

Rebecca Buck

From: O'Toole, Dawn <dawn.otoole@state.vt.us>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2015 6:40 PM
To: Jane Kitchel; Rebecca Buck; Stephanie Barrett
Cc: Clark, Sarah; Clark, Leo; Schatz, Ken; Pope, Aimee
Subject: follow up to DCF testimony
Attachments: DCF Custody Out of State Placements020515.docx

Hello,
My sincere apologies for the delay in responding to questions from the committee.

Family Services

Senator Sears:

1. How many children are in specialized residential care out of state? **Please see the attached document.**
2. How many children aged 13 and up are delinquent and in custody? **As of March 24, 2015 we have 130 youth, ages 13-20, adjudicated delinquent and in state custody.**

Economic Services

Senator Campbell:

1. Economic Benefits (SNAP, fuel, HC, etc.) how do we compare to other NE states? Is Vermont more generous?

This is a very complex question to answer and requires in-depth research to respond in a meaningful way as benefits are determined on the specific circumstances for each individual or family. Based on a limited review we are able to provide the following: For Reach Up, the Urban Institute's most recent version of the "Welfare Rules Databook" lists the following as the maximum monthly benefit for a family of 3 with no income:

VT: \$640

NH: \$675

MA: \$633

CT: \$576

ME: \$485

RI: \$554

NY: \$789

SNAP is a federally funded and based program so the benefits will be somewhat consistent across the states for similarly situated individuals or families based on household size and income, although some variation will occur based on program waivers states may choose to implement. The most recent data published by the USDA shows the following as the average benefit per household for FFY14:

VT: \$223.58

NH: \$218.95

MA: \$216.92

CT: \$239.19

ME: \$218.40

RI: \$230.89

NY: \$255.16

LIHEAP is a block grant program that allows states much flexibility to operate their program. We have requested program specific data from our fellow New England states and are still waiting on responses.

2. How do we stop people from entering Vermont from other states to access our benefits? **Federal law prohibits a residency requirement to receive benefits.**

Senator Kitchel:

3. How many fraud investigators do we have? It would be great to include how much we save/recover annually. **The fraud unit has 6 investigators, and between all of the programs, cost savings and claims established last year was approximately \$2M.**

Senator Snelling and Senator Kitchel:

4. Demographics-how many people are on Reach Up? How many people receive multiple benefits? How many single, able bodied adults receive benefits? How many ABAWDs are receiving GA?
Reach Up Recipients (current population) = 13393
Reach Up Household (current populations) = 5358
Benefits defined as 3SQVT, Reach Up, GA, Fuel (more than one of these)-35,000 households receive multiple benefits
We do not have data for able bodied adults for all benefits. Using just 3SQVT and Reach Up there are approximately 5,000 able bodied adults receiving benefits
Approximately 66 able bodied adults are receiving GA

Senator Kitchel:

5. Do we still do monthly profiles by district? **Yes**
6. How many individuals are receiving SA services through RU? **200 individuals were receiving substance abuse services through Reach Up as of the end of January.**

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DCF Custody Out of State Placements

Point in Time: 02/05/15

Residential: Total 54

13 Female, 41 male

1 Under age 10, 19 age 10-14, 34 age 15 up to 18

Currently, these youth are placed in:

| Placement | State | Brief Program Description |
|--|------------|--|
| American School for the Deaf | CT | Educational and residential treatment specific to children with hearing impairment- primarily educational placement |
| Becket Family of Services | NH | Staff-secure unlocked treatment facility |
| Justice Resource Institute-Centerpoint | MA | Secure treatment facility |
| Crotched Mountain Foundation | NH | Staff-secure rehabilitation and treatment center for youth with developmental disabilities and/or physical impairments |
| Devereux | MA, FL, CO | MA- Staff Secure unlocked treatment facility FL & CO- Secure treatment facility |
| Eagleton School | MA | Staff-secure unlocked treatment facility |
| Easter Seals New Hampshire | NH | Secure treatment facility |
| Fall River Deaconess Home | MA | Staff-secure treatment facility |
| Foundations for Behavioral Health | OH | Secure treatment facility |
| Hillcrest Educational Center | MA | Staff-secure treatment facility |
| Pine Haven Boys Center | NH | Staff-secure treatment facility |
| Stetson School | MA | Staff-secure treatment facility |
| Stevens Treatment Programs | MA | Staff-secure treatment facility |
| Whitney Academy | MA | Staff-secure treatment facility |

One in out of state incarceration due to criminal charges: In county jail in SC. To be returned to VT within a week.

There are currently 19 children in DCF custody placed in other states with relatives or fictive relatives.

There are an additional 7 children in DCF custody placed with parents in other states.

There are currently no children in DCF custody placed in regular foster care in another state, though this does happen occasionally in exceptional circumstances (ie: A child needs extended medical care which cannot be provided in Vermont or an unrelated VT foster provider moves to another state and wishes the child to remain in their home)