

## Memorandum

**To: Nolan Langweil**  
**From: Karen Vastine**  
**Date: February 16, 2017**  
**Subject: Emergency Shelter for Minors/H.201 Budget Implications**

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H.201 provides for an extension to the length of stay for minors at Commissioner Designated Shelters from up to 7 to up to 21 days. This change is consistent with federal regulations and would allow more intervention time with youth who are homeless or have run away from home.

The Department for Children and Families contracts with Washington County Youth Services Bureau to oversee the network of member agencies entitled VT Coalition of Homeless and Runaway Youth Programs (aka VCHRYP). Member programs of VCHRYP provide a safety net to youth in distress by providing Medicaid services including: shelter, crisis response, counseling, family mediation, and substance abuse treatment to youth throughout Vermont. The VCHRYP agencies comprise the network of 'Commissioner Designated Shelters' which by statute may shelter and support youth who have run away from home.

The services provided by VCHRYP agencies to youth (noted above) are bundled into one monthly fee for each youth of \$1700 and their contract is capped at \$2,465,702 (\$195,000 is General Fund, \$2,270,702 is Medicaid). The agencies work with WCYSB to bill DCF for services through the State's Medicaid fiscal agent on a monthly basis. WCYSB can charge DCF up to the amount of its contract, not beyond.

H.201 provides that youth can remain at a Commissioner's Designated Shelter for up to 21 days, an extension from current statute which only allows for a 7-day stay. Regardless of the services being provided, the VCHRYP member agency monthly rate is capped at \$1700/youth. The staff at VCHRYP believe that youth having the possibility of a longer shelter stay will reduce the pressure on their system of care. Their work is focused on assisting youth reconcile with their families or finding a more permanent housing option which could include DCF custody. Regardless, the programs already utilize their bundled payments to cover each youth's combination of services that they provide. As such, their monthly rate will remain the same, regardless of the number of days the youth is in shelter.

