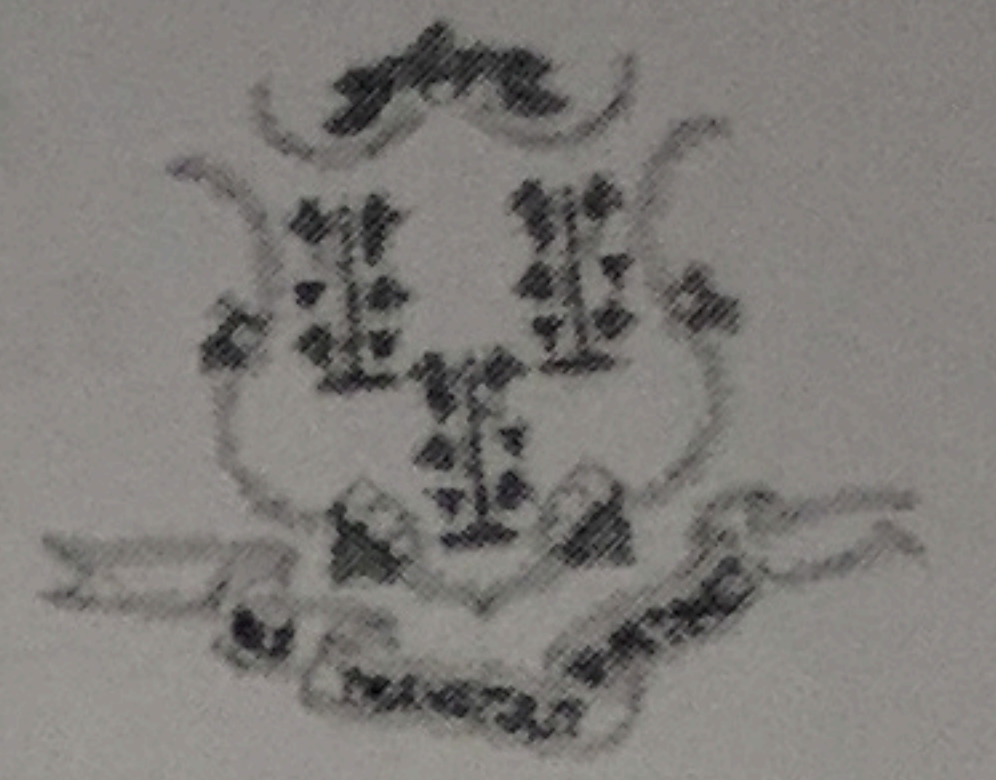




DEPARTMENT of CHILDREN and FAMILIES
Making a Difference for Children, Families and Communities



MEMORANDUM

To: All Staff
From: Joette Katz, Commissioner
Date: Tuesday, November 07, 2017
Subject: CJTS CLOSURE OF ADMISSIONS

Please be advised that effective January 1, 2018, admissions to CJTS will be closed. This step is essential in light of recent legislation in the budget transferring the responsibility for all youth adjudicated delinquent to the Judicial Branch. That legislation also authorizes judges to determine placement for all such youth, including placement in locked facilities. As you all know, CJTS is to close on or before July 1, 2018, and the Branch will have to make its own arrangements regarding placements. Congruently, I have suspended review of the 3 proposals responding to our RFP seeking a locked facility for youth who have been adjudicated delinquent because we will no longer be in the business of providing or overseeing youth who require such services.

Until then however, we are responsible for the care and custody of the youth who have been committed to the Department, and it is essential that we provide for them and ensure that each one has a safe transition back home. Accordingly, I have decided that closing admissions in January will give the Department the best opportunity to fulfill its mission and that of CJTS in its remaining months of operation. I have notified the Juvenile Judges and asked them to please not place our staff in the awkward position of seeking admission after that date. I fully appreciate that this decision will certainly place additional stress on our staff, as well as the private providers who have stepped up in the last few years as I continue to engage them in support of our youth.

With everyone's help, we have been able to reduce the population at CJTS from over 150 at any given time to 54. Superintendent Rosenbeck has kept staff focused on the youth, and has continued to advance new practices to help treat and engage the young men to overcome their trauma and control their antisocial behaviors. Additionally, we have expanded our service system to all youth, no longer differentiating based on which door they entered, and have captured important data points allowing us to make

informed decisions about Department needs. Moreover, we have applied a racial justice lens to everything we do, helping us to better understand what works and for whom.

Although the planned closure of CJTS has been in the works for some time, allowing the Department to be thoughtful about the transition and mindful of all the moving parts, the decision to transfer the responsibility for adjudicated youth to another branch of government appears more serendipitous. Despite my disappointment, we will continue to partner with everyone vested in the best interests of our youth.

In conclusion, on behalf of our youth, I thank everyone for your work over the past year and in advance for the efforts you will continue to provide during this time of transition.

Commissioner Katz