

SOUTH DAKOTA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER WORK GROUP

The South Dakota Developmental Center Work Group consists of seven members; four legislators and three representing Community Support Providers (CSPs).

Study Assignment

The work group was formed as a result of the Department of Human Services agency review during the 2011 interim. The mission of the work group is for further analysis to position the South Dakota Developmental Center in Redfield for its optimal use of campus and resources to meet the needs of the citizens of South Dakota.

Summary of Interim

The South Dakota Developmental Center (SDDC) Interim Work Group held its meeting on October 25, 2012. Laurie Gill, Secretary of the Department of Human Services, gave a brief overview of the history of the SDDC. Ted Williams, Director of the SDDC, discussed the mission and programs at the facility. The facility strives to provide individualized treatment services and supports to people with developmental disabilities and challenging behaviors only when needed services are not available in a community setting. The FY13 budget is \$24,446,398 (Federal Funds - \$13,347,809; General Funds - \$10,106,444; and Other Funds - \$992,145). The SDDC has 395.6 FTE and a 16.4% employee turnover rate. The average population of the facility in FY12 was 139 people. The population has been trending downward since its peak in 1963 of 1,199 people. It is no longer the norm for people to come to the SDDC to live out their lives and the current average length of stay is 7.1 years.

There are three programs at the facility offering supports to people depending on their needs and cognitive functioning. Program One has a capacity of 60 men and provides structured living areas and a transitional living area. Program Two is the Turtle Creek Youth Program which provides structured living and transitional living for up to 30 male and 10 female adolescents. The Program Three "Cottages" has capacity to serve 50 people (men and women) and currently has 42 people. The services provided by these programs include: mental health services; health care services; dietary services; vocational training; and therapeutic recreational services.

The department provided very detailed information regarding all of the buildings and property of the SDDC facility. The committee heard that one dorm was closed on October 1st. Two parcels of land are currently being leased for \$1,198 and the SDDC received \$136,432 from the School and Public Lands Permanent Trust Fund in FY12. There are no current plans to build or make renovations to any facilities. The plant operations budget for the upkeep of the property for FY13 is \$2,287,097 of which \$452,919 is utility costs.

There is a close relationship with the City of Redfield and Spink County as well as the

School District. The Committee heard public testimony from the Mayor of Redfield, Spink County Commissioner and Executive Director of Grow Spink, Spink County Sheriff, and Absolutely Aberdeen and Prairie Vision. All those testifying spoke favorably of the SDDC and encouraged continued communication and cooperation.

Secretary Gill discussed the “Rebalancing Initiative” that the department has been working on for over a year under her leadership. She indicated the SDDC is committed to transitioning people into community-based settings while providing high levels of support to people remaining at SDDC. She outlined the following topics to the committee:

GOAL: Reduce population in order to serve people with available qualified employees.

CHALLENGES: 1) Maintaining adequate staffing at SDDC. Efforts have been made in the past decade to change salary structure and position classifications and enhance recruitment strategies, but they continue to struggle with filling direct support positions. 2) Building community capacity and supports. 3) Establishing a structure/system to manage a more challenging population in the community.

ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES: 1) Through attrition, SDDC will be able to reduce the number of FTE required for direct support positions. 2) The developmental disability service delivery system will be able to support people transitioning from SDDC.

The work group agreed to the following findings:

1. The department’s Rebalancing Initiative is going in the right direction.
2. Crisis intervention including transitioning back to the community needs to be further explored.
3. Further workforce recruitment and development is needed at SDDC as well as in the communities.
4. There needs to be transparency with the community partners (CSPs) so both know the kinds of services that will best assist individuals in need.
5. The department should continue to review the vision of the SDDC to ensure it is efficiently serving the needs of the state of South Dakota.

Listing of Legislation Adopted

No legislation was proposed.

Summary of Meeting Date and Places and Listing of Committee Members

The work group held its meeting at the State Capitol in Pierre on October 25, 2012.

Committee members were: Senator Jean Hunhoff, Chair; Senator Jim Hundstad, Representative Melissa Magstadt, Representative Peggy Gibson, Ms. Gloria Pearson, Ms. Anne Rieck McFarland, and Mr. Brad Saathoff.

Staff members were: Sue Cichos, Principal Fiscal Analyst; Amanda Reiss, Legislative Attorney; and Kris Schneider, Senior Legislative Secretary.