



MENTAL RETARDATION BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

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SUBJECT

**GUIDELINES TO SUPPORTING PEOPLE MOVING
FROM STATE CENTERS INTO THE COMMUNITY**

BY


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This guide is available on the OMR web page. You may also contact the Bureau of Community Programs at (717) 783-9159 for copies.

Scope:

County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Administrators
State Center and Mental Retardation Unit Directors

Purpose:

This bulletin is to transmit *A Guide to Supporting People Moving from State Centers into the Community*.

Background:

New opportunities are being made available to people living in State Centers. Through the expansion of community services in the county mental retardation system, residents in State Centers have the opportunity to move to the community. The process of planning to move must be thoughtful and involve the person, their family and others interested in their welfare.

It is important that individuals, families and all other participants have a common expectation about what will happen during the planning process and transition. This guide describes the process and the role that people play in the process as well.

Many people from State Centers have moved successfully to the community over the years. Best practices for planning, transitioning and monitoring have evolved over that time. These guidelines build on those practices and provide a standard to be used across the Commonwealth.

REFER COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO:

Appropriate Regional Program Manager for Mental Retardation

At the time of this publication, a number of individuals in State Centers are in the middle of their planning process. There is no need to stop that process and start over. Rather, these guidelines can be used to guide the process from its current point on.

Experience will provide more information and refinement of the guidelines in the future.

Counties should contact the appropriate Regional Office for additional copies for distribution to county staff, case managers and local providers of service.