An Evaluation of the Jacksonville Developmental Center Closure: Preliminary Results

Research Brief
Institute on Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago
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The Institute on Disability and Human Development (IDHD), through a contract with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) is conducting an evaluation of the Jacksonville Developmental Center (JDC) closure. This brief contains information obtained from: 1) family/guardian surveys; 2) stakeholder interviews; and 3) individual interviews.

Family/Guardian Survey – Key Findings
- 65 guardians completed the survey.
- The majority of survey respondents (87%) indicated that they believe that their relative is better off or the same as they were when they lived at JDC. No one reported their relative was significantly worse off.

Figure 1. Where did people move?* (n= 178)

- SODC, 27.5%
- ICF/DD, 9.6%
- CILA, 63.0%

Figure 2. How large were settings people moved into?* (n = 178)

- 1 person, 1.7%
- 2-4 people, 57.9%
- 5-8 people, 3.4%
- ≥16 people, 37.1%

*As of 12/31/2012

Figure 3: Is the individual better or worse off as compared to when they lived at JDC? (n = 65)

- Somewhat worse, 13%
- Significant better, 33%
- Somewhat better, 27%
- Same, 27%
- 1 person
- 2-4 people
- 5-8 people
- ≥16 people

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Initially, the majority of guardians (83%) were very/somewhat dissatisfied with JDC’s closure; however, the majority (89.2%) reported being somewhat/very satisfied with their ward’s current living situation.

The majority of survey respondents felt that the closure process moved too quickly.
- **52%** said it was too fast;
- 43% said it moved at a good pace; and
- 5% said it moved too slowly.

**Stakeholder Interviews – Key Insights**

- 53 stakeholders involved in the closure were interviewed.
- Overall, stakeholders expressed satisfaction with:
  - Active Community Care Transition (ACCT) Process:
    - Person-centered approach;
    - Use of 3rd party to assist with evaluation and transition planning;
    - 4-person CILA homes;
    - Individualized budgets; and
    - Weekly phone calls among system partners.
  - Provider involvement; providers “stepped up to the plate”
- Stakeholders expressed dissatisfaction with the following:
  - Timeline: it was too rushed;
  - Too many cooks in the kitchen: there was confusion about who was in charge;
  - Role confusion: at times parallel transition processes were occurring at JDC;
  - Lack of resources: JDC staff did not have needed personnel as staff vacated positions; and
  - Provider meetings: could have been more organized to make better use of time.

**Individual Interviews – Key Insights**

- 14 individuals who moved out of JDC were interviewed and indicated:
  - They felt sad when they heard JDC was closing but are very happy in their new homes;
  - They have more freedom and are taking on new responsibilities such as budgeting, banking and laundry;
  - They are making new friends;
  - They are taking classes; and
  - Some would like to explore new job opportunities.