

LIFT & SHIFT

CDCR to take control of DSH facilities in prisons

Gov. Brown's recently released proposed 2017-18 budget directs the release and transfer of three DSH mental health facilities to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation/California Correctional Health Care Services. The Department of State Hospitals currently operates 1156 mental health treatment beds inside three California state prisons: California Health Care Facility, Stockton; Salinas Valley State Prison; and California Medical Facility, Vacaville. The plan, otherwise known as 'lift and shift,' has been in the workings for three years and is the result of a Nov. 2015 memorandum of understanding between CDCR and DSH to improve program operations, including service delivery and inmate referral timelines.

The budget proposes to transfer the mental health programs effective July 2017 and redirects \$250.4 million, as well as 1,977.6 positions from DSH to CDCR. The number of affected BU 18 employees is approximately 440. Town hall meetings were scheduled Jan. 24, 25 and 26 at the affected DSH facilities.

The proposed transfer and release of psychiatric facilities from DSH to CDCR would give CDCR complete control and responsibility for the psychiatric programs and personnel located at those prisons, the implications of which raise several questions. CAPT is preparing to meet with the department and CalHR to discuss the proposal and how implementation will affect our members. For instance, should a DSH employee be expected to undergo a CDCR probationary period? How will Post and Bid work? Will the units maintain their licensure status after being lifted and shifted to CDCR? These are just a few of the many questions BU 18 members have, and which the department and CalHR will be asked to address. CAPT will also be meeting with other affected labor unions on these and other issues.

To stay on top of the latest developments concerning the state's proposed release and transfer of psychiatric programs and personnel from DSH to CDCR/CCHCS, stay in touch with your local chapter.

