

INTRA-AGENCY ADVISORY, CONSULTATIVE, DELIBERATIVE, CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

**ADVISORY, CONSULTATIVE, DELIBERATIVE, CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL
Governor's Task Force on the Closure of State Developmental Centers
2-13-2012 Meeting Minutes
Adopted by the Committee 2-27-2012**

The first meeting of the Task Force was convened on Monday, February 13, 2012 at 9:45 a.m.

Task Force Members Present:

Allison Murphy, Senate Appointee
Colin Newman, Governor's Appointee
Nancy Thaler, Governor's Appointee

Craig Domalewski, Governor's Appointee
Valessa Goehring, Assembly Appointee

Introduction: DHS Commissioner Velez welcomed those in attendance and led introductions. Commissioner Velez thanked the Task Force members for their service and announced that Barbara Booth, of the DDD Office of Program Support, will be the staff liaison for the Task Force gathering requested materials and taking minutes.

Open Public Meetings Act: Elena Flynn, DHS Legal Director, explained that the Task Force will be required to follow the Open Public Meetings Act and reviewed the requirements with the group.

Committee Organization: Colin Newman nominated Craig Domalewski as Chairperson. Valessa Goehring seconded the motion. The members unanimously voted for Craig Domalewski as the Chairperson and he accepted the nomination. Valessa Goehring nominated Allison Murphy as Vice-Chairperson. Nancy Thaler seconded the motion. The members unanimously voted for Allison Murphy as Vice-Chairperson and she accepted the nomination.

Documents Provided: Task Force members were provided two documents:
- Overview of New Jersey's Developmental Centers (DCs)
- Economic Forecast for counties where DCs are located

Discussion: Factors from the legislation to be considered by the Task Force were reviewed.

Task Force members unanimously agreed to make every effort to complete their review and develop recommendations in 90 days.

Task Force members agreed that they should have the opportunity to visit all seven DCs. (See attached schedule for dates and times.)

- The Task Force requested legal advice on whether visits to the DCs would be permitted under the Open Public Meetings Act, and how such visits may be conducted.

-A protocol was requested to ensure tours are consistent at each DC.

-A schedule for DC tours was developed and will include at least one visit to a community residence.

Senator Van Drew arrived and gave a brief presentation on the Task Force's charge.

**Documents
Requested:**

Department of Health Survey results for the last three years where an Immediate Jeopardy was declared or a DC was found to be out of Substantial compliance with a Condition of Participation.

Summary of United States Department of Justice involvement at New Lisbon DC and Woodbridge DC.

Substantiated incidents of abuse, neglect and exploitation per capita at each DC since January 1, 2011.

Geographic Preference for individuals residing in DCs.

The number of Bureau of Guardianship Services guardians and private guardians at each DC.

For the last 2 years by DC:

- the number of admissions from the community;
- the number of discharges to the community;
- the number of transfers from one DC to another DC.

The number of individuals at each DC who are unable to communicate either verbally or via gesture.

It was requested by the Task Force that these documents be provided prior to the next meeting.

**Meeting
Schedule:**

Dates were set for the next two meetings.

Task Force members agreed that targeted constituent groups will be invited to future meetings to provide public testimony. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chairperson Domalewski motioned to adjourn the meeting. Allison Murphy seconded the motion. The members unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Task Force will take place on February 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at Capital Place One.

Submitted By:

Barbara Booth, DDD Office of Program Support