

1 Sec. 1. STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP; FACILITY PLANNING

2 FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH

3 (a) The Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the
4 Department of Buildings and General Services, shall assemble a stakeholder
5 working group to provide regular input on the planning, design, development,
6 and implementation of the temporary stabilization facility for youth and on the
7 development of a long-term plan for the high-end system of care.

8 (b) The stakeholder working group, constituted as a subcommittee of, or
9 drawn from, existing groups or created as a separate group, may include
10 representatives from:

11 (1) the families of children in the Department's custody for delinquency
12 offenses;

13 (2) youth who have been in custody for juvenile offenses;

14 (3) the Juvenile Defender's Office;

15 (4) the Office of State's Attorneys;

16 (5) the Family Court;

17 (6) the Office of Racial Equity;

18 (7) the Vermont Family Network;

19 (8) the Vermont Federation of Families;

20 (9) the Children and Family Council for Prevention Programs;

21 (10) the Vermont Protection and Advocacy;

22 (11) the Department of Mental Health;

23 (12) the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living;

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1 (13) the State Program Standing Committees for Developmental

2 Services, Children’s Mental Health, and Adult Mental Health; and

3 (14) any other groups the Department may select.

4 (c) The Department shall regularly present relevant information to the
5 stakeholder working group established pursuant to this section and review
6 recommendations from the working group regarding:

7 (1) facility design layout, programming, and policy development for the
8 temporary stabilization facility, including data on the number of cases and
9 types of case mix, as well as likely length of stay; and

10 (2) the Department’s data and assumptions for size, type of treatment,
11 and security levels for future permanent facilities included in the planning
12 process proposed in the fiscal year 2024 capital bill; optimal locations,
13 including whether a campus plan is appropriate; and any plans regarding the
14 use of outside contractors for facility operations, including State oversight of
15 appropriate quality of care.

16 (d) The stakeholder working group established in this section shall be
17 subject to the requirements of the Vermont Open Meeting Law.

18 (e) On or before January 15, 2024, the Commissioner of Children and
19 Families shall develop and submit a strategic plan to the House Committees on
20 Corrections and Institutions and on Human Services and to the Senate
21 Committees on Health and Welfare and Institutions, as part of the overall
22 planning process for development of the high-end system of care, for
23 preventing the disproportionality of youth who are Black, Indigenous, or

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1 Persons of Color in staff- or building-secure facilities. The strategic plan shall

2 include mechanisms for collecting necessary data, and the process of

3 development shall include input from relevant public stakeholders.

4 (e) The stakeholder working group shall cease to exist on June 30, 2025.

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