



PARENT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

THE ELDRIDGE GAZETTE

Embracing a future of possibilities



JULY 2018 ISSUE

P.O. BOX 237, ELDRIDGE, CA 95431
www.parenthospitalassociation.org

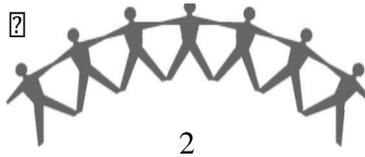
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ATTENTION PHA MEMBERS!

This will be the last Gazette sent to you via mail. From now on you will receive your Gazette via our new PHA website. It will have the same parts as past Gazettes including minutes from the last general meeting, the upcoming important dates, and the President's message. You will simply have to click on the PHA website parenthospitalassociation.org. Go there now to check it out! Be sure to leave your comments in the contact section so we can hear from you.



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

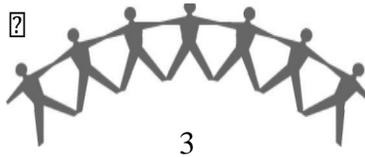
From Kathleen Miller, PHA Co-President

A Look Back - A Look Forward

We can never forget the safety net that Sonoma Developmental Center was for many of our family members over the past decades. We can never forget those who died there and those who lived there for the better part of their lives. We look back fondly on the many celebrations, dances, Halloween Parades, and other fun events that will now be consigned to history. We do not fool ourselves into thinking that mistakes were never made. Our family members and loved ones have been, and continue to be some of the most vulnerable. Mistakes have been made, and despite what those in Sacramento say, more mistakes will continue to be made. It is for this very reason that our continued advocacy is so very critical. For most of us however, it will be the good times that we will hold onto. We will remember the excitement on the faces of the clients as they were wheeled out to enjoy a special music event or the calm they seem to feel when it was massage day under the trees. Malone clients would often pace before one of the family parties in anticipation. While there may be a chance for new memories, they will never replace all that is lost. It is for that very reason PHA is working on a documentary to explore what the loss of SDC (all the developmental centers) will mean. The closure of SDC will have lasting effects on the surrounding community, on the clients and the system of care, and on the SDC land. Such a critical event must be given the respect it deserves and not simply erased and quickly forgotten. We must honor the past if we are to learn from it and if we are to move on. Now we must gather our resolve and look forward. While we must do all we can to protect the legacy of SDC, our most critical task is to continue our advocacy. In the planning meetings PHA members have made clear that they-you-want to continue to have a voice. You want to have an organization to support you in the event that things go wrong. You want to have an organization that continues to advocate for services where they are weak or simply absent. You want an organization that provides independent oversight for the system that provides such critical services for so many.

Continuing the legacy of PHA advocacy will be no easy task. We are independent because we take no money from any government agency. That means we will struggle financially at times. We have been fortunate that our members continue to give all they can to keep us going. Your continued support both financially and in attending our meetings and events is important if we are to continue our advocacy. Some of us who have been working on these issues are growing older. Some are drifting away. If we are to continue we also must attract those younger folks who now face many of the same battles we do.

There are some who may argue that SDC is closing. They may question PHA's success. I believe it is the PHA advocacy that kept SDC going and going strong for many years beyond when those in Sacramento wanted to see us close. We have also been successful in helping families advocate for quality homes and staffing for those homes. We have a new one of a kind clinic in Santa



Rosa that focuses on serving IDD populations. We have a chance to get a spiritual care model that can help all IDD have some access to spiritual services. These gains took hard work on the part of many and would not have happened without our united voices.

Please remember that when you are deciding whether continuing with PHA is worth your valuable time and money. The truth is without you we are nothing and will cease to be. Thank you all for your critical continued support!

From Karen Moen, PHA Co-President

In the months ahead, all of our family members will be gone from Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) and the place they knew as home will cease to exist. The hills will still be here as will be the roads, the trees and, for a while, even the buildings. But it was the people who lived and worked here that made this such a special community and gave this place its soul.

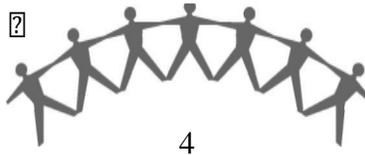
However, PHA will not be going away. In the months ahead, we will be working together bringing to reality our shared vision of an organization of families that will continue to speak with a strong and unified voice on behalf of the former residents of the developmental centers. We will also be asking other families to join with us in advocating on behalf of all adults with developmental disabilities requiring specialized homes and systems of care.

We are already making in progress in leaving behind a mark at SDC. There is strong interest in creating special places on the land whether it be a cemetery memorial garden to honor those who died and are buried here or the creation of a new Camp Via that can be used for recreational purposes by individuals with developmental and physical disabilities from throughout northern California.

The new phase of our work has just begun. We can--and must--continue to work together to encourage replication of model medical and mental health clinics throughout the entire region and to ensure that specialized spiritual care options are available for all our family members now living throughout the greater bay area. We need to continue to advocate for the expansion of specialized dental services and to support the development of programs that provide new opportunities for community employment and engagement for all individuals with developmental disabilities whether former residents of SDC or not.

As we move forward, we hope you will be able to join us for a celebration of and farewell to SDC. We are hoping to join with several local Sonoma Valley partners who have worked with us in the past to plan a series of events that will take place in mid/late October. So watch your e-mail and the PHA website for information about the event that will give us all an opportunity to say together "thanks for the memories."

Karen Moen, PHA Co-President



PHA GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 12, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 10 am. The meeting was being held at Hanna Boys Center and Kathleen said that all future general PHA meetings were going to be held there. The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

There was a town hall meeting at **Altamira** School on Thursday night which was mostly about the SDC land. PHA would like to see a memorial garden there in honor of the clients who lived most of their lives there. The state made it clear it wishes to get rid of the property. They are looking forward to someone coming forth with a plan for the whole facility. The county may be interested.

The next meeting will be held on September 8 at Hanna Boys Center. The next Gazette will be the last hard copy. After that the Gazette will be online only. A new PHA website is being developed. The new director of North Bay Regional Center will probably be at the next meeting to talk about his vision. PHA also hopes to get the new director of Golden Gate Regional Center to come as well. There is a possibility of having the director of East Bay Regional Center come.

Kathleen had those present introduce themselves. Some placements have been working very well, but there was one mother who gave information about her daughter who died in April shortly after being placed.

There were some people present who are taking photographs of families and also will be doing a video.

Karen thanked the SDC staff for all the work they have done and are doing.

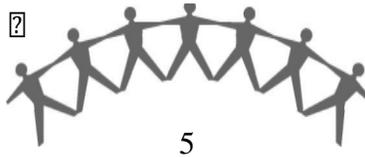
Aleana Carreon gave the executive director report. There are 107 residents living at SDC. 22 are in nursing and 85 are in intermediate care. There are also 4 additional people living in the crisis facility with 1 more to be added soon. 18 residents were moved to the community in April and 3 have been moved so far in May. 10 more are scheduled to be moved in May. The career center is still open and SDC is trying to support the staff. They had a career fair. The community state staff program is going well. Over 50 previous SDC staff are working in community homes at this point. There will be discussions with North Bay about facilitating the hiring process for the homes so that state staff can be hired in homes that are in the process of licensing.

Last week SDC honored the Eldridge fire and police departments for the work they did during the fire.

There will be a summer fest at SDC on June 6 for present and past staff. PHA members are welcome also. It will be by the old administration building from 9:30 am to 5 pm.

There is a clinic at SDC which has dental, neurology, podiatry, psychiatry and other services which is open to those who have moved into the community. It will remain open until June 30, 2019 as long as it is being used. They have already had 25 referrals for dental work. On June 30, 2019 Department of General Services will take over the site.

This is the last executive report at a PHA meeting, but Aleana will be giving reports at the PHA board meetings.



Karen arranged to divide those present into two groups for discussions about the future of PHA. We need to define what PHA is going to be. It needs to be a family based organization. PHA needs to advocate for services and quality of life issues and public policy issues related to the developmentally disabled. We will probably be mainly focused on issues related to adults but not exclusively. Those who are in the age range 18 to 22 become tricky years because they become an adult and parents do not have automatic say. PHA has become a very effective advocacy organization. At the March meeting both Senator McGuire and Senator Dodd expressed a desire that PHA keep going. Hopefully we can begin to expand support. Hopefully we will become a Northern California voice. We the voices of family members at the regional centers. The needs are great.

Karen gave out papers with questions for the groups to consider.

The following are some notes taken at one of the two groups. Some reasons to keep PHA are political advocacy and social advocacy (such as getting information to the general public). We need to develop a state wide advocacy group for the developmentally disabled (DD). There is almost a competitiveness in groups in the state and the state takes advantage of that.

The state is grossly underfunding services for the DD. DD are much more visible that they used to be. There is a need to create more clinics such as the one opening in Santa Rosa which will specialize in serving the DD population. We need to determine what safety net services are needed and where they are going to be. There needs to be the creation and expansion of safety net services.

Some PHA board members have been working on a brochure to recruit new members to our organization. We can also consider having chapter in various regions.

Families in the community can be isolated.

Regional centers can see us as their partners as advocates. There may be some services in some regional centers that are not available at other regional centers.

We need to consider possible new names for the organization. A voice on the regional center board would be good. Regional center board meetings are open to the public. Puente clinic (for behavior clients) is in San Mateo County and East Bay Regional Center is considering replicating it.

A lot of people in the Sonoma area worked at SDC at one time and may be interested in joining the organization.

What could we have for future meetings? Regional center staff can come and give certain information and also hear our suggestions and concerns. They could also give tips on what works and how things are going in the various homes.

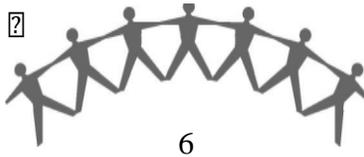
Maybe we can hear about how the new clinic in Santa Rosa is doing.

Following the group discussions we got together again to share some of what was discussed in each of the two groups. Ideas from one of the groups are in the above notes. Most of the notes below are from the other group.

We could have police or sheriff department personnel come and discuss how they handle DD people. Mission analytics could come and give data. Once DD people are in the community we lose track of how many died, how many are in jail or acute psych, etc.

We need to grow slowly and meet people's needs. People need to be joining for good and in depth reasons. If we grow too quickly we may not meet their needs.

Younger parents who are in transition need support.



If we could start with families from North Bay, Golden Gate, and East Bay Regional Centers, that would be a terrific start.

We could possibly give information at the day program.

Parents of those are aging out of the school system could use support.

We could have doctors come in and give information and tips.

A name suggestion for our group was Family Advocates United.

We can work on educating the public and correcting them as needed.

There was a suggestion that a membership committee be established. There could be a training for the membership committee so we can have the same message.

We want to be an organization of families and friends of the DD population.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Save the Date

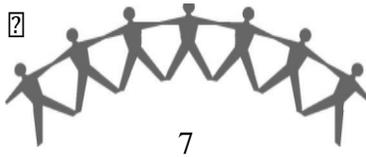
What: Next General PHA meeting

When: September 8, 2018-10:00AM to Noon

Where: Hanna Boys Center, **17000 Arnold Dr, Sonoma, CA 95476**

What: We are excited to announce we will have the Regional Center Directors from GGRC, EBRC and NBRC there.

Be sure to attend and share, ask questions, and hear their vision for a post developmental center system



PHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

For membership January 1–December 31, 2018

Make checks payable to *PHA*

MAIL DUES AND DONATIONS TO:

**Beverly Austin
PHA (Parent Hospital Association)
2683-17th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116**

Check which type of membership below.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$25.00 Individual

\$30.00 Family (individuals with same address)

If donation included, please indicate the donation amount here: \$ _____

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR PHA (*Please Print Clearly*)

Name: _____

Address: _____ (Street)
_____ (City/State/Zip)

Check here if this is a new address since 2017

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Would you consider being on the PHA Board: Yes No

Would you consider being on a PHA Committee: Yes No

Please check all that apply:

Family Member

Conservator

Former SDC Staff

Other: _____



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