

## **Manitoba Developmental Centre Transition Update – March 2023**

Sent on behalf of Melanie Ferg, CEO, Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) and Craig Wynands, A/Director, Adult Disability Services

Dear Service Provider:

As we enter a third year of supporting Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC) residents to transition into the community, we would like to share with you some updates on this work, as well as information on our continued efforts to minimize the effects of these changes on individuals and families.

As of March 28, 2023, there are eighty-three residents living at MDC, with thirty residents already having been supported to transition to community living. Alternative supported living arrangements with Community Living Disability Services (CLdS) agencies have been identified for all eighty-three residents.

### **The Resident Transition Team**

The Resident Transition Team continues to be busy working with residents, you, families, care teams and CLdS agencies to facilitate resident transitions from MDC. In the last several months the Resident Transition Team has developed Person-Centered Transition Plans for many residents at MDC, while also reviewing options in the community with residents (and families), arranging tours of potential homes in the community (virtual or in person), empowering residents with choice, and meeting residents where they are at by engaging with agencies to arrange visits and/or overnight stays at new homes.

Residents who have already transitioned to community living have had opportunities to become familiar with the agency staff who will be supporting them. Agency staff were invited to come to MDC to learn about the individual, their routines and their support needs. In some instances, once an individual transitioned to their new home, staff from MDC temporarily worked alongside agency staff in the community home to provide additional support, training and a sense of familiarity.

The Resident Transition Team has also coordinated and ensured that services provided by Nurses, Home Care, Family Physicians, Occupation Therapists, etc., were available in the community for individuals transitioning from MDC where needed.

### **Resident Transitions to Community**

Using person-centered transition planning, thirty residents who have lived at MDC have now transitioned to the community. Of these, four persons have transitioned to a purpose-built home. Some individuals with complex medical conditions or challenging behaviours sometimes require additional supports to live safely in the community, and purpose-built homes are customized homes that are typically built to higher structural standards to help ensure the safety of individuals and staff. They can include more

personal space than at a typical home, as well as reinforced walls, doors and windows, and a stronger plumbing system.

Another twenty-three individuals from MDC have transitioned to vacancies in shift-staffed, homes. These homes are already established in the community and have the resources to support new and additional persons while supporting individual's needs. They are operated by licensed non-profit agencies with agency staff available to provide 24 hour support to adults living with an intellectual disability and provide individuals with a safe, secure home-like environment.

As well, three residents have transitioned to the first shift-staffed home in the community developed specifically for former residents of MDC. These new residential resources have been developed and are operated by licensed non-profit agencies who have experience supporting adults living with intellectual disability in the community. These agencies have demonstrated an interest and ability to develop the services and supports that best matched the needs and preferences of individuals transitioning from MDC.

### **Engaging Stakeholders**

An External Community Advisory Committee was formed in June 2021 and is made up of family members, individuals with lived experience, as well as advocates and service providers. The committee meets on a regular basis to discuss the transition process, person-centered planning, and support for individuals in the community, as well as staff training.

Recently the committee reviewed and provided feedback on a MDC Transition Planning and Guiding Principles document which provided an overview and guide for the transition process to community living. As a result of feedback from the committee, a subcommittee, made up of volunteers from the external committee, has been formed to further assess and revise the document.

### **Supporting Staff**

A Workforce Adjustment Team continues to identify options to minimize impact to staff and residents while work continues to transition residents to community. This includes regular meetings with MDC teams to provide updates on workforce planning and transitions. Discussions continue with Southern Health Santé-Sud (SH-SS) and other public sector employers, as well as applicable union bodies to work together towards employment opportunities.

Some MDC staff are also participating in a new Health Care Aide education program which is intended to provide staff with skills and supports for future career planning, but also toward continued work at MDC through the transition period. Ongoing learning, development and future career aspirations are a key piece of employees' transition plans. Employees have been encouraged to complete an Employee Career Planning document so we can work to support future plans.

It should also be noted that at this time there is no change to the staffing levels at MDC, and there remains a commitment to maintain staffing resources in order to support residents and minimize the impact through the transition process.

## **Evaluation**

Contract negotiations are underway for the evaluation work related to MDC resident transitions. As referenced in the November letter to families, the Department of Families will be entering into a contract with St. Amant Inc., who, in collaboration with the University of Manitoba, will perform the evaluation of resident transitions from MDC to alternative supported living arrangements in the community.

The purpose of the evaluation is to ensure that residents from MDC are transitioning successfully to the community, and to provide the department with the opportunity to review its transition process and make any necessary adjustments to enhance the outcomes for the residents transitioning from MDC.

## **Next Steps**

As previously noted, thirty individuals have transitioned to community with eighty-three residents continuing to live at MDC. All eighty-three residents have transition plans in place. Although these individuals are at various stages of the transition process, it is expected that five will move into purpose built homes, eleven will move into existing residential vacancies, and that sixty-seven will move into new residential resources. We continue work in collaboration and partnership with residents, their families, support networks and agencies throughout the transition process.

It is expected that the revisions to the draft Manitoba Developmental Centre Transition Plan and Guiding Principles document will be completed and shared back to the larger External Advisory Committee.

Should your agency have vacancies or current available resources (i.e., shift-staffed home or home share) within your organization to support MDC residents transitions, please contact Heather Stanley at [Heather.Stanley@gov.mb.ca](mailto:Heather.Stanley@gov.mb.ca).

Finally, we would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to working collaboratively with the department on the transition of residents to community living. We look forward to continuing to support one another during this important work.

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