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Realty Group**

*"Industry Leaders in Medical Real Estate"*



Published Quarterly by A-Med Realty Group

**SUMMER 2018**

**Tom Lackey: An opportunity to invest in individuals with developmental disabilities**

It's not often that government can invest in helping those in our society who can least help themselves without asking taxpayers to kick in more money. That's why California's opportunity to invest hundreds of millions of dollars into high-quality community services for individuals with developmental disabilities is so important.

California is choosing to go local by closing state-run Developmental Centers, which traditionally used to be home to individuals with very acute needs. When the process is complete, all people with special needs will get care from local providers under a community service system like our region does from the North Los Angeles County Regional Center.

Once the Developmental Center closures are complete, the non-partisan Legislative Analyst's Office estimates in a recently released report that the state will save around \$100 million each year from operating costs alone.

However, the real opportunity for the state could come from selling or leasing the Developmental Center properties -- two of which are located in Orange County and Sonoma County. It's unclear how much that could earn the state, but considering the cost of real estate in California it should be a sizeable amount.

However there is an obstacle. Under current law in California, money generated from leasing or selling state properties typically goes back into the state's general fund. Instead, Sacramento must reinvest these savings back into serving individuals with developmental disabilities to ensure local programs can continue providing top quality care. Although our state's Developmental Centers are going away, the needs of our community members and their families are not.

**User-Friendly Or Error-Ridden? Debate Swirls Around Website Comparing Nursing Homes**

Earlier this year, the state Department of Public Health launched a new website, Cal Health Find, intended to help people compare the quality of nursing homes and other health care facilities.

Now, California nursing home advocates are calling on the state to take it down, saying the new site is incomplete, inaccurate and "a huge step in the wrong direction."

The state describes the website as a user-friendly replacement for its previous tool, the [Health Facilities Consumer Information System](#). Among other things, state officials say the new site allows consumers to compare up to three facili-

**Featured Facilities**

**Bay Area**



60 Bed Assisted Living For Sale-  
ARG204690921 - \$7,300,000  
\$97,500 Monthly Income  
29 Bed, 26 Baths, 13,610 Sqft, 32,626 Sqft Lot

**West Covina**



6 Bed RCFE For Sale  
ARG125558909 - \$950,000  
\$20,000 Monthly Income  
6 Bed, 4 Baths, 3,400 sqft

**Huntington Beach**



6 BED RCFE For Sale  
ARG125556778 - \$799,000  
\$17,600 Monthly Income  
4 Beds, 2 Baths, 1,786 sqft Living Space

**Mission Viejo**



6 BED RCFE For Sale  
ARG210714704 - \$3,500  
\$18,000 Monthly Income  
5 Bed, 2 Baths, 1,640 Sqft, 5,820 sqft Lot

**Bellflower**



6 Bed RCFE For Lease  
ARG125552695 - \$4,200  
\$15,800 Monthly Income  
6 Bed, 3 Baths, 2,132 sqft

**Desert Hot Springs**



Desert Hot Springs  
6 Bed RCFE For Lease  
ARG212877818 - \$2,500  
4 Beds, 2 Baths, 1,701 sqft

ities at a time, improves compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and offers language translation tools.

But the nonprofit organization California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform says those extras are of little use because the content itself is wrong. The group complains of inaccurate complaint counts for problematic nursing homes and missing links to inspection reports filed before 2016.

State officials argue that the site is a work in progress that is being refined, with updates to complaint counts coming this soon. The new site cost about \$437,000 to build and operate, officials said.

## DA's new team probes abuses on OC's Rehab Riviera

DA's Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas has created a task force to attempt to clamp down on outlaw addiction services clogging neighborhoods in the county's "Rehab Riviera." Rackauckas' announcement of the new "Sober Living Home Accountability Task Force" follows an ongoing investigation by the Southern California News Group that found deaths, sexual assaults, drug use and paying-for-patients inside the state's loosely-regulated treatment centers and sober living homes.

For nearly a decade, neighborhoods in many of Orange County's coastal cities have been overrun by addiction facilities that often are fronts for illegal activities. "What I'm seeing is a lot of (providers) who used to be addicted to dope are now addicted to money," said Nancy Clark, who runs a recovery business in Orange County, at a hearing hosted Monday in Costa Mesa by Rackauckas.

Rackauckas said the new team, formed about a year after the Register investigation started, would look at whether the addiction business is running afoul of insurance fraud laws and human trafficking statutes. The team would also explore other potential legislation and push to get it passed — a feat that several state lawmakers have been unable to do. Although one audience member implied that Rackauckas was grandstanding, the district attorney — who is running for re-election — stressed that he would try to "clean this mess up." The Southern California News Group investigation found that destitute and homeless addicts can be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars to unscrupulous rehab centers, where those addicts often are bought, sold and exploited for their insurance payments.

## Federal agencies dropped from lawsuit placing blame for San Bernardino terror attack

Two federal agencies have been dropped as defendants in a lawsuit that blames the Inland Regional Center and San Bernardino County for not preventing the Dec. 2, 2015, terrorist attack. The lawsuit was originally led by relatives of three victims in the county court, but was transferred to U.S. District Court last year. It named as defendants San Bernardino County, the Regional Center, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Justice. On Thursday, Santa Ana-based U.S. District Judge Andrew J. Guilford granted the federal government's motion to dismiss from the lawsuit the claims against its two departments. Since the federal defendants were the only reason to move the case to U.S. District Court, Guilford ordered the case back to the local court. He declined to rule on other dismissal motions. Guilford had taken the matter under submission on a Monday hearing.

The wrongful death and negligence lawsuit claims San Bernardino County "knew or should have known that its employee Syed was predisposed to commit acts of violence and thus maintained a hostile work environment;" and that the federal defendants "improperly allowed Syed and Tashfeen to enter the United States." The IRC, the lawsuit claims, "should have known that such an incident could occur." The lawsuit does not make a specific damage amount claim.

• Attorneys for the Inland Regional Center said the attack "was not reasonably foreseeable or preventable ... plaintiffs fail to allege any facts that would place (the center) on reasonable notice that a terrorist attack was reasonably likely to occur."



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