

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
**NORTHVILLE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL CLOSURE PLAN**  
**IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 605(3) P.A. 296 OF 2000**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Michigan Department of Community Health's Northville Psychiatric Hospital for persons with mental illness is planned for closure effective July 16, 2003.

The Northville Psychiatric Hospital is currently certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), formerly known as Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). This certification indicates that quality services are provided and supports the operation with Medicaid (federal share) funding.

The Northville Psychiatric Hospital is also accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Public Act 296 of 2000, the Community Health Appropriations Act, Section 605(3), requires the department to submit a closure plan to the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on mental health four months after the certification of closure required in section 19(6) of 1943 PA 240, MCL 38.19. This document is submitted to fulfill that requirement.

This plan outlines the process of

- assuring continuity of services for those persons requiring treatment
- maximizing employment and retirement opportunities for current employees
- protecting the physical assets owned by the state
- assuring that all legal requirements are met during the closure process

**CONSOLIDATION OF PROGRAM**

Act 258 of 1974, referred to as the Mental Health Code, clearly sets forth the intent to treat Michigan citizens in the least restrictive setting appropriate to the needs and condition of each individual. In 1996, significant changes were made to the code to address standards and procedures for consumers of mental health services that require consideration and provision of appropriate alternatives to hospitalization after clinical evaluation by the community mental health services programs and included in individualized written plans of services developed in partnership with the recipient and appropriate parental/guardian involvement.

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In 2002, the Michigan Department of Community Health announced that, due to declining numbers of patients in the state system, reduction in work force due to early retirements, and physical plant issues, the Northville Psychiatric Hospital for persons with mental illness would be closed. This closure, supported by those who advocate on behalf of persons with mental illness, is planned to occur on or before July 16, 2003.

**SERVICES FOR PERSONS REQUIRING CONTINUED TREATMENT**

On November 18, 2002, there were 239 consumers receiving services at the Northville Psychiatric Hospital. Upon completion of each individual's assessment of current presenting clinical condition to determine the most appropriate treatment plan leading to placement or transfer, and the completion of specific individualized plans for placement or transfer, to date approximately 40 recipients have been placed in an appropriate and adequate community setting. The remainder of the recipients requiring services in a state-operated facility, based upon their current presenting clinical condition, have been or will be transferred to the Caro Center, Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital, Mt. Pleasant Center, and Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital.

There is not a circumstance in which a consumer has been released from the Northville Psychiatric Hospital because of the lack of an appropriate community placement or transfer to another state-operated facility.

Staff from the Northville Psychiatric Hospital and the department's central office meet on a daily basis to assure an orderly transition process. The planning for the placement or transfer includes the consumer, parents or guardians, hospital staff, staff from the community mental health services programs, and advocacy organizations. The community mental health services programs, in conjunction with hospital and department central office staff, developed transfer and placement packets for each individual.

**PERSONNEL SUPPORT SERVICES**

At the time of the closure announcement, the Northville Psychiatric Hospital had 536 employees with an inpatient census of 239. The department undertook a concerted effort to insure that all employees were provided with all necessary information to make informed decisions about retirement options that exist under current legislation. Of the 536 employees, approximately 30 will retire, and approximately 180 have transferred to other state employment. The remaining employees would be eligible for recall under Department of Civil Service Rules and their respective collective bargaining unit contracts and agreements.

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Seminars outlining retirement options, continuing state employment opportunities, employee preference rights, deferred compensation, social security, and employee benefits have been held. Support services including financial planning, job seeking skills, stress management and information about retraining programs are available.

In addition to the programs regarding retirement, the department has an extensive information program to assist employees in finding alternative employment. Resources, including office space, telephones, copying services, and job postings are available for those seeking other employment. The hospital has sponsored a Job Fair bringing outside employers in contact with current employees who seek work outside the Civil Service system.

The employees assistance and support programs will be ongoing throughout the closure period.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

The closure planning process includes securing patient records, personnel records, administrative records, equipment and supplies. A specific planned closure process has been initiated by the hospital to assure appropriate accountability and secure use of state assets. The plan details specific tasks, including the cancellation of all lease and rental agreements for services and purchase orders, an inventory of all equipment and furnishings, and the coordination of the transfer or disposition of items to other hospitals, centers, agencies, departments, salvage and disposal. The plan will be used to monitor the closure process to assure timely completion and protection of state assets. The process is directed and monitored through biweekly reports to the hospital director and meetings with the director of the Bureau of Hospital/Forensic Mental Health Services to assure timely actions. The Department of Management and Budget is responsible for the disposition of the property and physical plant.

There is a requirement that the Auditor General perform a final audit of the hospital's operations, including the closure process, which has been standard procedure during all other hospital and center closures. Previous Auditor General findings at other closed state-operated facilities have revealed no material weaknesses in the closure process followed by the department.

### **SUMMARY**

The declining census in the number of patients in the state system, reduction in work force due to early retirements, physical plant issues at the Northville Psychiatric Hospital, community service options available to consumers of mental health services in Michigan, and administrative efficiency have resulted in the decision to close the hospital. Individualized planning and coordination efforts with the community mental health services programs have resulted in alternative community placements or transfers to the Caro Center, Kalamazoo Psychiatric Hospital, Mt. Pleasant Center, and Walter Reuther Psychiatric Hospital, as clinically appropriate, prior to the planned closure date of July 16, 2003.

The Department of Community Health requires the development of individual written person-centered plans for each individual leaving a state hospital or center. The plan, developed by the community mental health services program, in conjunction with the hospital and department central office staff, is based on established protocols and in partnership with the recipient, parents/guardians, professionals, and rights advocacy organizations.

Programs to support and assist employees during the closure are in place and will continue throughout the process.

State interests in the physical plant, property, equipment and records are protected by well defined procedures, and the Office of the Auditor General will perform an audit of the closure process.