



PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE

When Residential Habilitation Center (RHC) admissions were reduced to **"Exceptions to Policy" only** back in 1989, the department began a systematic reduction in spending at all of the facilities. Interlake was closed and the majority of those residents were transferred to Lakeland Village and other RHCs. The downsizing of Fircrest and removal of DD clients from the state hospitals again resulted in most residents moving to other RHCs. Thus began the budgetary reforms of the RHC system.

Only direct care staffing remains at levels that will not affect certification at each facility. However, other staffing has been greatly reduced. Maintenance, Custodial, Kitchen, Laundry and Recreational staff numbers have dwindled. Administrative and Support positions remain unfilled or handled by other staffers in addition to their normal duties.

Cottages have been consolidated and/or closed. Furnishings are not replaced unless they pose a safety hazard to clients. Off campus outings are limited. On campus recreational programs have been reduced.

Standard efficiencies are taking place within the cottages and the administrative offices:

Closed Health Center	Generic drugs whenever possible
Inventory reductions	No new equipment purchases
Cost savings on houses	Reduced hours at client Coffee/Thrift Shops
Swimming Pools are closed/unfilled	Therapies connected with pools eliminated
Staff Incentive programs eliminated	No renewal of copier contracts
Staff Travel restrictions	Training reductions
No staff reimbursement for Conferences	Statewide meetings are conference calls

While all these cost saving moves are taking place, the Short Term Stay (STS) admissions to the RHCs continue (12/08-54; 2/09-41; 3/09-46). Families are in need of safe havens for their loved ones. A family may be in crisis, a residential care provider may no longer be able to serve the needs of a client. There may be a major medical/medication issue for a given client. These are the individuals who must have a **safety net**, an **RHC**.

When an individual in crisis comes to an RHC, the client may be in need of 1, 2 or 3 on one care initially. This is a challenge. **But it is a challenge met by the RHCs time and time again.**

Please allow the RHCs, including Yakima Valley School, to continue what they do best.....serve that portion of the DD population with the most significant needs

See ActionDD.org website for more information