



Tuesday Morning Memo

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2009

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- **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ANNOUNCES MAJOR DOWNSIZING OF SOUTHERN WISCONSIN CENTER**

Earlier today, Sinikka Santala, Administrator of the Division of Long Term Care for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services announced a major restructuring plan for Southern Wisconsin Center (SWC) in Union Grove. Currently, there are about 182 long-term residents at SWC. Under the restructuring plan, there will be an opportunity for about 100 current residents to make voluntary transitions into community-based care within the next two year. Also, the short-term Intensive Treatment Unit at SWC will expand from 10 beds to 30 beds.

Based on the experience of downsizing Northern Wisconsin Center, there will be a significant amount of opposition to the restructuring plan. Much of the opposition will come from many SWC employees and guardians. The Arc-Wisconsin played a major role in working with those opposed to the downsizing of Northern Wisconsin Center. We expect to play a major will in the proposed restructuring effort at Southern Wisconsin Center.

The Arc-Wisconsin will provide regular updates on the SWC restructuring plan in these Tuesday Morning Memos.

- **DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON FEBRUARY 17!**

Although nobody seems to know this, Tuesday, February 17th, is the date of the spring primary election. In addition to there being many contested primary elections at the local level, there is also a primary election for the position of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. This is a position that plays a key role in many issue related to special education. Please, don't forget to vote on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. Because so few people vote in this election, those that do vote can make a big difference.

- **FEDERAL STIMULUS PLAN NEARS FINAL APPROVAL**

As of this writing, Congress appears to be moving very close to a final agreement on a stimulus package. Once a final plan is approved, either a summary and/or a link to a summary will be included in an upcoming Tuesday Morning Memo.