

Hello Far Northern Regional Center Community

What a loss we have experienced this past week! I want to give you an update.

First, if you lost the place where you live you must register with FEMA AND THE RED CROSS. Shelter will be coming but if you are not registered with these organizations it will be difficult to obtain. The old SEARS store at the Mall on 20th street will be where the Local Assistance Center will be. Be sure to go there to get help. You can sign up for FEMA on line.

It appears that all of the services we had in Paradise are lost:

- ARC Butte
- Community Living Options
- California Vocations
- AMJAMB
- Northern California Adaptive Living
- Work Training Center.

However, no one wants to give up and the programs are working hard to try to find a way to get back to what they love most - providing services. We have asked that most day services be closed this week to give the programs time to take stock and see if they have enough employees to staff the services. You should call programs directly to determine their status. Next week those services that have the capacity to open will.

We are so grateful that none of our clients lost their lives in the Paradise Fire. We had several missing, but found them in shelters. We have many people in shelters, many people homeless. Let me share numbers with you:

- 400 families who have minors or adults living at home.
- 105 people who lived independently either with or without support.
- 72 people who are served by supported living agencies.
- 4 children in foster care.
- 82 people in residential care.

Some good news! The Carlie's who operate the Alpine Homes, lost one home but have two that are standing. Very good news for those who use those homes for respite.

Our employees of agencies have been deeply impacted. California Vocations a large service provider had 244 employees with lost homes. Community Living Options had 50 employees lose their homes. Far Northern Chico Office, 15 employees impacted.

We have been deeply wounded. The Ridge is gone.

I want you to know we are working so very hard to restore services, but for some it may take time. Our first priority was to address those clients with serious medical needs. They are being taken out of the area for services and we are looking to our neighboring regional centers for residential resources. We are meeting all day every day to address the needs one person at a time.

We will recover. We will not look the same. If you have a room or "granny flat" that could be rented out to one of our clients, please let us know.

Thank you for your prayers, and good wishes.

Laura Larson
Executive Director Far Northern Regional Center