

## **LANGUAGE FROM SENATE APPROPRIATIONS PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENT TO H.969 (BUDGET BILL)**

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

(a) On or before November 15, 2020 the Agency of Human Services shall submit to the Joint Legislative Child Protection Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee, the Senate Committee on Judiciary, and the House Committee on Human Services a long-term plan for Vermont youths who have historically been served by Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center that; notwithstanding 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 120, Sec. A.29, is anticipated to cease operations in October 2020. The plan shall:

(1) adequately fund alternative programs and placements for youths served by Woodside, including those programs and placements that currently accept justice-involved youths who present a risk of injury to themselves, to others, or to property; 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 two departments.

(b) On or before December 15, 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 Becket Family Services of New Hampshire (Becket) or another provider of youth treatment and services to operate a youth treatment facility in Vermont with the costs associated with the State operating a youth treatment facility. The cost comparison shall include an evaluation of any construction and renovation costs necessary for a facility operated by Becket or another provider 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 Becket or another provider to successfully operate a program appropriate for the youths currently served by Woodside and Vermont youths currently placed out of State.

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

(1) the status of the fiscal year 2021 appropriation for Woodside including the costs expended to date for the partial year operation of Woodside;

(2) the placements and costs projected for the remainder of the fiscal year to house and provide services to youths who would have been served at the Woodside facility;

(3) the status of fiscal year 2021 funding for justice-involved youth placements; and

(4) the results of the cost comparison and evaluations undertaken pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.