



January 19, 2009

To: Families/Guardians of people being served in the Skilled Nursing Facility
And Interested Parties

From: Jeff Nichols, CEO
Mesa Developmental Services

RE: Update on "A Home of Their Own" efforts

MDS staff members have been extremely busy on numerous fronts regarding this effort. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide you updates on a variety of various aspects of the process. I also want to thank you for choosing MDS to provide care and support to your family member and loved one. I take this responsibility very seriously and will do our utmost to ensure a safe and positive transition for every person moving to MDS' care. We look forward to having all of you join the MDS family.

Transitional meetings involving MDS staff and Regional Center staff have begun. Many individual meetings involving each family or guardian have already been scheduled between now and early March. These meetings will be a great opportunity for families and guardians to discuss their needs and concerns and to let MDS staff know how best to serve their loved one. If you haven't yet been notified of an individual meeting, you will be contacted in the coming days/weeks. An MDS Case Manager has been assigned to all of the folks transitioning. The Case Manager will also be contacting you personally in the coming couple weeks to assist in coordinating the transition.

Construction is well underway for all three homes. We currently have the foundation completed and framing nearly completed on the home on Victoria Dr. The foundation is also completed on Olson Ave. and the framing will be completed by the time you read this. The foundation for the 29 ½ Road home is completed and framing will begin later this week.

A Home of Their Own Transition Update

Contractors are working 6 and 7 days a week to ensure the projects are completed as soon as possible. MDS residential staff members have been in contact with parents and guardians about which home will be the best fit for each person. Staff members will also be coordinating with family and guardians to ensure everyone is given the opportunity to personalize their rooms with options for paint, decorating, flooring, etc.

Kim Furr (Occupational Therapist) has been actively involved during the building planning and construction process to ensure the homes will be fully accessible and appropriately equipped with the latest in therapy tubs and equipment, lift systems and roll-in showers, in addition to ensuring there is adequate space for all of the individuals that will live in the homes.

I have also been actively working with various medical professionals from the Regional Center and the community as a whole to ensure the medical needs of the folks moving out of the Regional Center can be appropriately met using community medical resources. Dr. Fowler, Dr. Shenk and Dr. Dyrud have been extremely helpful and active in assisting and guiding this process. We are collectively and individually engaging local physicians and medical facilities to ensure appropriate medical care and facilities are available. MDS has already hired Kim Noblitt, RN – a long time employee of the Regional Center to coordinate the transition process from a nursing care perspective. MDS has also been successful in adding OT (therapy) staff to ensure we are adequately prepared for the therapy needs of folks as well.

In general MDS has begun the process of hiring and training Direct Support Professionals to staff the various homes as well. I anticipate having the vast majority of staff on board and fully trained in advance of the actual transition of folks to allow time for shadowing with current Regional Center staff to ensure the smoothest possible transition. I recently met with Chris Mueller, Director of the Regional Center, and will continue to closely coordinate the transition with him and his staff. I would also encourage you to visit with any current or former Regional Center staff that have already been laid off or may be laid off as part of the Skilled Nursing Facility closure to apply for a position at MDS. A group of 16 direct support staff began New Employee Orientation this week. When that group completes the training, we will have another group of 15-16 ready to begin training.

Finally, all of us at MDS realize this is an enormous, life changing event for the families, guardians and people involved in this process. We hope you will keep the lines of communication open and let us know if there is something we perhaps have overlooked, other questions I can answer or additional information you need or want. Along with the efforts of the Regional Center staff, MDS staff members have invested hundreds of collective hours of work behind the scenes to prepare for this process and in an attempt to ensure a smooth transition, but even that effort we can't guarantee success, so we look forward to working with all of you more closely to make this process a positive one for all of the folks involved.

Thanks again for choosing MDS and I look forward to meeting all of you and working with you more in the future.

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Please let any of us know if you have any questions. In addition, please contact Marilee Langfitt at 970-256-8640 if you have any fundraising ideas, contacts or can assist in other ways.