

# **ACT 160 FINAL PLAN: SECURE PLACEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

Presentation to The Joint Legislative Justice Oversight  
Committee

December 12, 2022

Dr. Harry Chen, Interim Commissioner, Department for Children and Families

Aryka Radke, Deputy Commissioner, Family Services Division

Tyler Allen, Adolescent Services Director, Family Services Division

Jennifer Fitch, Commissioner, Buildings and General Services

Erik Filkorn, Buildings and General Services

# **ACT 160 FINAL REPORT: DCF PROPOSED HIGH-END SYSTEM OF CARE PLAN**

- Updated description of youth populations presenting the most significant systems vulnerabilities
- Updated information regarding the state of DCF's System of Care
- Proposed plan (descriptions of projects underway to fill in needed systems gaps)
- Partner engagement efforts and other recommendations

# STATUS OF VERMONT'S RESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF CARE

Level of Care	Pre- Pandemic Contracted Capacity	Current Licensed Capacity	Actual Capacity- Nov 10, 2022	Actual Capacity as a Percentage of Pre-pandemic Contract	Actual Capacity as a Percentage of Current Licensed Capacity
Secure Programming	16	0	0	0%	0%
Crisis Stabilization	20	20	14	70%	70%
Mental Health Emergency Beds	16	18	11	69%	61%
Short Term Stabilization	14	14	5	36%	36%
Intensive residential	75	46	44	59%	96%
Community Based Residential	55	59	30	54%	51%
<b>Total</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>66%</b>

# PROPOSED PLAN

- **Short Term Secure Stabilization:** Hardware-secured physical structure with generalized therapeutic programming, designed to immediately manage acute safety crises for any justice-involved youth.
- **Short Term Secure Treatment:** Hardware-secured physical structure with specialized therapeutic programming, designed to address behaviors that present risk to personal or public safety for appropriate justice-involved youth.
- **Staff-Secure Crisis Stabilization:** Community-based physical structure with generalized or specialized therapeutic programming, designed to immediately manage acute crises for any youth,
- **Psychiatric Residential Treatment:** Community-based physical structure with specialized therapeutic services designed to serve youth with intensive mental health or developmental needs.

# WINDHAM COUNTY COLLABORATION

## **Two Programs:**

### **The Rest Stop**

- Currently in operation; an emergency placement solution for one youth to be temporarily held while awaiting more permanent placement
- Relies on Staffing pattern utilizing FSD staff, sheriffs, and other providers as appropriate

### **Staff-Secure Crisis Stabilization Program**

- 2-bed, staff-secure crisis stabilization program with sheriff support: development in process

# TEMPORARY SECURE STABILIZATION- MODULAR BUILD

- Working with architects, BGS and DCF are developing plans for modular buildings
- BGS and DCF staff conducted site visits to assess the most viable locations for the rapid development of a temporary facility; these site visits have assessed both existing structures and grounds review
- BGS is working with two vendors to develop solutions for an architecturally secure facility to accommodate the needs of up to 8 justice-involved youth of any age or gender requiring secure treatment, education, and care
- Project emphasis is on physical security, therapeutic quality of space, and timelines

# MODULAR BUILD, CONT.



Examples of modular or “pod” solutions for facilities

# NEXT STEPS

- **Secure Stabilization Facility:**
  - Release RFP to identify and engage a provider
  - Continue to engage communities
  - Select sites and finalize project specifics
- Complete PRTF RFP with DMH and DAIL
- Expedited construction of Windham Crisis Stabilization Program
- Continue to develop Secure Treatment Facility in Newbury
- Develop policies and procedures to support the educational, clinical, and legal needs of youth in each proposed setting
- Continue to expand efforts to stabilize and grow providers within the existing residential system of care