



August 17, 2021

Ernie Cruz
Assistant Deputy Director
Office of Community Operations
Department of Developmental Services
1215 O Street, MS 8-20
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Caseload Plan of Correction

Dear Mr. Cruz,

This is in response to the DDS letter dated July 2, 2021 concerning Lanterman Regional Center's caseload ratio data. We met four of six categories: Under 3 Years (1:62), Movers Between 12 and 24 Months (1:45), Movers within Last 12 Months (1:45) and Complex Needs (1:25). We did not meet the caseload ratio for Medicaid Waiver (1:62) or for the Over 3 year Non-Waiver, Non-Movers (1:66). DDS determined that the **Movers within the Last 12 Months** category does not apply to Lanterman.

Seeking input from our community, we have sent a draft of Lanterman's proposed plan via an e-Bulletin. We have also posted the draft plan of correction on our website and emailed it to the local representative from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, the Office of Client's Rights and to our Employee Union, United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America, Local 1018. We will also present the draft plan to the Board's Programs and Services Committee on September 8th.

This has been a challenging year with the pandemic compounding our ability to predict caseload growth and, as you are aware, this year's State budget did not adequately address the almost 900 service coordinators needed for California to meet all of its mandated caseload ratios. Lanterman Regional Center would need to hire an additional 19 service coordinators (as well as two managers and two clerical support positions, for a total of 23 positions) to be fully compliant. The core staffing formula allocates an average of \$35,000 per service coordinator position; yet the midpoint of our salary range is \$57,756. In real costs, Lanterman would need an annual infusion of \$1.7 million for salaries and benefits for the 23 positions. We anxiously await the FY 22-23 budget in which the legislature has committed to fund service coordinator positions.

Since the survey in March, we have authorized three new service coordinator positions and we are awaiting our Operations allocation for FY 21-22, so as to determine our ability to add more. Once we have thoroughly reviewed our allocation; we will work with our Board of Directors

Ernie Cruz
Assistant Deputy Director
August 17, 2021
Page two

to authorize as many additional service coordinator positions as fiscally prudent to do, with priority given to those areas in which we did not meet the required ratios.

Please call if you have questions, (213) 252-4900.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melinda Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Melinda" and last name "Sullivan" clearly distinguishable.

Melinda Sullivan
Executive Director

Enc: E-bulletin and website copies