



STATE OF MARYLAND
DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
201 W. Preston Street • Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Martin O'Malley, Governor – Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor – John M. Colmers, Secretary

**Questions and Answers
for Rosewood Families
September 12, 2008**

Question: How can families decide the best placement for their loved one?

Answer: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) has specifically established a transition process that relies on input from family members. The Essential Lifestyle Plan is the centerpiece of this process and all family members of Rosewood residents have been asked to participate in this effort. The Essential Lifestyle Plan, to be developed for each of the residents at Rosewood, gathers input from the individual, family, friends, and other members of the individual's team, including Rosewood Center employees who know the individual well. The Essential Lifestyle Plan considers an individual's medical, health, and safety needs and captures their wishes, dreams, and hopes for their life. It also documents information on their preferences regarding living arrangements and roommates. The Essential Lifestyle Plan will guide the efforts to identify the most appropriate placement for each Rosewood resident.

More information on the Essential Lifestyle Plan is available at
<http://www.ddamaryland.org/rosewoodres.htm>.

Question: What will happen if families do not participate in planning for the placement for their loved one?

Answer: The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) will make every effort to reach family members and encourage them to participate in the planning for their loved one. If a family member chooses not to participate in the planning effort, the interdisciplinary team will develop the Essential Lifestyle Plan with input from the resident, caregivers most familiar with the resident and friends. Because the Rosewood Center will be closed by June 30, 2009, it is essential that planning begin so the most appropriate transition can be identified for each resident.

Question: How can families request to move their loved one to another State Residential Center (SRC)?

Answer: A request for a placement in another State Residential Center can be made at any time. Based on a review of each of the residents currently living at Rosewood, it is the State’s belief that the majority of residents could successfully live in a community placement; however, families may request admission to another State Residential Center.

State Residential Centers are operated by the state and Maryland law (Health General (HG) Sections 7-502 and following) establishes the admission criteria and process for these facilities. One of the criteria requires that admission may be granted only if “there is no least restrictive setting in which the needed services can be provided and will be available to the individual within a reasonable time.” If the guardian or resident wishes to be admitted to a State Residential Center, the proponent of the admission must make a written request to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH). The law (HG 7-502) charges the Secretary of DHMH with the responsibility for approving admissions to State Residential Centers. After DHMH receives the request for admission, the request is forwarded to the appropriate Regional office for review. DDA regional staff and Rosewood staff will make a recommendation to the Secretary as to whether the standards for admission are met and specifically, that there is not a less restrictive placement available that can, in a timely manner, meet the identified needs of the individual.

If the Secretary approves the admission, the resident is admitted to the selected State Residential Center. The law requires that this decision be reviewed by an administrative law judge to certify that the State Residential Center is indeed the least restrictive setting as well as meets the other requirements of the law.

Question: How does the State monitor the safety and health of individuals with developmental disabilities who receive community-based services?

Answer: There are several ways that the State monitors the safety and health of individuals receiving care in the community. First, there will be frequent monitoring of all the individuals who move from Rosewood into the community to ensure their transition is occurring smoothly. A resource coordinator will monitor the living arrangement and the care each individual is receiving 30, 60, 90 and 180 days following their move to the community to ensure that they are receiving the agreed-upon services. This is a time to revise the Essential Lifestyle Plan with input from family members. Second, staff from the DDA Regional Offices visit individuals on a routine basis in a proactive manner and assist the Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ), DDA’s licensing entity, in investigating incidents and concerns. Third, the OHCQ and Regional offices follow up and investigate incidents based on the DDA

Policy on Reportable Incidents. Anyone may report an incident or concern by contacting OHCQ or the Regional Office at any time. Fourth, OHCQ completes an unannounced survey to many of the 2,900 community provider sites each year. OHCQ prioritizes the surveys so that those with poor track records and those with serious complaints are visited more frequently. Typically, community providers are surveyed every 2-3 years. All complaints are investigated and serious complaints receive an on-site investigation expeditiously. The number of community providers surveyed is increasing and five additional surveyors have been added to the OHCQ staff in this area in the FY 09 budget, further increasing capacity.

Question: How is the State helping current Rosewood Center staff find employment?

Answer: The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Human Resources (OHR), the DDA and other state agencies have been involved in assisting the current employees of the Rosewood Center during the transition. Five open sessions have been held with staff where OHR staff presented information regarding the Department's plan for employees. The OHR has met with approximately 200 Rosewood Center employees in one-on-one meetings to address each employee's concerns, employment and educational needs/goals. These meetings will continue with the goal of assisting each employee in planning for their future. Rosewood staff are being provided the opportunity to apply for positions within the State system for which they are qualified. As of September 3, 2008, there have been 80 employees that have been transferred to new State positions and 56 employees have retired or resigned. The OHR is assisting employees with obtaining high school diplomas if they do not have one. The Department has also offered training to employees who are interested in becoming foster care providers and is coordinating training for those who may wish to start a community provider agency.