

Next Steps- Iowa Juvenile Home

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Disability Rights Iowa

- What is Disability Rights Iowa?
- Introduction of Children's Team
- How did we become involved in monitoring the Juvenile Home?
- Ongoing activities – monthly monitoring
- Investigating and resolving abuse and neglect
- Experts' Need Assessment – 10/3/13
- Survey of Residents

Recommendations

- Original recommendations to Governor in late July 2013
- Governor established Task Force on 8/20/13
- Learned a lot since then
- Recommendations evolved-
- Discuss six recommendations and information that still needs to be gathered

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Recommendation #1:

Define mission of the Juvenile Home.

- Outdated statutory purpose: Orphanage-like terms
- Questions for Task Force to consider:
 - What is mission/purpose of the Juvenile Home?
 - Who is Juvenile Home designed to serve?
 - Girls in foster care
 - Girls adjudicated delinquent
 - Boys in foster care

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Recommendation #2: Establish Juvenile Home as one stage in continuum of care.

Now – institution

Future? Continuum of care?

- Highest level of care - hospitalization
- Juvenile Home
- Home and community settings in sending community

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Recommendation #3: Rethink infrastructure.

- Rehab existing older buildings (cover dangerous conduits in ceilings) \$\$\$\$
- Tear down existing buildings and build new cottages \$\$\$\$
- Use existing homes and apartments in community \$\$
 - More home-like environment
 - More community opportunities and natural supports
 - Integration mandate under Americans with Disabilities Act

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Recommendation #4: Figure out how to better fund services and supports offered by Juvenile Home.

- Now – 98% state funded
- Future - better services
 - Medicaid funding for foster children?
 - Foster care funding?
 - Transitions before and after Juvenile Home

Would the Task Force consider bringing in someone knowledgeable about funding options?

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Recommendation #5: Create enforceable regulations.

- Now - restraint and seclusion policies, but no enforcement mechanism
- Future - regulations and standards that can be enforced if violated
 - Department of Inspections and Appeals?
 - Conditions of Participation for Medicaid Services?

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Recommendation #6: Stakeholder oversight panel

- Now: None
- Future – Panels similar to:
 - Foster Care Review Boards?
 - Child Abuse Review Boards?

Would the Task Force consider bringing in someone who can provide information about these boards to see what type of oversight panel would be effective at Juvenile Home?

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Recommendation #7: Improve oversight by attorneys and guardians ad litem.

- Now: Minimal involvement in conditions at Juvenile Home and transition planning
- Future:
 - Minimum requirements
 - Adequate compensation for services

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Recommendation #8:
Separate administration of school and residences.

Now: Superintendent of both school and residential facility.

Future:

- Educators run school; DHS runs residences
- Checks and balances

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Thank-you

- Comments
- Questions

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