



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

March 19, 2009

Dear Parents, Family Members and Guardians,

I'm writing to you today to continue our conversation about the expanded community relocation opportunities for people who live at Southern Wisconsin Center (SWC) over the next two and a half years.

During the month of February two meetings for parents and guardians were held at SWC. A number of you were able to attend at least one of these meetings and we appreciate the time of those who were able to participate. At the meetings, Department of Health Services staff and I provided general information about our plans to restructure services at SWC and listened to and discussed your comments and questions. A DVD recording of the second meeting is available. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the DVD, please contact Valerie Lee, Assistant for the SWC Director at 262-878-6603 or Valerie.lee@wi.gov.

We are now in the process of identifying ways for you to engage in further discussions about possible relocation opportunities for your loved one. These discussions will be organized in ways that are convenient and comfortable for you. These discussions can include other members of your family or others as you wish. These discussions will focus on your family member's unique personality, needs and interests.

I would like to re-emphasize that all relocations are voluntary. Your participation in upcoming discussions and meetings does not commit you to a relocation. Rather, the purpose of these discussions is to provide you with current, individualized information about community options so you are able to make the best possible informed decisions.

I would like to provide specific information to respond to a question that arose at one of the parent meetings regarding the availability of assisted living facilities in the Union Grove area. There are 287 residential assisted living facilities for individuals with developmental disabilities within 25 miles of SWC.

During April, we will provide you more specific details about how and when you can undertake further discussions about community-based living options. If you would like additional information sooner, feel free to contact Jim Henkes, Director of SWC or Todd Redalan who is the SWC Community Relocation Director. Both can be reached via the SWC switchboard at 262-878-6601.

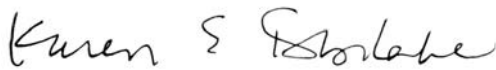
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Like you, I want to be certain that for each community relocation, procedures are in place to assure high quality, individualized services. We all want the very best for each and every SWC resident. For this reason, in addition to the Department of Health Services regulatory and monitoring procedures, the Department is forming a SWC Oversight Committee made up of parents/guardians, SWC staff and SWC managers to assure high quality, individualized relocations. We will provide you information about the members of this committee once it is established.

Thank you for your commitment to your family member. We look forward to continuing our discussions with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Timberlake".

Karen E. Timberlake

Secretary