

Warren State Hospital Regional Forensic Psychiatric Center (RFPC) **Consolidation Frequently Asked Questions**

Background

On August 2, 2010, DPW announced the consolidation of the RFPC at Warren State Hospital (WaSH) with the RFPC at Torrance State Hospital (TSH) saving the Commonwealth an estimated \$2.3 million (on an annual basis). It is anticipated that the WaSH RFPC will be closed on or before October 31, 2010. The RFPC at Torrance State Hospital's capacity at the time of the announcement was 75 and as part of this initiative there will be an expansion of RFPC beds at Torrance State Hospital- an increase of 25 beds for a total capacity of 100. In other words the total capacity for RFPC beds, which was 102 as of August 2, 2010 for both Warren and Torrance, will be 100 following the consolidation. While a reduction of 2 beds in capacity, due to each unit operating at approximately 90% capacity there will be no impact of available services post closure of the Warren RFPC

DPW operates 7 state hospitals and one state hospital that is also licensed as a nursing home which provide inpatient psychiatric treatment/skilled nursing care. The allocated DPW budget currently supports staffing to serve 1760 civil, 135 skilled nursing and 236 forensic patients.

What services and supports do the Regional Forensic Psychiatric Centers provide?

The RFPCs provide active psychiatric treatment and/or psychiatric evaluation in a medium security facility to persons that are involved with the county-based judicial/correction systems. A person referred for admission to the RFPC must be under criminal detention by this system. For those persons committed for psychiatric treatment, the anticipated outcome is that with stabilization of their disorders, they will return to the judicial system. For those individuals referred for court ordered evaluations, the outcome is their return to the judicial system with a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation forwarded to the court of jurisdiction.

Who is the Central Office contact for questions regarding the RFPCs in general or about the WaSH Consolidation?

Jessica Bradley Executive Assistant on Consumer and Family Issues/Justice Related Services is the central office contact- Jebradley@state.pa.us, 717-787-2422.

What will happen to the individuals receiving services at the WaSH RFPC?

On the day of the announcement - WaSH RFPC, the smallest of the three Centers, served 25 men from Blair, Bradford, Cameron, Clearfield, Columbia, Crawford, Erie, Lebanon, Luzerne, Mercer, Monroe, Montgomery, Venango, and Warren counties. As of August 31st there were 6 discharges to the judicial systems in Bradford, Lebanon, Erie, Montgomery and Mercer Counties. The RFPC is working with each county to develop individualized plans to determine if there will be discharges to the respective judicial systems or transition to TSH RFPC depending where an individual is in their treatment.

Who will provide notification to family members when the individuals are going to be transferred?

Involved families will be notified by the WaSH RFPC staff of the plan to transfer their family member. The actual date of transfer cannot be shared for security purposes. Once the transition has occurred family members will be contacted by TSH RFPC.

Does there need to be an amended court order for the transfer?

Commitment orders do not need to be changed until the next hearing. However, commitment orders will be updated as necessary by the Warren RFPC if they are near expiration prior to a transfer.

Our County has a letter of agreement/side agreement that allows for the admission of 302's to a RFPC- I know the Commonwealth is asking for local solutions for emergency treatment; does my county need to change our process?

Yes- the RFPC does not and will not routinely admit individuals on emergency commitments. We are asking for all counties to provide treatment at the community level for emergency commitments. Local solutions must be found for individuals who are in need of emergency treatment. After further assessment and the continued need for treatment is met individuals can be referred to an RFPC.

When will admissions close?

On the day of the announcement the WaSH RFPC started to transfer any referrals to TSH RFPC. Counties impacted by the consolidation will still have access to forensic services through the forensic center at TSH.

Who are the admissions coordinators for the Torrance and Norristown RFPCs?

Lynn Gasbarre TSH RFPC

Email- lgasbarre@state.pa.us

Phone- 724.675.2113

Fax- 724.675.2114

Marguerite Ryan NSH RFPC

Email- marguryan@state.pa.us

Phone- 610.313.5674

Fax- 610.313.5990

How will TSH handle the additional referrals to the RFPC?

The RFPC at Torrance State Hospital's current capacity is 75 and the census is 64 (as of August 2nd the date of the announcement of the consolidation) As part of this initiative there will be an expansion of RFPC beds at Torrance State Hospital- an increase of 25 beds for a total capacity of 100 (80 men and 20 women).

What are the new catchment areas?

Proposed County Service Areas' Regional Forensic Psychiatric Centers (RFPCs)

Torrance:

Allegheny
Armstrong/Indiana
Beaver
Bedford/Somerset
Blair
Bradford/Sullivan
Butler
Cambria
Cameron/Elk/McKean
Centre
Clarion
Clearfield/Jefferson
Columbia/Montour/Snyder/Union
Crawford
Cumberland/Perry
Dauphin
Erie
Fayette
Franklin/Fulton
Forrest/Warren
Huntington/Mifflin/Juniata
Lawrence
Lycoming/Clinton
Mercer
Northumberland
Potter
Tioga
Venango
Washington/Greene
Westmoreland
York/Adams

Norristown:

Berks
Bucks
Carbon/Monroe/Pike
Chester
Delaware
Lancaster
Lebanon
Lackawanna/Susquehanna/Wayne
Lehigh
Luzerne/Wyoming
Montgomery
Northampton
Philadelphia
Schuylkill

What savings will the commonwealth see from the consolidation?

Currently the aggregate per diem for the three forensic units is \$761.51. Historically WaSH has had the highest per diem rate of the three RFPCs. By increasing the capacity at TSH, overhead and operational costs for the one unit center at WaSH will be eliminated and result in an estimated savings of \$2.3 million, the net amount between the savings at Warren and the increased costs at Torrance, or a reduction in aggregate per diem of approximately \$20, while still offering a capacity of 100 beds at TSH.

What happens to the current employees of the Warren RFPC?

The Department will attempt to provide each WaSH forensic employee (41 individuals at time of announcement) with at least one opportunity to continue their employment with the commonwealth.