



VERMONT DEPARTMENT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Placement and Service Provision for Youth

Senate Judiciary Committee January 5th, 2022

Sean Brown, Commissioner, DCF

Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner, DCF-FSD

DCF Vision and Mission

DCF is committed to positive youth development and providing support and services to promote safety, long-term stability and well-being.

DCF recognizes the importance of appropriate settings for youth to meet their needs, whether that be community based care or residential treatment.

DCF-Family Services Division

Custody and Case Types

Custody

When a family court judge places a child in the temporary custody of DCF because of concerns about the youth's safety and well-being.

Conditional Custody

When a family court judge places a child in the conditional custody of a parent, relative, or other person known to the family and orders DCF to supervise, provide services, and ensure the child's safety.



ABUSE AND NEGLECT
CHILD IN NEED OF
SUPERVISION (CHINS)

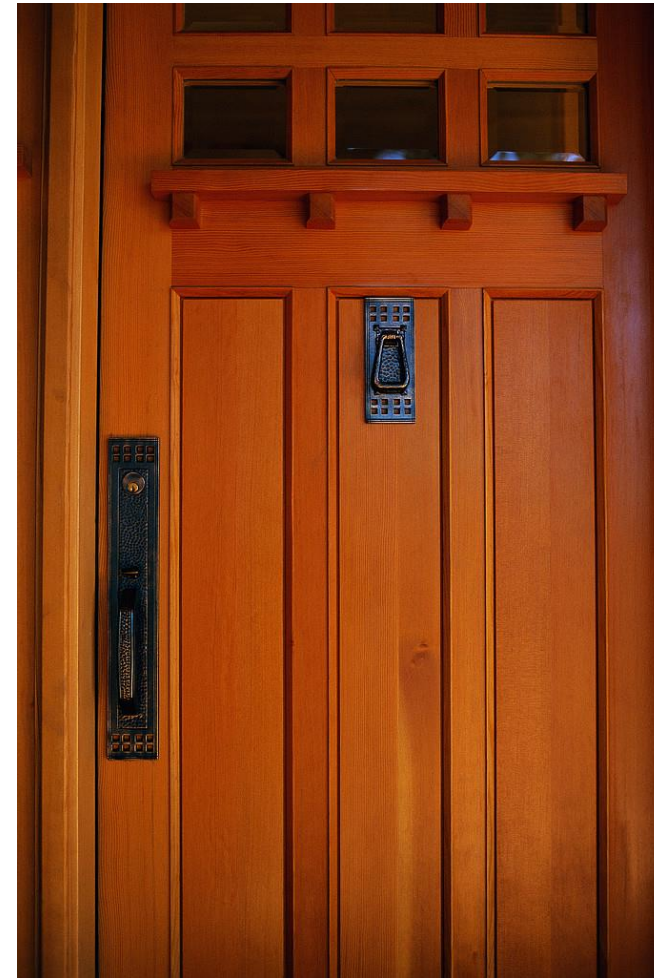


**ADJUDICATED
DELINQUENCY**
CHILD IN CUSTODY

Where do Children in Custody Live?

as of September 30, 2021

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Foster Care | 429 |
| Kin Care | 352 |
| Residential Care | 128 |
| At Home | 75 |
| Pre-Adoptive Home | 61 |
| Independent Living | <10 |
| Total: | 1,055 |



Data Source: FSD Quarterly Management Report; 2021 Q3

Data Note: Data is point-in-time as of 09/30/2021.

JUSTICE- INVOLVED YOUTH

Delinquent youth in custody – 41

Delinquent youth not in custody – 242

Data Note: Data is point-in-time as of 10/1/2021

The total percentage of delinquent involved youth in custody is 3.89% of the total youth in DCF custody

Where do Delinquent Children in Custody Live?

as of September 30, 2021

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Foster Care | 7 |
| Kin Care | 4 |
| Residential Care | 18 |
| At Home | 10 |

Data Source: FSD Quarterly Management Report; 2021 Q3

Data Note: Data is point-in-time as of 09/30/2021

IMPACTS OF COVID-19

Core programs have been operating at diminished capacity due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Limited staffing capacity has led to triaging within programs, decreased care capacity, and suspended services.

Risks associated with kinship placements with vulnerable adults.

DCF EFFORTS TO STABILIZE THE HIGH ACUITY SYSTEM OF CARE

- Effective 2/1/22, the Becket Support and Stabilization contract will include recruitment of stabilization foster homes and wraparound services to these homes.
- Currently, DCF is funding health care travelers to fortify the staffing crisis in SEALL and Winsor County Programs. To date over 1000 hours of traveler time has been utilized. The contract will be active through March 2022.
- DCF is providing emergency relief funds to Residential Programs in Vermont to support ongoing service for youth in need of this level of care.
- Case planning and ongoing communication with DMH.
- DCF has contracted with Vermont's Family First Agency to develop a two-bed program to serve Developmentally Delayed youth.
- Actively pursuing through rate setting a more competitive rate for our Vermont programs and service providers.
- DCF has retained a security consultant firm to support high-end youth and stabilizing the system of care.

SECURE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE INVOLVED YOUTH

- DCF is developing a treatment program in collaboration with Becket Family Services, with plans to renovate a property in Newbury, Vermont into a secure home like environment.
- The application for a permit was denied by the Newbury Development Review Board. DCF and Becket have filed an appeal with the Environmental Division of the Vermont Superior Court.
- DCF is taking steps to establish an interim in-state secure setting to stabilize youth in behavioral health crisis.
- DCF continues to actively work with Becket to develop the secure program at the Newbury site.

DCF Plan for Placement of Youth— Services under development

DCF is exploring utilizing temporary state of Vermont employees to assist with after-hours staffing and high-end staffing needs.

DCF is actively exploring contracting with a program for Psychiatric Residential Treatment.

DCF is exploring contracting with an agency to provide afterhours transportation.

DMH is working to ensure our mental health crisis stabilization programs get back to full capacity.

FSD WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The newly-developed FSD workforce development workgroup is engaged in finding ways to increase employee retention and improvements in hiring for the division. Issues for consideration include:

- Providing pay incentives for those staffing COVID positive youths;
- Creation of a Specialized Response Team, with eligibility for a yearly stipend, to serve emergent needs of youth in care;
- Reinstating the Senior FSW designation.