

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

2 (a) On or before October 18, 2020, the Agency of Human services shall
3 permanently cease operations at the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center
4 facility and discontinue all associated programming and treatment services for
5 youth provided at that facility.

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

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

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

- 1 (c) On or before November 1, 2020, the Agency of Human Services shall:
- 2 (1) in consultation with the Joint Fiscal Office, conduct a cost
- 3 comparison, including available federal matching funds, associated with
- 4 contracting with a provider of youth treatment and services to operate a youth
- 5 treatment facility in Vermont with the costs associated with the State operating
- 6 a similar youth treatment facility, to include:
- 7 (A) the “no reject/no eject” service capacity need for both the
- 8 contract service arrangement and the state operated facility; and
- 9 (B) an evaluation of any construction and renovation costs necessary
- 10 for a contracted provider of residential treatment services or the State.
- 11 (2) evaluate the capacity and expertise of the contracted provider of
- 12 residential treatment services to successfully operate a program appropriate for
- 13 the target population, including:
- 14 (A) conducting a treatment model evaluation;
- 15 (B) determining whether the model is evidence-based, strength-
- 16 based, trauma informed, and focused on restorative practices; and
- 17 (C) evaluating the cultural competency training of staff.
- 18 (3) include the results of the cost comparison and capacity and expertise
- 19 evaluation required by this subsection in its report pursuant to subsection (b) of
- 20 this section.

1 (d)(1) On or before November 13, 2020, the Joint Legislative Justice
2 Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Child Protection Committee
3 shall:

4 (A) meet jointly to review the Agency’s plan pursuant to subsection
5 (b) of this section, including the cost-comparison, capacity, and expertise
6 evaluations required by subsection (c) of this section; and

7 (B) report to the Joint Fiscal Committee on the Committees’ joint
8 recommendation on whether to approve the Agency’s plan pursuant to
9 subsection (b) of this section.

10 (2) On or before November 20, 2020, the Joint Fiscal Committee shall
11 act on the recommendation.

12 (e) On or before December 15, 2020, the Agency of Human Services shall
13 report jointly to the Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee and the
14 Joint Legislative Child Protection Committee regarding:

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

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

20 (3) the status of FY21 funding for target population placements.

21 Sec. X. REPEALS

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

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

5 Sec. X. EFFECTIVE DATES

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

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