSA) presented some data to the committee on the number of individual transitions from our state hospitals into the community. We want to provide some follow-up information and clarification as to the average number of individuals ALTSA has assisted in the past and the number of additional individuals that we will assist in order to meet the 138 called out in the biennial budget.

Prior to March 2016, the average number of transitions per month from Western State Hospital (WSH) to ALTSA-funded services was 5.5 and from Eastern State Hospital (ESH), 6.7. With additional resources provided through ESSB 6656 and the Governor's Innovation Fund, the averages increased to 10.75 from WSH and 8 from ESH between April 2016 and June 2017. With the additional investments in the biennial budget, we will need to increase monthly average transitions by 7.6 in order to be above the baseline goal. We anticipate that transition numbers will fluctuate across months due to the ebb and flow of developing additional capacity in the community, such as two new Enhanced Services Facilities (ESF) opening in 2018, but our work plan is designed to achieve our biennial goal.

Current key work plan actions include the following:

- Beginning in January 2018, transition an additional 7.67 individuals on average per month to achieve the 138. This number could decrease if we exceed the baseline monthly average for November and/or December 2017.
- A majority of dedicated staff funded in the biennial budget have been hired; the remainder will be hired by the end of December 2017.
- Revise protocols and agreements with WSH by December 29, 2017.
- New Spokane ESF is scheduled to open at end of CY 2017; the capacity is 16 beds.
- New Everett ESF broke ground this month and is projected to open in mid-to-late CY 2018; the capacity will be 16 beds.
- Implement new CARE assessment features and reports for improved data and outcome tracking, scheduled to occur in December 2017.

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- Continued development of new resources to serve individuals relocating/diverting from state hospitals.
- RFI released in early December to identify interested facilities among assisted living and nursing facility providers in creating specialized resources for populations relocating/diverting from state hospitals. Target populations are: 1) the geriatric population with dementia or dementia and persistent mental health diagnosis, unmet personal care need, and significant behavior support needs; 2) individuals with neurological deficits, significant behavior support needs, and an unmet need for personal care assistance; 3) younger individuals with severe/persistent mental illness, significant behavior support needs, an unmet need for personal care assistance and may also experience substance use disorder. The RFI also identifies the need for additional ESFs.

We welcome additional questions and plan to report on our progress through quarterly email updates to the committee.

Sincerely,



Bill Moss
Assistant Secretary

DSHS: *Transforming Lives*

Cc: SCQISH Committee Members
Cheryl Strange, Secretary, Department of Social and Health Services
Jason McGill, Health Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
Sharon Swanson, Director, DSHS Office of Policy and External Relations