

Middlesex Coalition for Children

November, 2014

Welcome to our Conversation about DCF's Pueblo Unit for girls.

The unit opened in March to serve supplement the Juvenile Justice continuum for girls in CT. This meeting is a check-in with Department of Children and Families to see how it's going, who is being served, and how the unit fits in to the state-wide system.

Our guests include:

- William Rosenbeck, Superintendent, Connecticut Juvenile Training School
- Kristy Ramsay, Assistant Superintendent, Pueblo Unit
- Allon Kallisher, Regional Administrator, DCF Region 3

We will have roughly 20 minutes for touring the unit and 40 minutes for Questions & Answers at the end. Please save your questions until that time.

Thank You.

PUEBLO UNIT PROGRAM DATA: 3/19/14-11/6/14

Admissions:

- There have been 27 admissions to date
- Twenty-two unique girls have been admitted
- Of the 27 admissions:
 - 9 from Journey House
 - 6 were parole admissions (5 home; 1 foster home)
 - 2 from Touchstone
 - 2 from Detention
 - 2 from an escape (from another facility) status
 - 1 from Ability Beyond Disability (DMHAS)
 - 1 from Phoenix House
 - 1 from Children's Center
 - 1 from York
 - 1 from an adult shelter
 - 1 from Solnit

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- The 27 admissions were from the following Regions:
 - Region 1 12
 - Region 2 6
 - Region 3 2
 - Region 4 2
 - Region 5 3
 - Region 6 2

Discharges:

- There have been 21 discharges to date:
 - 11 to congregate care settings (e.g., Journey House, group homes, other RTCs) [average length of stay: 39 days]
 - 8 to home settings [average length of stay: 67 days]
 - 2 to other settings [average length of stay: 44 days]

Clinical Services:

Pueblo has two full-time clinical staff (a licensed clinical psychologist and a licensed clinical social worker); a part time psychiatrists; twenty-four hour, seven-day a week clinical on-call; and weekend clinical coverage for girls on any type of safety watch. The girls have two scheduled individual sessions weekly, and clinical groups four days a week. (Additional sessions are provided as needed.) The groups include Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT); Residential Student Assistance Program (RSAP, a substance-abuse education program); and Seven Challenges (a substance abuse treatment program). Clinicians schedule and facilitate both an initial/discharge planning meeting for each new admission within the first week of the date of admission.

Placement (Discharge) Options include:

- Home settings (including foster care)
- Group Homes (Therapeutic; "PASS", and Maternity)
- Residential Placements

Physical Interventions:

The number of restraints (including mechanical) has reduced over the life of the program. The program went through some initial "growing pains," and all staff were re-trained in the use of physical interventions and handcuffs, including on-site coaching and ongoing consultation with administrative staff regarding the use of physical interventions.