



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities
Frank W. Berry, Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner

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Craig Center Overview:

The James B. Craig Nursing Center has been housed on the campus of Central State Hospital for more than 30 years, serving as a place of care to individuals with both mental health and developmental disability issues. The Craig Center is unique to Georgia's mental health hospital system as the only state-run nursing home facility. Below are frequently asked questions about the Craig Nursing Center.

FAQs:

What are DBHDD's plans for the Craig Nursing Center? DBHDD will close the Craig Nursing Center January 2014.

Why is the Craig Center closing? Georgia's mental health hospitals were never intended to be long-term care solutions or homes for people seeking mental health and developmental disability services. Closing the Craig Center helps DBHDD continue its vision of helping people live an independent life in the community. It also satisfies requirements imposed by the settlement agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ), which mandates all individual who can be served in the community must be given the opportunity to live in their own homes and have access to high quality health care.

How would keeping the Craig Nursing Center open conflict with the settlement agreements the department has with DOJ? DBHDD has an agreement with DOJ that specifically outlines and addresses measures that must met by DBHDD in order to satisfy terms of each settlement agreement, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (CRIPA). In our effort to successfully meet the terms of each settlement agreement, it has been determined that operating Craig will not be a sustainable option as we move toward future goals of independence and a whole person approach to care for all individuals we serve. The ADA settlement agreement requires DBHDD to build strong community supports so that individuals can independently live in their own homes and receive services in the community that address their specific needs. Continuing to operate the Craig Center does not support the agency's mission and vision to help people live an independent life with access to high quality care, therefore, DBHDD can no longer support its existence.

How many people currently live in the Craig Nursing Center? Approximately 115 individuals are residents of the Craig Nursing Center.

How many staff positions does the Craig Center employ? There are roughly 115 individuals residing in Craig and approximately 350 employees that specifically work in/and or support Craig.

What has been done to communicate the state's plan to close the Craig Center? The state began communicating its intention to close the Craig Center with each individual resident, their families, stakeholders and employees through personal letters and meetings in October 2012. Communication will be ongoing and Central State Hospital staff will continue to work with each individual and their families to provide a successful transition plan.