

BTAC's MDC Repurposing Committee
Comments to MDC Transition Planning Advisory Council
September 22, 2016

Mr. Chairman,

The MDC Repurposing Committee met on Tuesday so this report has not yet been reviewed and approved by the full BTAC, but that will happen in early October. However, we thought the Council would benefit from hearing the committee's thoughts.

The BTAC's MDC Repurposing Committee has been working diligently on the envisioning the use of the MDC's campus following its closure. Mr. Chairman, we appreciate your participation in nearly every meeting of this committee as well as the full BTAC – keeping us apprised of the administration's activities, responding to our questions and being available to meet despite your hectic schedule. Your cooperation is commendable.

We are impressed with the work of the MDC Transition Council and with the Department of Public Health and Human Services in complying with the provisions of SB 411. Despite limitation of time and money, you have made progress in transitioning MDC clients to community-based settings.

However, as our committee looked at options for repurposing the facility, whether state uses or private uses, it is very difficult. We believe there will still be residents at MDC when the campus is scheduled to be "repurposed". Despite all of the great accomplishments, the remaining tasks are daunting and we just don't see how they can be accomplished by June 30th, 2017. There are still many clients to be placed and challenges with the providers accepting them. The absence of a facility of a last resort is a concern for everyone – families, providers, clients and the communities. And, there have been unanticipated challenges with trying to lease compliant residences for state-operated group homes. This may necessitate the construction of state-operated group homes – something with which our community may be able to help. But, this all takes time...more time that is currently available.

As we sit through these meetings, we know that everyone wants what is best for the clients and that we are all moving in that direction. But, we are all rushed ... too rushed...to finish our task well. I say "our", because the Boulder community feels very much a part of this – and is concerned with the MDC residents as well as with Boulder's future.

Mr. Chairman, to accommodate the concerns I have discussed, our committee will be recommending for consideration of the full BTAC, that the Secure Transition Facility be approved as a necessary part of the continuum of care and that MDC remain open and efforts continue to satisfy all of the dictates of SB 411 for up to an additional two years. We believe this recommendation is in the best interests of the MDC residents, individuals with

developmental disabilities, their families, the communities and the providers. This will allow the spirit and intent of SB 411 to be accomplished – even if just a bit later than originally intended.

We would hope, of course, that mid-way through the next biennium, the future use of the MDC campus would be made known to the community so proper repurposing could commence – whether government or private.

We will convey the final status of this recommendation to you. We are hopeful that this Council and the Administration will seriously entertain this recommendation. The community, of course, would be willing to assist as needed.