DCF High-End System of Care Update in Accordance with Act 23, Section 14

- Report reiterates the High-End System of Care (HESOC) plan program types
- HESOC Expansion updates
- Stabilization and Treatment Settings – Foundational Principles Statement
- Partner engagement efforts and other recommendations
- Link to DCF Act 23 report
Woodside

Protecting children is our work – and in the running of Woodside we made mistakes

We have learned lessons from that model and will not be repeating it:

• First and foremost, there must be a system of treatment providers at a variety of levels of care, not just one facility.

• The system must be a therapeutic one with appropriate trauma-informed treatment and educational supports.

• There must be transparent oversight and accountability for the entire system, but more so for the higher levels of care, particularly any locked/secured sites.

• The State cannot be both the ultimate regulator and the provider.
## Current High-End System of Care Capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Care</th>
<th>Pre-Pandemic Contracted Capacity</th>
<th>Current Licensed Capacity</th>
<th>Actual Capacity - August 28, 2023</th>
<th>Actual Capacity (Percent of Pre-pandemic Contract)</th>
<th>Actual Capacity (Percent of Current Licensed Capacity)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Secure Programming</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Stabilization</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Emergency Beds</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>61%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Term Stabilization</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intensive Residential</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Based Residential</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>196</strong></td>
<td><strong>155</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
<td><strong>51%</strong></td>
<td><strong>65%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data updated on 8/28/23*
High-End System of Care

**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, including appropriate justice involved youth.

**Psychiatric Residential Treatment:** Community-based physical structure with specialized therapeutic services designed to serve youth with intensive mental health or developmental needs, including appropriate justice involved youth.
The Broad Approach

- The youth DCF generally supports have experienced trauma, have significant Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), and experience mental health challenges as a result.
- Consistent with a more therapeutic approach, for decades Vermont has been moving towards using the least restrictive settings possible in a variety of systems of care.
- Setting matters. Brain science shows the value of nature for promoting healing and brain cognitive development.
- There are youth who are our neighbors, friends, students, and families. We, communities as well as State systems, have an obligation to serve and support them.
- DCF developed a statement of principles to guide development of programs and settings for the HESOC.
Stakeholder Engagement

• Per Act 78:
  “Sec. E.316  STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP; FACILITY PLANNING FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH
  (a) The Department for Children and Families, in consultation with the Department of Buildings and General Services, shall assemble a stakeholder working group to provide regular input on the planning, design, development, and implementation of the temporary stabilization facility for youth and on the development of a long-term plan for the high-end system of care.”

• First meeting of invited stakeholders will be October 27, 2023. The objective of the first convening is to build the operational framework and identify who else should be included.

• DCF’s intention is that stakeholder input and involvement will not be limited only to the group required in Act 78.
Short-Term Secure Stabilization, Temporary Site

**Building:** Renovation of former Middlesex Therapeutic Community Residence (MTCR)

**Program:** Reduced census from previous uses (both DMH and FSD). Program will serve up to 4 youth in need of secure stabilization. This will not be a large enough program to meet the full demands for secure treatment in the state but will address the most acute needs.

**Staffing:** RFP issued (8/22/23) but no responses received. DCF is currently outreaching to local community providers.

**Status:** Construction permit submitted; anticipated opening between January and March 2024 depending on supply chain availability.
Short-Term Secure Stabilization and Treatment, Permanent Site

**Building and Program:** DCF and BGS have been moving to develop a secure campus setting that contains both short-term stabilization and treatment programs. The location and specific plans will be identified through the bid and design processes.

**Program:** Both programs will be served by a common core space that houses education, recreation, wellness, and administration components.

**Staffing:** RFP issued (8/22/23) but no responses received. DCF is currently outreaching to local community providers.

**Status:** Out to bid for design/build to lease. Submission deadline for bid proposals is Friday, November 10.
**Staff-Secure Crisis Stabilization**

**Building**: Windham County Sheriff's Building

**Program**: Currently wrapping up Architectural/Engineering phase. Working on aggressive schedule for construction phase to begin. Overall budget approved for moving forward.

**Staffing**: Finalizing minor details and budget. Staffing RFP will be ready for release within the coming weeks (mid-November).

**Status**: Construction bid documents will be ready for review in November. DCF anticipates being able to use this facility by the summer of 2024.
Short-Term Secure Treatment

**Building:** Summit Transition Home, Newbury

**Status:** Plans to renovate the Summit Transition Home into a short-term treatment secure program have been on pause during litigation. DCF awaits the Supreme Court’s verdict.
Psychiatric Residential Treatment (PRTF)

**Program**: In collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Department for Aging and Independent Living (DAIL), DCF issued an RFP on 5/10/23 to develop a PRTF Facility within Vermont that can serve up to 15 Vermont youths.

**Staffing**: To be provided by the bidder.

**Status**: The RFP yielded a successful bid, and the Departments are currently engaging with the bidder in contractual negotiations.