Wells River Treatment Center Newbury, VT

Presentation to Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee Presented by Sean Brown, DCF Commissioner

August 11, 2021

Project continues to move forward

A 6-bed secure residential treatment facility for justice-involved youth

in

Newbury, Vermont

A Collaborative Partnership between: Department for Children and Families (DCF) Becket Family Services Vermont Permanency Initiative (VPI) Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS) Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA) Studio Nexus Architects

Behavioral Health Programming Overview

- Behavioral health practices are trauma-informed and culturally sensitive utilizing evidence-based mental health assessments, treatment opportunities, restorative justice and permanency planning
- Treatment evaluations and diagnostics allow necessary treatment and promote services limited to the shortest duration essential to prepare youth for safe return to home/community with the supports needed for success
- Transition services begin at intake
- Measurable goals and system performance measures are identified in program practices
- Program description and policies include protocols that are required in secure care treatment settings

Population to be Served

- Justice-Involved Youth Only No CHINS Youth
 - Boys Aged 12-17
 - A No Reject/Eject Program

Traffic Study Completed

Resource Systems Group (RSG) has completed a Transportation Assessment:

- The project is expected to generate limited traffic
- No road improvements are required for the project
- A transportation maintenance plan is recommended for Stevens Place to ensure the site is accessible in all weather conditions

Wetland Issue Identified and Resolved

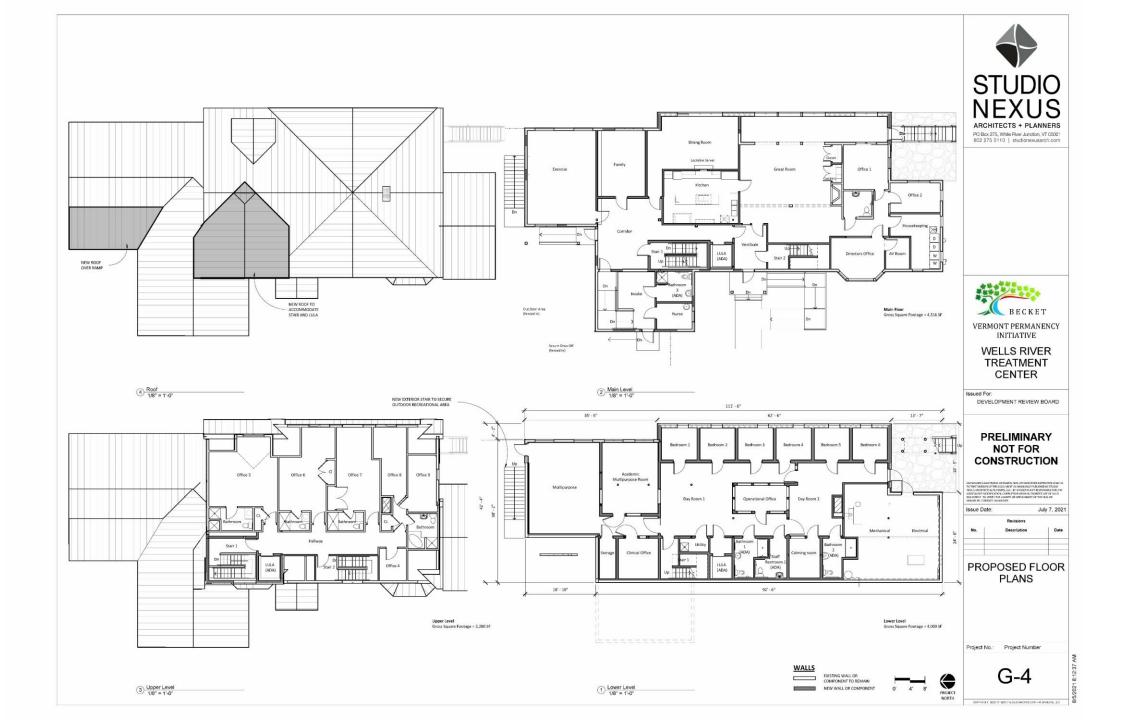
Becket and DCF agreed to restore all the wetland buffer area

The project will be a restoration project vs a site redesign which is considered an allowed use under VT Wetland Rules:

Section 6: Allowed Uses, 6.23 Wetland restoration or stream restoration projects, including dam removals, in accordance with a plan approved by the Secretary

Once the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approves the plan for this work, then the project would not be subject to any wetland permit

Design Plans















RENDERINGS

Project No.: Project Number

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Permits

 Application for Zoning Permit has been filed with the Newbury Development Review Board (DRB)

A public hearing has been set for September 9, 2021

 Application for Act 250 Permit has also been filed with the Regional Coordinator A public hearing has been set for August 25, 2021

Contract Negotiations

• Lease Agreement

BGS and DCF working together on lease negotiations between Becket and the State

• Program Operation's Contract

Current discussions ongoing between DCF and Becket on policies for facility, continuing to work with consultants to ensure trauma-informed care and employee support

Wells River Treatment Center

Questions