

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

1600 NINTH STREET, Room 240, MS 2-13  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TDD 654-2054 (For the Hearing Impaired)  
(916) 654-1897



June 21, 2004

Ms. Marion Lieberman, President  
California Association for the Retarded  
2000 "O" Street, Suite #250  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Ms. Lieberman:

This is in response to your letter dated April 14, 2004, in which you express concern regarding "... the implementation of the transition of certain developmental center clients into the community by your staff and the staff of Inland Regional Center and the issues this transition raises for the developmental disabilities service system." In response to your concerns I offer the following:

**Inappropriate Selection of Consumers for Community Transition**

As you are aware, regional centers must address the diverse needs of what can be, at times, a difficult to serve population. The goal of the Community Placement Plan (CPP) is to enhance the capacity of the local community service delivery system so that individuals with developmental disabilities are afforded the opportunity to live in the least restrictive living arrangement appropriate to their needs. The CPP is designed to allow regional centers the local flexibility needed to develop and provide the necessary community services and supports based on a comprehensive assessment so that individuals can live successfully in their community pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 4418.25 and 4418.3. The facility discussed in your letter was not "locked" but did provide for a very rich staffing ratio to ensure an appropriate level of supervision.

**Lack of Community Notification and Involvement**

The local regional center did, in fact, share their intentions for this facility. Developing new facilities in neighborhoods has often triggered community fears about living close to a home with individuals who have developmental disabilities. This is an issue that will not go away. Furthermore, regional centers are increasingly being ordered by the courts to find homes for consumers whose criminal activity may be of a concern but whom the courts do not feel should remain in jail or prison. We understand that the reputation of our clientele may be effected as we serve and place consumers with criminal backgrounds.

**"Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices"**

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### **Lack of Parity in Funding for Groups of Consumers**

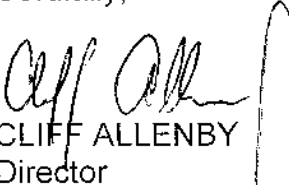
CPP budget requests are developed by each regional center and approved by the Department of Developmental Services (Department) in accordance with Welfare and Institutions Code Section 4418.25. CPP budgets not only reflect the funding needed to move an individual from the developmental center into the community but also deflect individuals currently living in the community from admission to the developmental center. All services provided are based upon needs identified during person-centered planning meetings whether or not the individual is coming from a developmental center or already living in the community.

### **Public Misperceptions Undermine State's Ability to Adequately Fund Existing Community Providers**

The Department's ability to adequately fund existing community providers continues to be more of a reflection of the State's financial circumstances rather than public misperceptions. The overarching public policy issue continues to be that of balancing the rights of individuals with special needs to live and participate in the community with the rights of the communities and individuals to protect the welfare of their families and neighborhoods. This is a very difficult issue. To address community concerns, regional centers have been and continue to facilitate forums for open dialogue amongst community representatives in which misperceptions can be addressed and a constructive exchange of information provided.

I hope you find this response helpful as your organization continues its efforts to improve the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. Please contact Shelton Dent at (916) 654-2732 if you have any questions.

Cordially,

  
CLIFF ALLENBY  
Director