

Green Mountain Youth Center: Project Overview and Orientation

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Presentation Content

This presentation is intended to orient the workgroup towards a shared understanding of DCF's "High End System of Care" (HESOC) and describe the current status of the GMYC project and the workgroups involvement with the project.

- Brief Overview of DCF's HESOC
- Green Mountain Youth Campus Status
- Decision Points, Timeline
- Current Oversight Structure

FSD's High-End System Care Unit

- DCF's HESOC Unit includes the Specialized Services Unit, which is responsible for placement of youth in DCF's contracted Crisis Stabilization and Residential Treatment Programs. The SSU maintains the contracts and works with the programs to ensure they are meeting DCF's placement needs.
- The HESOC Unit is also responsible to address youth across the state experiencing placement crisis, which, at times, includes organizing 24/7 "staffings" of youth in alternative settings. The HESOC Staffing Coordinator maintains cohorts of staffers, including contracted staffers, the interdepartmental CATS team, and a cohort of respite foster families.
- Lastly, the HESOC unit is responsible to maintain and update policy relevant policy, address the legislature as needed, and develop new programming to fill known gaps within the residential service array.

In-State DCF Youth Residential Services Continuum (justice-involved youth eligible), current as of 7/31/26

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)
Community-Based Residential	Brattleboro retreat Abigail Rockwell 8/5 beds			Howard Center Park Street 6/5 beds
	Howard Center T-House (4/4 beds)	Laraway Youth and Family Services - Foot 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)

HESOC Program Development

In 2023, DCF issued 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.

The levels were as follows:

- 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

Green Mountain Youth Center

Populations Served (All Genders, 12th-18th Birthday)

- Minors Charged with Delinquency and Court-Ordered to Secure Placement
- DCF Custody Cases- Delinquency Status (May Include Administrative Placement)
- Juveniles in DOC's Custody for Criminal Offenses (Charged as Adults)
- Juveniles from other states held via Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ)

GMYC Bed Space Methodology

- Point in Time Analysis of Placements (In-state and Out-of-State)
- Capacity must be able to accommodate peak usage. Assume 85% occupancy is "full"

Total Youth in Custody

(As of 08/24/2026)

	Total	Delinquency Status	Would be in GMYC
Youth in Custody	738		12
Residential	89	18	9
In State	39	4	0
Out of State	50	14	9
Crisis Stabilization	19	2	2
DOC <18	1	N/A	1

GMYC Facilities Updates

- The builder associated with the GMYC project is Neagley & Chase Construction. They have contracted with local Architects Duncan Wisniewski and specialty Architect Treanor.
- Building and General Services (BGS) and DCF have been regularly meeting with the builder team since mid March
- The Schematic Design portion of the project concluded in June, followed by a submission of the site plan to the local Development board.
- We are currently in the Design Development phase, where we contemplate details such as programming flow, security features, cameras, interior and exterior design.
- We are set to have a completed concept to share with the Facility Planning Stakeholders group by October.

Facilities Planning Group: Proposed Timeline

September 2, 2026:

- Green Mountain Youth Center Oversight

October 2026:

- Green Mountain Youth Center Oversight- Facilities Design (Architects to Present)

November 2026:

- Restorative Justice (Woodside Restorative Justice Consultants to Present)

December 2026:

- High End System of Care Consultant Recommendations (NCJJ To Present)
- Educational Programming

January 2027:

- Clinical Programming

February 2027:

- Community Engagement

GMYC Oversight

Program Access (immediate access to program for purposes described)

DCF Residential Licensing and Special Investigations

- Oversees programs compliance with regulation
- Investigates regulatory violations and

Specialized Services Unit (SSU)

- Manages the DCF's contract with the provider
- Oversees compliance to contract

Resident Access (has scheduled access to resident-resident right to contact)

- Parent/Guardian
- DCF (Caseworker/SSU)
- OCYFA (Full access to DCF Records)
- Defender General's Office
- GAL
- Disability Rights Vermont

Judicial Oversight

Delinquency Cases

Youth Placed via court order on delinquency

- **Court schedule:**
- Temporary Care Hearing (Day 1)
- Merits Hearing (45 days)
- Disposition (90 days)
- Review Hearings (as determined by courts)
- Permanency (1 year)

Administrative Placement (Placed by DCF)

- “Delinquent” Youth in DCF custody are placed by SSU
- “8 Day Hearing”- An administrative hearing is conducted within 8 days of placement to ensure secure care is necessary. Youth is represented by Defense, DCF is represented by AG.
- Appeal hearing- An 8-day hearing can be appealed- this must occur within 10 days

Criminal Cases

- Department of Corrections Custody
- Interest of Justice Hearing is required within one business day if a youth under the age of full criminal responsibility is placed at a facility that serves adult inmates.

Thank You

Any Questions?