

STATE OF ARKANSAS



Mike Beebe  
*Governor*

Department  
Of Career Education

William L "Bill" Walker, Jr.  
*Director*

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDED AT ARK. CAREER TRAINING INSTITUTE RESTRUCTURED

LITTLE ROCK — As a follow-up to a meeting held November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, Department of Career Education (ACE) Director William L. "Bill" Walker, Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) Commissioner Robert Trevino, and Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI) Administrator Jonathan Bibb met Wednesday with the institute's medical staff in Hot Springs.

The purpose of the meeting was to update the staff on plans to cease on-site-in-patient acute medical care and the resulting restructuring of the center's medical model. The first phase will be the termination of the hospital's license which will be effective April 23, 2012. This change was necessitated by a continued decrease in the number of acute care vocational rehabilitation clients the facility served and the continued escalating cost of providing those services.

The new model will require fewer medical staff and will be effective October 15, 2012. Those positions not assigned to the hospital will be used elsewhere to enhance the center's emphasis on vocational instruction and or related services within the agency.

Even though the hospital license will be terminated and there will be a reduction in the number of medical staff, ACTI will continue to provide non-acute medical care and function as a comprehensive rehabilitation center. In fact, there will be enhancements to the vocational training programs and related services that are provided to the clients served by the center.

"Of the"Frankly, we can no longer justify the expenses required to operate a 24-bed acute care hospital inside our vocational rehabilitation facility when the average daily census for the hospital is barely over one client," Bibb explained.

The change, effective October 15, affects medical staffing requirements and will result in a workforce reduction of approximately     positions. This figure is based on internal reviews of current case loads and external reviews of resource allocations made by the Rehabilitation Services Administration,

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~~which is the federal agency that provides more than 75 percent of ACTI's funding-, positions affected, 33 will remain under the new medical model or within ARS, and we will work with the remaining 22 individuals to find opportunities within ACTI, elsewhere in ARS, ACE and other state agencies, Bibb said.~~

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~~"As promised, we are keeping employees informed of the progress specifically as it affects them and to continue to work collectively to prepare everyone for the transition," Walker said. "It was important to~~

~~"At this point give them approximately six months notice."~~

~~it was important to officially announce the specific positions that will end in October," said Walker, "though we'd already begun looking for opportunities for the affected employees internally,~~

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~~"To date, 14 employees whose hospital positions are being eliminated have secured employment elsewhere within our agency and 11 employees have announced plans to retire. Over the next six months we will continue outplacement efforts and look for placement opportunities within our agency, within state government and even in the private sector."~~

~~Even though the hospital license will be terminated and there will be a reduction in the number of medical staff, ACTI will continue to provide non-acute medical care and function as a comprehensive rehabilitation center. There are no plans to shut down operations at ACTI. In fact, there will be enhancements to the vocational training programs and related services that are provided to the clients served by the center.~~

~~"Our colleagues are highly skilled professionals and will be a very valuable asset to the rest of our agency and to other state and private sector employers, said Trevino. "We will work diligently to ensure all the affected staff find comparable employment." "This has been one of the most difficult decisions that Arkansas Rehabilitation Services has faced to date," Trevino said.~~

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~~"Not only as ACTI administrator, but personally, I am working tirelessly to assist our staff members during this time of transition and to ensure that no member of our family has to lose employment," Bibb said.~~

The Arkansas Career Training Institute (ACTI), formerly known as the Hot Springs Rehabilitation Center, is a comprehensive rehabilitation center, providing vocational training to adult clients with disabilities. ACTI is the country's third largest vocational rehabilitation center.

~~The buildings and grounds that comprise the ACTI campus are the former site of the U.S. Army and Navy General Hospital, which was conveyed to the State of Arkansas in 1960 on the grounds that the property be used as a "vocational rehabilitation center or for other public health or educational purposes." The cessation of acute medical services there does not affect the conditions of that conveyance.~~

***The Arkansas Department of Career Education (ACE) has the mission of providing leadership and contributing resources to serve the diverse and changing career educational needs of Arkansas youth, adults, and persons living with disabilities.***

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