



PARENT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION SONOMA DEVELOPMENTAL CENTER

# THE ELDRIDGE GAZETTE

*Embracing a future of possibilities*



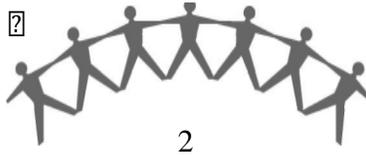
April 2019 ISSUE

100 E. Street, Suite 212, Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
[www.parenthospitalassociation.org](http://www.parenthospitalassociation.org)

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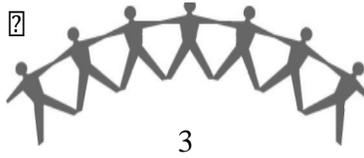
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## **Save the Date**

- **The next General Meeting will be on June 8, 2019, at the Hanna Boys Center, 17000 Arnold Dr., Sonoma, CA 95476 from 10:00 AM to Noon.**
- **General Meeting, September 14, 2019, 10:00AM to Noon**



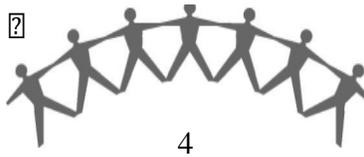
## WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE SDC SITE?

Some of us have remained both interested and involved with the beautiful SDC site. Last Friday the picture of what that might look like got just a bit clearer. There is good news but also, in my opinion, some bad news. First the good news:

- 1- The state has agreed to hold off on disposition of the main campus until Sonoma County completes a site-specific plan. They have agreed to a three-year time table for this process.
- 2- While Sonoma County will be the party responsible for this plan, there will be opportunities for input. You need to stay tuned to the [Eldridge for All](#) and [Transform SDC](#) websites for updates. I will also try to let you know although I am less involved and may miss some updates.
- 3- There continues to be strong support to protect the open space. This is a commitment that PHA signed onto and continues to support.
- 4- Legislators, DDS, and DGS (who takes over the property in July), have expressed interest in completing a memorial wall at the cemetery to name those whose remains are there.

Now for some not so good news:

- 1- It looks like the main campus will ultimately be sold to a developer or developers. They will be bound by the specific plan developed by Sonoma County and the community, but also likely, the need to make a profit.
- 2- During the next three years the boiler may not remain working. This means there will be no heat to the buildings, which would continue down the path of falling apart. It also means any dream of interim uses for the three years and beyond may be unlikely as well.
- 3- The dental services which have been taking place at SDC for those moving from developmental centers will not continue beyond May. There is a back log and not all those needs will be met prior to the clinic closing. This back log does not include the vast numbers of other regional center community clients who also have dental needs. The Santa Rosa Clinic will begin taking a couple of sedation clients a week but it remains unclear how those needing complete anesthesia will be served. This is a continuing serious issue! Also it appears with their limited capacity they may become backlogged as well.



**KATHLEEN MILLER**  
**Co-President's Message**

**A FOND FAREWELL**

I have been the president of PHA for a number of years-ever since I left employment as a social worker at the Center. During those years I knew that the Center was most likely going to be slated for closure. I tried to put the residents, and by extension their families, in the strongest position I could to get what they needed for their loved ones being forced out of SDC. I did succeed in some ways but also failed in others.

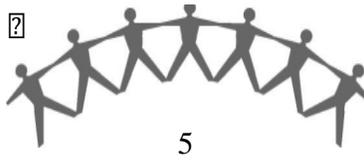
Some of my goals during the closure process included:

- 1-Helping families and conservators become strong advocates to obtain what was needed for SDC residents leaving SDC.
- 2-Strengthening the medical care system for those with serious medical and behavioral issues.
- 3-Obtaining a treatment facility or facilities statewide for those who fail in their community placements or pose a risk to family members due to behaviors.
- 4-Work with community to protect the open space and legacy of SDC.

I have succeeded in part with some goals and not in others. There is a continuing need to push forward on these and many more issues. However, due to personal reasons, I must resign from the role of President this September when my term is complete. Serving as President of PHA has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It has been my honor to do so on behalf of the SDC residents and their families.

Now we must look to the future. I have completed a write-up of three options for the future of PHA. Please keep in mind that we are now just members of a community system that is often less than we now have. Our family members often have set the standard of care for the disabled community.

This is a critical time. Will we be able to lift the standard of care for others in community and home settings or will our loved ones be forced to settle for the lesser care that others in community settings experience? The truth is there are really no other organizations quite like PHA. What the future looks like may depend in part what the future of PHA looks like.



***Karen Moen, PHA Co-President***  
***Message:***

For over seven years, including the past three years when Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) was being prepared for closure, Kathleen Miller has been the visionary advocate, leader, and spokesperson for PHA.

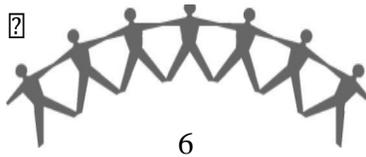
She advocated for thoughtful and comprehensive individualized placement plans for residents leaving SDC, for new services that had never existed in some of our communities, and for long term evaluations and studies that will not only tell us what has happened to vulnerable individuals when they were moved to the community but identify gaps in services that may continue to exist two to five years down the line. She also developed outstanding educational presentations designed to give family members the necessary tools and information we needed as we faced the unthinkable--a future without the supports and care that SDC had provided for over 125 years.

Kathleen won the respect of PHA members, local community and coalition partners, and Sonoma County and state Assembly and Senate leaders. She also won the respect of the leadership of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) and other state agencies involved in the closure process. This spring she was honored by Senator Mike McGuire for her leadership and for the positive results that her volunteer efforts have brought to Sonoma County.

Everyone who has worked with Kathleen knows that she was not educating, fighting, or advocating on her own behalf. Rather, she was working to ensure that the most vulnerable

residents at SDC received the care, home, and supports they needed--and, concurrently, helped to buoy the spirits of other family members when they sometimes became discouraged.

We all owe Kathleen a debt of gratitude for her long years of service as PHA's President. Kathleen will continue to be involved with the PHA board and continue to serve as a valued advisor; PHA will certainly benefit from her continued participation in the organization. But, for now and at our next general meeting in June, please take a moment to thank Kathleen for her work and her many successes on behalf of us all. And may we all continue to support PHA as we continue to work together to implement the vision that we have developed during the years Kathleen served PHA so well.



PHA GENERAL MEETING  
MARCH 9, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Kathleen Miller at 10:05 am. She gave information about the format for the meeting. She introduced the guests who would give some short comments followed by questions and comments from those attending.

The guests were Nancy Bargmann, director of the Department of Developmental Services; Mike McGuire, state senator; Susan Gorin, supervisor; and Marc Levine, state assemblyman.

Nancy Bargmann was the first guest to speak. She said about 73 state staff who had been at Sonoma Developmental Center (SDC) are now working in the community. They bring expertise. Also some who retired are still working in the system.

The last resident of SDC was moved on December 17, 2018. Most moved to the specialized nursing homes and the enhanced behavior homes. There is a review going on of those who have moved. One thing they are looking at is whether some had to move an additional time after moving from SDC. They are also looking at mortality.

There is a rate study being conducted. DDS is now a community based system. There are only about 100 living at Porterville or Fairview who have not moved yet. The number being served by DDS is growing at about 12 to 15 thousand each year. They are looking at the rates being paid to service providers. The specialized nursing homes and the enhanced behavior homes have increased rates, but the other types of homes have not had much change in rates in recent years.

Stability of staff in residential homes is very important. They are looking at built in training of 35 hours per year. The rate study is due to the legislature in March.

There are 150 different service codes. They have thousands of rates. Only the rates that are under DDS are being included in the rate study. There are 62 rates being studied including such items as supported living, residential providers, and early intervention. There will be a review comment period and there will be 8 sites for review to be discussed. These sites will be posted on the internet so people can come to comment.

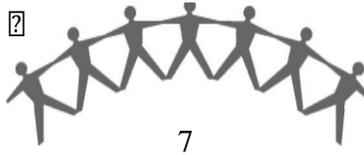
Nancy gave an update on the safety net. SDC had North Star Crisis Center and will be moving to Vacaville in about 8 weeks. A second one is opening soon after that and they are looking for establishing a third home which will service children. They have also proposed two more crisis homes to be in the central valley. There is a mobile crisis team in the north.

The Regional Center has to provide oversight for homes. DDS wants to have some social workers on a 1 to 25 case load to handle some of those who might go into crisis. They want to identify potential problems early

Mike McGuire introduced some others who were attending today. He thanked PHA for the work they have done. He also thanked Susan Gorin and Nancy Bargmann.

He said one goal of PHA was to have a medical hub and that such a hub is now up and running in Santa Rosa. One day each week they now have the ability to do sedation dentistry.

Senator McGuire introduced Dr. French. Dr. French said they recently had the one year anniversary of the opening of the clinic. A collaboration among PHA, the legislature, and the regional centers enabled the clinic to be established. She thought it was maybe the best system



in all of California serving the disabled. They have 3 of their primary care doctors who were at SDC, About 70 of their current patients were from SDC, They have a psychiatrist on staff.

They have tried having people come and just sit in the dental office to help them get accustomed to the dental office and reduce their stress levels. The dental office has an association with UOP. UOP also has the ability to have teams go to the homes and give some dental care such as cleaning and X-rays. They also have some things available for dental which were not available at SDC (e.g. nitrous oxide).

They have a calm room sort of like a living room to meet with clients and those who care for them and families.

They have an advisory committee. They are figuring out how to make a sustainable model. They are serving about 500 with intellectual disabilities. About 2000 people overall are getting care in Santa Rosa Community Health care.

Kathleen Miller said the next PHA meeting, which will be held on the second Saturday in June, will discuss the best practices in health care for those with developmental disabilities. She asked that Nancy Bargmann arrange for someone from DDS to attend the advisory committee meetings for the health center in Santa Rosa.

There were a few questions at this time for Dr. French from those in the audience. One was about having support in the hospitals. Dr. French said they want to create a training program for residents in hospitals. When a patient comes to the hospital, the staff at the hospital does not always know that the patient has a developmental disability. Family practice residency is working on getting doctors trained on treating those with developmental disabilities. The doctors need to be trained to think outside the box.

Dr. Sutton said he had a client from SDC who had recently been diagnosed with Jacobsen syndrome. He asked if the clinic had a relationship with UC or other medical facilities to work with. Dr. French they do have a collaboration so that genetic testing can be done.

Dr. French said when they serve non-verbal clients and the layers of caretakers, it takes more time. She said they hope to have other communities acquire the types of services offered at the Santa Rosa clinic.

Senator McGuire said that the clinic is working well.

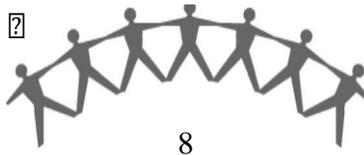
He said there was a promise about the cemetery at SDC. There was a promise to have a memorial wall and other items. The details will be flushed out over the next 8 to 12 months.

Chaplaincy services were funded by the state legislature on last year's budget and will also be funded this year.

The state and Sonoma County are discussing the future of the SDC site. They are committed to having the county have input. They are in the final stages of the discussions and should present a plan within the next few months.

Assemblyman Levine said in 2014 he had introduced a bill about the SDC land which did not go through at that time. He thought a bill could go through now which would address what to do with the SDC land,

There was an issue about background safety checks for those working in the homes and that sometimes federal background checks were not done in a timely manner. He wants the state and federal checks done so there is not a lag between the two.



Kathleen Miller said she had read a bill which would make it illegal to complete background checks. There has been a movement to remove some barriers for getting jobs. We do not want to put a wall up so people cannot get hired, but we do want to be careful when hiring people who are going to serve a vulnerable population.

Susan Gorin said we have come a long way from where we were several years ago. She thanked Nancy Bargmann for her work. She also thanked her for creating more community crisis centers.

There has been a core group working on the future of SDC. There are community members who concerned about safety on the grounds of SDC. They are also concerned about the water and water treatment plant. There is a concern if they will still have access to the ball field and hiking areas. Almost all of the buildings were saved during the fire in October 2017.

Mike McGuire said they those items just mentioned have been discussed by the group looking at the future for SDC land. DDS is responsible for the area until June 30 and then the Department of General Services will be responsible. As certain items come up such as safety issues, they are fast-tracked.

The floor was opened to questions and comments from the audience.

Tom Chesterman sedation dentistry was a topic he was going to bring up, but that based on what was said earlier, that maybe it was no longer an issue. He had two other issues. One was concern about people who had moved from SDC having opportunities to get outdoors as they were able to do at SDC. He was glad that Gabriel Rogan was also concerned about this and that maybe it could happen in the future.

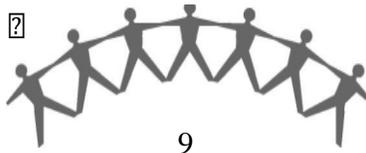
The other issue was having worship services for the developmentally disabled. There are now worship services at the Church of the Roses in Santa Rosa for “our” population. The turnout for the first service was amazing. Having a service designed for our population is truly amazing. Kathleen said she had been to two of the services with her son and that they were not just for people like our loved ones who lived at SDC. The services have been growing.

Dr. Markley Sutton that there seems to be no liaison for those who are developmentally disabled and wind up in the criminal justice system. Also when Agnews closed there was a mortality study for five years. There seems to be nothing like this for those who left SDC. We need to look at what needs to be done for high risk clients. There does not seem to be a liaison with educational professionals.

Molly said her brother has a dual diagnosis. Mental beds are not available locally. Her brother has recently been diagnosed with diabetes. Aurora Santa Rosa Hospital is not serving the developmentally disabled who also have mental health problems.

Renee said her sister moved from SDC. She has a concern that the rate be kept and not reduced. She said the day program her sister is in is one that everyone deserves to have. They take her sister some places such as the bank and shopping.

Karen Moen said that Eric Zigman, director of GGRC, sent Olivia to be here today. Karen said that Sonoma has spiritual services and sedation dentistry now. There is Puente Clinic in San Mateo offering mental health services for developmentally disabled clients. What is going to be done to expand such programs statewide?



Karen said that the day program her daughter goes to is lacking work opportunities. Recent policies have made it virtually impossible for her daughter and others like her to get work.

A review of situations is very important. Having workshops such as ones for family physicians on how to treat developmentally disabled is necessary,

Ann said her son was the last person to leave SDC. He had to be switched from going to a behavior home to a nursing type of home. He is out of SDC and thankfully is still alive. The staff at the home he is was on a learning curve to deal with her son's dialysis and it was not fast enough. They got people to help solve the situation and at the present time, two former SDC staff go with her son when he get dialysis.

Carol said she is the conservator for a former client of SDC. Having the clinic open in Santa Rosa has been a relief. Carol said she worked at SDC for many years. For a long time the death rate at SDC was 3 to 3.5% a year. However in a study done by Mission Analytics from May 2015 to mid-2018, the death rate was increasing. The study included people still at SDC at the time as well as those who moved from SDC. In 2016 there were 13 deaths for a rate of 3.28%. In 2017 there were 32 deaths for a rate of 8.35%. For the first six months of 2018 the death rate was 5.12%. We need a mortality review in order to look into these deaths and determine what could be done differently to hopefully save lives. Can we learn from this information to try to prevent future unnecessary deaths? We lost 72 people in the closure. The rate of deaths for those who have moved from SDC and are alive now should go down as people who are caring for them learn how to care for them.

An assemblyman has submitted a bill about collecting data on those who have moved from developmental centers.

Nancy Bargmann said that one thing that came out of the Agnews closure was the development of a specialty nursing home. As various things work they think about replication. In 2017 there was an independent review of the data on mortality besides the one done by Mission Analytics, Nancy said she would talk with Dr. Sutton about this data and steps that might be taken in the future.

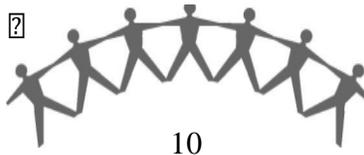
Dr. French asked how we get representation from other groups of disabled who were not at SDC.

Brien said his sister is doing well in her new home. There are 3 former SDC staff at his sister's day program.

Brien said that Nancy Bargmann was willing to listen and was able to help set up the clinic in Santa Rosa, None of this would have happened if legislation has not been passed. Brien's sister is now in Fairfield. Dental in Solano is still not in place as it is in Sonoma County,

Richard said his son was placed about a year ago. He still has some concerns. He has a concern about the mortality rate. The focus has been on the transition from SDC to the homes, but now we need to include hospitals. If you look at incident reports there has been a 5% increase. There were 112 incidents in the first 6 months of 2018.

He said Dr. French has a goal of having a training program. Given the increase of numbers, we maybe need a dedicated person to do training. It takes marketing of how some practices need to be changed to get the changes. He would also be interested in having a discussion of having acute care centers (such as GAC at SDC) throughout the state which would



places for people to go before they might have to be admitted to a hospital and possibly allow them to avoid a hospital stay completely.

He said each home is supposed to have a check list about the client of how to care for the client.

The next person to speak said her son was not at SDC in the past, but was at North Star Crisis center at SDC for a few months. The supported living home where her son was had funding pulled and her son went to North Star. When her son left North Star he was not stable. He is now doing OK, but it has been touch and go. What are we doing to help people to better serve people such as her son? SLS (supported living) services are not acceptable in several agencies. She has had a problem with how services given to her son were paid for. She said she had a receipt from DDS that everything was paid, but then Social Security is now asking for some payment. DDS needs to address such problems,

Kathleen said that SLS needs more oversight.

The next speaker said they are now providing non denomination services in Santa Rosa for the developmentally disabled and are now looking for a place in Fairfield to do the same. They have visited many homes where the disabled are now living and discussed what they might need in terms of religious services.

Mike said his son is now 22 years old. His son went without services for several months because DDS was working on placing those from SDC. He said it is very difficult for families who are caring for a disabled person at home to come to a meeting such as this. Many families cannot get a care worker to provide respite partly because the pay is low.

There are homes for those who moved from SDC, but several years from now, those homes will need some repairs such as new roofs There needs to be some budgeting for that.

Gabriel, director of North Bay Regional Center, said they are putting out a survey to ask families what services they need that they are not getting now.

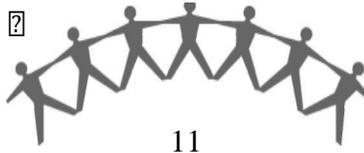
There was a suggestion that maybe some retired psych techs from SDC would be interested in working a few hours a week as respite care workers.

A comment was made that part of the safety net could be to have a base level of training for those working with people in the homes just like nursing assistants have training. The people working with people directly know them best.

Rosemary suggested that maybe giving PHA a social media component so that families could input their stories would be of value.

Marc Levine said to know that we care.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.



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## **Memberships:**

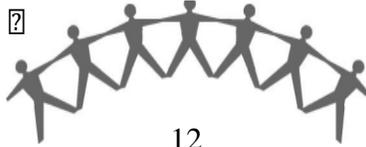
**Time to renew your 2019 PHA membership now**

**Just a reminder that it is time to renew your 2019 PHA membership, if you have not already done so. The membership form is on the following pages or at <http://parenthospitalassociation.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2019-PHA-Membership-Form.pdf>**

**All membership forms and fees should be mailed to Ms. Beverly Austin, PHA, 2683 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116. Your \$25 individual or \$30 family membership fee helps support the work of PHA.**

**Thank you!**

**Karen Moen, PHA Co-President**



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# PHA MEMBERSHIP FORM

For membership January 1–December 31, 2019

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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PHA is a registered non-profit organization



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