

Yellow highlight = area for further thought

Sec. E.316. LONG-TERM PLAN FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTHS

(a) On or before October 18, 2020, the Agency of Human services shall permanently cease operations at the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center facility and discontinue all associated programming and treatment services for youth provided at that facility in order to prepare the site for repurposing.

(b) On or before November 1, 2020, the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the Joint Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and the House Human Services Committee a long-term plan for Vermont youth who are in the custody of the Department for Children and Families, are adjudicated or charged with a delinquent or criminal act, and who require secure placement (“target population”). The long-term plan to provide ongoing residential treatment and services to the target population shall:

(1) continue to adequately fund alternative programs and placements for the target population, including those programs and placements that currently accept such youth; and

(2) provide placements for all youths under 18 years of age who are in the custody of the Department of Corrections, and who have historically been placed at Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center instead of a Department of Corrections facility pursuant to the memorandum of understanding between the Department for Children and Families and the Department of Corrections.

(c) On or before November 1, 2020, the Agency of Human Services shall, in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, compare the costs, including available federal

matching funds, associated with contracting with a provider of youth treatment and services to operate a youth treatment facility in Vermont with the costs associated with the State operating a similar youth treatment facility. The cost comparison shall include an evaluation of any construction and renovation costs necessary for a contracted provider of residential treatment services or the State. In the comparative cost analysis, the “no reject/no eject” service capacity need shall be included for both the contract service arrangement and the state operated facility. The Agency shall also evaluate the capacity [and expertise] of the contracted provider of residential treatment services to successfully operate a program appropriate for the target population.

(d)(1) On or before December 15, 2020, the Agency of Human Services shall report to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee regarding:

(A) the status of the FY21 appropriation for Woodside including the costs expended to-date for the partial year operation of Woodside;

(B) the placements and costs projected for the remainder of the fiscal year to support the Agency of Human Services plan for target population placements, including costs associated with third-party contractors;

(C) the status of FY21 funding for target population placements; and

(D) the results of the cost-comparison and evaluations undertaken pursuant to subsection (c) of this section.

(2) The Committee shall consider the report required by this subsection and subsection (b) of this section and introduce any resulting recommendations in the form of draft legislation for the 2021 legislative session.

Sec. X. REPEALS

(a) 33 V.S.A. § 5801 and 5802 are repealed on October 1, 2020.

(b) Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec. A.28 (population funding commitment; Agency of Human Services; Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center; plan for justice involved youths) is repealed.

Sec. X. EFFECTIVE DATES

Sec. E.316 and Sec. X (repeals) take effect on passage.