



DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES

Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff

From: Elizabeth Duryea, Chief of Staff

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2018

Subject: Update on Transfer of JJ & CJTS Closure Planning

On behalf of the Commissioner's Office, I wanted to take a moment to provide an update on the transfer of juvenile justice to the Judicial Branch. This transfer will continue to be the focus of many meetings with the legislature as we kicked off our Appropriations' Committee discussions this week. While there are many questions remaining, we hope this will give you all a sense of the planning underway ahead of the transfer.

The Department is currently working with the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) of the Judicial Branch, as well as our provider community, to ensure a thoughtful transfer of juvenile justice services and committed juvenile justice youth from DCF to CSSD, for the effective date of July 1, 2018. Planning meetings will remain ongoing to answer many of the questions that continue to come up in this process. In the coming months, we are convening limited interagency teams consisting of representatives of DCF, CSSD, OPM and other agencies TBD to iron out details related to provider/contract management, legislation, and youth transition planning.

One of the most immediate concerns for DCF was any short-term impact to our existing provider contracts for SFY18. Thanks to our collaboration with Judicial, we have confirmed that certain services funded through the JJ Outreach and Board and Care-Short Term Residential accounts will remain unchanged through June, 2018, despite a reduction in dollars allocated back to DCF.

It is a shared goal of both DCF and CSSD, and our providers, to ensure that these youth and their families continue to receive the highest quality of service from us throughout the transition. In addition, it is a priority for us to ensure that our remaining foster care and behavioral health services remain intact as we seek to maintain these services for the children who will remain committed to us under our child protection and behavioral health mandates.

There are many questions that remain. Plans for supporting the youth currently committed delinquent/dually committed beyond July 1st are under discussion with CSSD and will likely be the focus of additional legislation during the 2018 CGA session. We will be monitoring this closely and keeping you informed of any related developments as we get them.

To: All Staff

As of this week, there are 24 youth at CJTS with 3 projected on the census by mid-June, 2018. Should that trend continue, we will work through HR and the unions to ensure a seamless transition for all staff. Accordingly, we would like to thank the JJ regional staff, and Bill Rosenbeck, and all of the staff at CJTS for their patience and continued commitment to plan for the closure of the facility as requested by the Governor, and supported by the legislature, in a timely manner to meet the July 1, 2018 deadline.

We will keep you apprised of any updates as we get them. Thank you. -Elizabeth