

Letter of Intent (LOI)

LOI between the Becket Family of Services (Becket) and the Vermont Department for Children and Families (DCF)

With the support of the Vermont Legislature, DCF is pursuing the closure of the Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center (Woodside). In anticipation of Woodside's closure, DCF-FSD approached numerous community-based programs who provide residential treatment to youth and adolescents to operate a secure residential treatment program for the state. Becket has expressed interest in supporting the development and future management / operation of such a facility at a VT property they own (hereinafter, the "Program").

The purpose of this LOI is to guide and clarify the general scope of the anticipated work between Becket and DCF and is not a binding agreement. The parties expect to execute a binding agreement at the successful conclusion of their negotiations over the design and cost of the Program.

Type of Program: A 5-8 bed secure residential treatment program for at-risk youth ages 12-19 ("Youth").

Physical Plant: The Department for Children and Families (DCF) through their contract with consultant Michael Dempsey, CEO, of the Council of Juvenile Justice Administrators (CJJA) will conduct an architectural/engineering assessment of a Becket property located in Vermont to determine the feasibility, design and cost of renovations needed to achieve a secure residential treatment program conducive to assessment, stabilization, programming and therapeutic treatment for Youth needing secure residential care, where the safety and well-being of youth and staff are of paramount concern.

Population Served: Youth involved with the Juvenile Justice System, and dually involved with the child welfare system, who present a level of behavioral risk appropriate for secure therapeutic care and treatment. This may include Youth who are at risk for harm to self, or others, and/or a risk to community safety. This will include youth that have not yet completed the dispositional phase of the court process. Becket will work with the Specialized Services Unit to ensure all youth that need long-term treatment are successfully transitioned to those appropriate settings.

Target Opening Date: TBD (estimated at 9-12 months)

Cost: TBD (subject to legislative appropriation)

Funding Source: General Funds and Medicaid Funds if possible

Admissions:

The Program will adhere to a mutually agreed upon admission policy which will encompass the following elements:

- Admission available 24/7.
- Pursuant to 33 V.S.A. §5291 and when availability permits, Becket will accept all youth ordered to the program by the courts and administratively placed at the program by DCF-FSD to provide screening, assessment, stabilization, and treatment services, as appropriate. Beckett understands that youth admitted to the program are required to stay in the program unless or until their custody case is discharged by the court or DCF had determined a less restrictive or another appropriate placement can be secured.

- Placement of youth by DCF-FSD at the secure treatment facility will utilize DCF-FSD policies related to Intake and Screening, Acute Psychiatric Crisis, and Emergency Safety Interventions. DCF-FSD will work collaboratively with Becket to refine these policies and develop protocols which include consideration by the Specialized Placement Unit and Centralized Intake and Emergency Services (CIES).
- The Program will facilitate, in collaboration with DCF-FSD, ongoing assessment of youth for appropriate and timely response when alternative less-restrictive options are in the best interest of the youth. Decisions will be made based upon screening and assessment results and in collaboration with the treatment team and with the Specialized Services Unit.

Programming:

The Program will utilize a mutually agreed programming model that will be evidence-based, trauma-informed and in alignment with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) guidelines. It will consist of the following elements:

- A Trauma Informed Intake/Admission Process
- Mental Health Screening and Comprehensive Assessments
- A Strong Family Engagement Component
- Clinical Programming
- Case Management
- Certified Educational Services
- Daily Recreational Programming
- Restorative Justice Practices embedded within the program
- Community Involvement and Community Integration Protocols
- A Nationally Recognized Crisis Intervention model
- Youth and Family Handbook
- Program Description including positive youth development and adolescent brain development principles
- Treatment Plan Process Created with Youth and Family
- Overarching Positive Behavior Modification Program
- Identified Mental Health Model/Orientation
- Transition Planning

Facility Operations will include:

TBD staffing patterns conducive to therapeutic care and treatment

Robust Daily Schedule that involves meaningful education, treatment, and engaging program activities

Licensing and Accreditation Requirements as stipulated by DCF-FSD and State regulations

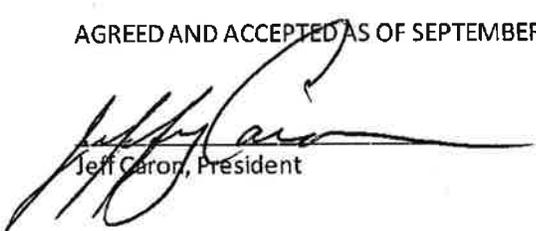
DCF-FSD Clinical Oversight by DCF-FSD Central office

Follow the operational guidance and oversight recommendations of CJA Technical Assistance team

Establish a Community Advisory / Governance Board

Data collection including racial demographic data

AGREED AND ACCEPTED AS OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2020


Jeff Caron, President


Sean Brown, Commissioner