



Wells River Treatment Center Newbury, VT

Presentation to Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

Presented by Sean Brown, DCF Commissioner

August 11, 2021

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Project continues to move forward

A 6-bed secure residential treatment facility for justice-involved youth
in
Newbury, Vermont

A Collaborative Partnership between:
Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Becket Family Services
Vermont Permanency Initiative (VPI)
Department of Buildings and General Services (BGS)
Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA)
Studio Nexus Architects

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Behavioral Health Programming Overview

- Behavioral health practices are trauma-informed and culturally sensitive utilizing evidence-based mental health assessments, treatment opportunities, restorative justice and permanency planning
- Treatment evaluations and diagnostics allow necessary treatment and promote services limited to the shortest duration essential to prepare youth for safe return to home/community with the supports needed for success
- Transition services begin at intake
- Measurable goals and system performance measures are identified in program practices
- Program description and policies include protocols that are required in secure care treatment settings

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Population to be Served

- Justice-Involved Youth Only – No CHINS Youth
 - Boys Aged 12-17
- A No Reject/Eject Program

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Traffic Study Completed

Resource Systems Group (RSG) has completed a Transportation Assessment:

- The project is expected to generate limited traffic
- No road improvements are required for the project
- A transportation maintenance plan is recommended for Stevens Place to ensure the site is accessible in all weather conditions

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Wetland Issue Identified and Resolved

Becket and DCF agreed to restore all the wetland buffer area

The project will be a restoration project vs a site redesign which is considered an allowed use under VT Wetland Rules:

Section 6: Allowed Uses, 6.23 Wetland restoration or stream restoration projects, including dam removals, in accordance with a plan approved by the Secretary

Once the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approves the plan for this work, then the project would not be subject to any wetland permit

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Design Plans



**STUDIO
NEXUS**

ARCHITECTS + PLANNERS
PO Box 275, White River Junction, VT 05001
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B E C K E T
VERMONT PERMANENCY
INITIATIVE

**WELLS RIVER
TREATMENT
CENTER**

Issued For:
DEVELOPMENT REVIEW BOARD

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Issue Date: July 7, 2021

Revisions		
No.	Description	Date

RENDERINGS

Project No.: Project Number

G-7

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Permits

- Application for Zoning Permit has been filed with the Newbury Development Review Board (DRB)

A public hearing has been set for September 9, 2021

- Application for Act 250 Permit has also been filed with the Regional Coordinator

A public hearing has been set for August 25, 2021

Wells River Treatment Center Updates

Contract Negotiations

- Lease Agreement

BGS and DCF working together on lease negotiations between Becket and the State

- Program Operation's Contract

Current discussions ongoing between DCF and Becket on policies for facility, continuing to work with consultants to ensure trauma-informed care and employee support

Wells River Treatment Center

Questions