

DSH-CDCR TRANSITION OF PSYCHIATRIC PROGRAMS

Frequently Asked Questions

January 10, 2017

1. What is going to happen to the three psychiatric programs operated by DSH at the California Health Care Facility (CHCF), Stockton; California Medical Facility (CMF), Vacaville; and Salinas Valley Psychiatric Program (SVPP), Salinas?

Answer: The Governor's fiscal year 2017-18 budget proposes that beginning July 1, 2017, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) would assume responsibility for all of the DSH psychiatric programs at CHCF, CMF and SVPP.

2. How will this change affect employees at the psychiatric facilities?

Answer: If the proposal is approved by the Governor and the legislature, all DSH staff at CHCF, CMF and SVSP—as well as a small number of DSH-Sacramento Staff that support operations at the psychiatric programs—would become CDCR/CCHCS employees on July 1, 2017. The transfer would involve approximately 1,977 positions.

3. Will this change affect my job classification?

Answer: The proposal will transfer existing DSH employees to CCHCS and CDCR. Initially, organizational structure and classifications will remain the same. CCHCS and CDCR are analyzing classifications and structure to make a recommendation for the Department moving forward.

This could potentially result in staffing model changes. If the classification you hold is impacted by these changes, you will be provided additional information.

4. What if I want to stay at DSH?

Answer: DSH employees impacted by this change can apply for vacant positions within the department. For information on vacancies, please click here:

http://www.dsh.ca.gov/Jobs/Job_Openings.aspx

5. Will there be any preference given to DSH employees at psychiatric programs who apply for jobs at other DSH facilities?

Answer: Civil service laws prohibits preferential treatment for a job candidate in circumstances like this. Employees who prefer to remain with DSH should apply for vacant positions in the department.

6. Will there be layoffs?

Answer: At this time, there are no layoffs planned. Under the proposal, existing DSH employees will transfer to CCHCS and CDCR on July 1, 2017. CCHCS and CDCR

are analyzing the classifications and the standardized staffing model to make a recommendation for the Department.

7. Why are DSH programs being transferred to CDCR/CCHCS?

Answer: Over the past several years, CDCR has successfully activated and operated the Psychiatric Inpatient Program (PIP) at the California Institution for Women and the San Quentin Condemned PIP program. CDCR has demonstrated that it is positioned to assume responsibility for the DSH inpatient programs, while ensuring continuity of care to the patients. Additionally, with this transfer, efficiencies will be gained by having all mental health programs under the leadership of one department. It is estimated that patient referral timeframes will be reduced, thereby ensuring quicker access to psychiatric care and improving the continuum of care.

8. How will this change from DSH to CDCR happen?

Answer: The proposal was formally announced in the Governor's 2017-18 Proposed Budget. The Legislature will consider this proposal, and if approved, it will be included in the final budget bill presented to the Governor for his signature. The transfer would be completed in phases and not become effective before July 1, 2017.

9. If the proposal is approved by the Legislature how can employees be prepared for the July 1, 2017 transition? Where can I get more information?

Answer: DSH and CDCR/CCHCS are working together to plan for the transition, and to help ensure a smooth change-over on July 1, 2017. As these details become available, DSH and CDCR/CCHCS will share them with the employees so that they can be best prepared for this transition. Information will be posted on the DSH, CDCR/CCHCS intranet sites and monthly updates will be provided. Town Hall meetings at DSH-Salinas Valley, DSH-Stockton and DSH-Vacaville are being planned for the week of Jan. 23. In addition, an email box has been established for employee questions: DSH.Transition@dsh.ca.gov.