

Question from Rep. Kathleen Ryg

RE: Pere Marquette

Are there any revenue neutral options to use another state facility downstate to maintain the program? Lincoln Developmental Center comes to mind as I believe we pay to maintain 4 empty group homes. What steps can be taken to consider facilities in Dept. of Human Services or other state agencies?

Could the current residents and staff be served under the expansion of Redeploy Illinois in community based settings?

Thanks again – Kathy

RESPONSE:

From: McLean, Timothy [<mailto:TIMOTHY.McLEAN@doc.illinois.gov>]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 4:18 PM
To: Long, Dan; Clatfelter, Trevor; Muschinske, Jim E.; Moore, Mike K.
Subject: RE: Question from Rep. Ryg

Here is my response:

Regarding the grant: While the AFSCME representative was not specific in the grant he was speaking of, the Department can only assume he was referring to the Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) grant dollars it has been receiving over the past several years. Funding for the RSAT program reached a peak in Federal Fiscal Year 2002 when over \$2.0 million was budgeted for adult and juvenile treatment programs. After Federal Fiscal Year 2002 the level of federal funding has dropped each year, reaching a low of \$243,065 for juvenile treatment programs in Federal Fiscal Year 2008. These dollars were allocated to DJJ facilities in St. Charles, Harrisburg, Warrenville, and Joliet. Historically, these dollars have been utilized to supplement the IYC-Pere Marquette program, but as the available dollars have decreased, the liability on GRF has increased in order to maintain these critical treatment programs. Per capita cost per youth committed to a particular facility (in this case Pere Marquette) is derived from dividing the total cost of operations of a facility by the number of youth served.

Regarding the question from Representative Ryg: The Department of Juvenile Justice is not aware of revenue neutral options whereby another downstate facility could be utilized. Recognizing that other state agencies have shuttered facilities in downstate Illinois, the fact remains that operating another facility to implement this program would defeat the purpose of eliminating duplication of services, as well as negate the benefits of economies of scale that would be reaped should the current plan be implemented. The efficacy of the program at Pere Marquette is not in question; the Department has taken this step to eliminate the costs of duplication of services at two facilities.

Regarding the question of Redeploy:

While Redeploy Illinois is a meritorious program, the degree of its implementation is dependent upon counties (the local jurisdictions). While some counties are currently diverting youth from commitment to the Department of Juvenile Justice, others have not done so due to lack of resources within their local communities. In short, the current youth were committed to the Department by local jurisdictions that deemed

such commitment to be appropriate. It is the mission of the Department to serve these youth pursuant to the orders of the courts. The Department has no mechanism to serve the current staff via Redeploy Illinois, as most of those programs are implemented by third-party, non-state vendors.

Timothy M. McLean, Chief
Office of Intergovernmental Relations
Ph: 217.558.2200 ext. 2104
Fax: 217.522.9771
Timothy.McLean@doc.illinois.gov