

## Recommendation to the Developmental Disability Service System Task Force

The Department of Enterprise Services (DES) appreciates the opportunity to take part in this important discussion. As the state's central service agency our mission is to support the agencies that provide services to the residents of Washington State. Our recommendations are focused on the facilities in which the developmentally disabled people of Washington State reside and receive services.

### **Residential Habitation Centers**

In 2011 the Legislature approved funding for a Predesign Project (Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1497) to identify future use options for the Yakima Valley School and Francis Haddon Morgan Center. This project resulted in the completion of two comprehensive reports to the Legislature. Each report included facility condition assessments, site and land use analysis, potential reuse options and real estate market information.

DES recommends that prior to making a final decision on the future use/reuse and/or closure of the Residential Habitation Centers (RHCs) that additional Predesign Studies should be funded for Fircrest School, Rainier School and Lakeland Village.

### **Community Crisis Stabilization Services**

In 2011 the Legislature approved legislation (Second Substitute Senate Bill 5459) in support of Community Crisis Stabilization Services to provide short-term community based crisis stabilization / respite options for young people not eligible for services at the RHCs. The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) is in the process of leasing and improving three (3) single family residences to support Community Crisis Stabilization. The first residence leased required the state to invest nearly \$100,000 in tenant improvements to remodel the space to meet client needs. This included widening hallways, remodeling restroom facilities, making the property universally accessible (ADA compliant), safety and security features and lighting and other improvements. The lease requires that the state return the building to its original condition upon termination of the lease.

DES recommends the development of a feasibility study to compare the cost and benefits/challenges of:

- Leasing and improving privately owned space
- Purchasing and improving existing single family homes
- Designing and constructing new residential facilities

### **Other Recommendations**

- Add Francis Haddon Morgan Center in the Dan Thompson Trust so that revenue collected from existing and future leases will support developmental disability services
  - Change the law so that proceeds from the sale of the RHCs will go into the Dan Thompson Trust to support services for the Developmentally Disabled people of Washington State
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