

Green Mountain Youth Center: Project Overview and Orientation

Sandi Hoffman, DCF Commissioner

Aryka Radke, DCF-FSD Deputy Commissioner

Presentation Content

- Overview
- Current Status
- Implementation and programming
- Facility Planning Stakeholders Working Group

Overview

Serving

- Ages 12-17, all genders
- Justice-involved youths
- DCF/DOC & ICJ placements

Programs

- Stabilization: Short-term
- Treatment: Longer-term
- Trauma-responsive care

Capacity

- Designed for peak demand
- Full at 85% occupancy

Stabilization Program

- Serves: Pre-adjudicated youth immediately following delinquency/criminal charges
- Placement: Court-ordered; certain DCF/ICJ placements
- Purpose: Supports youth during acute behavioral crisis
- Goal: Transition youth to a stable community-based setting
- Duration: Typically, 1-45 days

Treatment Program

- Population: Post-adjudicated youth
- Placement: More restrictive therapeutic setting when community care is insufficient
- Purpose: Provide sustained therapeutic intervention
- Approach: Trauma-responsive care
- Goal: Designed to treat youth in-state and reduce out-of-state placements

Acute Inpatient Hospitalization	Brattleboro Retreat (DMH and DCF) • Adolescent Inpatient Units (18 beds) (2 hospital units/floors) • Children's Inpatient Program (9 beds) (1 hospital unit/floor)		Pending RFP Southern Vermont Medical Center (DMH and DCF) • Adolescent Inpatient Units (12 beds)	
Crisis Stabilization	Secure Pretrial Youth Services	Sentinel • Red Clover (4/4 beds) (temporary solution)	Pending • Green Mountain Youth Center (8 beds) (secure)	
	Staff Secure	Abraxas • West River Haven (3/2)	Seall, Inc. • 206 Depot (3/1 beds) (crisis de-escalation) • 204 Depot (5/5 beds) • Girls Adolescent Program (5/5 beds)	Washington County Mental Health Services (WCMHS) • T-Roc (1/1 bed) • Individualized Crisis and Assessment Program (ICAP) (3/1 beds)
Specialized Short Term	Mental Health Emergency	Northeastern Family Institute (NFI) • Hospital Diversion North (6/4 beds) • Hospital Diversion South (6/4 beds)	Pending RFP • (6 beds)	
	Stabilization	Windsor County Youth Services • 20-Mile Stream (6/6 beds)		
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility	Pending (Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility) • Brattleboro Retreat (Linden St. Complex) (15 beds)			
Intensive Residential	Secure Treatment	Pending • Green Mountain Youth Center (6 beds) (physically secure)		
	Staff Secure Treatment	Community House • Community House (6/6 beds)	Vermont Permanency Initiative (VPI) • Vermont School for Girls (14/14 beds) • New England School for Girls (6/6 beds)	Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center • Brookhaven (8/8 beds)
	Brattleboro retreat • Abigail Rockwell 8/5 beds			Howard Center • Park Street 6/5 beds
Community-Based Residential	Howard Center • T-House (4/4 beds)	Laraway Youth and Family Services • Foote Brook (3/3 beds) • Capitol Meadows (3/2 beds)	Northeastern Family Institute (NFI) • Group Home (6/5 beds) • Allenbrook (7/7 beds) • Village House (3/2 beds) • DBT House (4/4 beds)	Washington County Mental Health Services • Highland (4/1 beds) • Crescent (3/3 beds) • SkyView (8/4 beds)

In-State DCF Youth Residential Services Continuum

HESOC Program Development

In 2023, DCF submitted a plan to the Legislature to address the most critical areas of need within its contracted In-State Residential System of Care. These levels of care are what we consider the High-End System of Care.

Short Term Secure Crisis Stabilization (up to 30 days)

- Red Clover Treatment Center
- Green Mountain Youth Center (pending- 2028)

Short Term Secure Treatment (6 Months)

- Green Mountain Youth Center (pending- 2028)

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility (Treatment Specific- up to a year)

- Brattleboro Retreat (pending- 2026)

Staff Secure Crisis Stabilization (up to 30 days)

- VCIN expansion
- West River Haven

GMYC Facilities Updates

- Builder: Neagley & Chase Construction.
- Architects: Duncan Wisniewski and Specialty Architect Treanor.
- Design: Schematic design completed and submitted for comment.
- Current Phase: Design development. Programming flow, security features, cameras, interior and exterior design.
- Stakeholder Group Concept Review: October.
- Next Steps: Continue refining design based on stakeholder and consultant input. Apply lessons learned from prior iterations.

Facilities Planning Stakeholders Working Group (FPSWG) Overview

The FPSWG initially began meeting in November of 2023 to provide feedback on DCF's High-End System of Care project including facility development. The group was re-established in June of 2026. The group is composed of:

- 2 individuals with lived or family experience
- Office of the Child, Youth, and Family Advocate
- The Defender Generals Office
- The Office of States Attorneys and Sheriffs
- The Office of Racial Equity
- Members of the Judiciary
- The Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
- The Council for Equitable Youth Justice
- Buildings and General Services
- AHS Departments- DCF, DMH and DAIL

Facilities Planning Stakeholders Working Group (FPSWG): Proposed Timeline

The FPSWG has met four times since reconvening and is establishing a regular monthly meeting schedule. The group is developing operational agreements and a shared understanding of current needs, project status, and facility design.

The group is focused on:

- Oversight
- Educational & therapeutic programming
- Service age
- Community engagement
- Comparison with other states' approaches

Department of Corrections Data

In the last 2 years there have been 56 emerging adults ages 14 to 18, including:

- 1 youth age 14;
- 1 youth age 15;
- 7 youths age 16;
- 14 youths age 17;
- 33 youths age 18

Considerations for Serving 18 Year Olds at GMYC

- Developmental and service needs of youth served.
- Safety needs
- Whether community-based options are more appropriate for the legally adult population.
- Benefits and challenges with age expansion
- Input from individuals with lived experience
- FPSWG input

Thank you