

FOLLOW UP TO FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT TESTIMONY
Good Afternoon Representative Pugh,

I am writing to follow up on the items requested by HHS after last week's testimony regarding the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

- Below/attached is the Public Consulting Group (PCG) Report on Residential System of Care for Children and Youth in Vermont Analysis.
- Attached is a summary of how we currently funds residential care for children/youth in DCF custody in Vermont.
- The FFPSA Workplan is being updated by FFPSA Project Manager Kristina James and I will get that to you within the next two weeks.
- The Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) Readiness Assessment is being completed by our Residential Licensing and Special Investigation Unit (RLSI) and I will get that document to you by the end of February.
- With regard to the use of the FFPSA transition funds, thus far the funds have been used to pay for the attached PCG report (approximately \$180K), and funding is now going toward the business analysis of the cost of implementation.

Please let me know if there is anything else that I can provide to assist the committee.

Thank you, Brenda Gooley

Brenda Gooley, MSW

Director of Operations

Family Services Division

Department for Children and Families

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To: Community Partners
From: Sean Brown, Commissioner, DCF
Sarah Squirrell, Commissioner, DMH
Monica Hutt, Commissioner, DAIL
Re: Release of Residential System of Care for Children and Youth in Vermont Analysis

In the spring of 2020, an interagency coordinated effort (Department for Children and Families, Department of Mental Health, and Department of Disabilities, Aging and Independent Living) was undertaken to review the Children's residential system of care, identify and address gaps and inefficiencies, and create an action plan with the goal of providing better care and support for children/youth.

The Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS) contracted with Public Consulting Group, Inc. (PCG) to conduct this analysis in order to identify the incremental steps Vermont can begin taking to:

- strengthen community-based supports and services;
- increase the ability of families to care for their children while they receive the necessary therapeutic treatment;
- provide necessary treatment within family-like settings, thus decreasing the need to receive that treatment within a residential setting; and
- assure youth only reside within residential settings when treatment provided is necessary and prescribed and only for the duration of that need.

This analysis consisted of three main phases:

1. Conduct a current state assessment of the system of care for children in Vermont.
2. Analyze findings from the current state assessments.
3. Develop recommendations and an action plan for system of care improvement.

PCG conducted an assessment of the current system of care through qualitative data collected from document reviews and extensive interviews with state personnel from six different departments, regional service providers, and regional family organizations, as well as an analysis of de-identified quantitative data sets received from the State Interagency Team (SIT) Case Review Committee (CRC).

In addition to this report and analysis, efforts have been ongoing in Vermont to strengthen and support children and youth in Vermont. For instance, an alternative to Woodside is moving forward, efforts to create a sustainable program at the Brattleboro Retreat to most appropriately serve children and youth is occurring, and discussion to serve more Vermont children in state is moving forward.

You can read the report and see the data analysis in their entirety [here](#).

Special thanks to PCG for their analysis and the AHS Interagency Steering Committee who supported this work:

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