

CHAPTER 61

AN ACT concerning persons with developmental disabilities living in community-based settings.

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. a. The Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities in the Department of Human Services shall develop a plan with established benchmarks to ensure that within eight years of implementation, each resident in a State developmental center who expresses a desire to live in the community and whose individual habilitation plan so recommends, is able to live in a community-based setting.

b. In developing the plan, the director shall: (1) review and establish objective criteria to identify those persons with developmental disabilities who are appropriate candidates for living in community-based settings; (2) identify the resources needed to ensure that those persons can reside in the community and receive needed community-based services and supports in a manner that enables them to live as independently as possible; and (3) set forth how the necessary funding, services and housing will be provided.

c. The director shall solicit public input in developing the plan, including the amount and type of supports and housing needed and how they are to be provided. The director shall conduct four public hearings, one each to be held in the northern, upper central, lower central, and southern regions of the State. The hearings shall be held at or in close proximity to the State's developmental centers.

d. The director shall provide the plan and a report of his findings and recommendations to the Governor and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens and Assembly Human Services committees no later than nine months after the effective date of this act.

2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall expire one year after the effective date.

Approved August 2, 2006.