



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

One Center Plaza
120 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

"Together...ReShaping Young Lives"

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Donald W. DeVore
Secretary

October 12, 2007

Marlana Valdez, Director
Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit
Office of the Attorney General
200 Saint Paul Place
Baltimore, Maryland 21202-2021

Dear Ms. Valdez,

Thank you for your letter regarding conditions at the J. DeWeese Carter Center. As I'm sure you know, DJS has responded to many of these concerns in an earlier letter to DJS dated 08-28-07 sent by your office. While there were a number of corrective measures underway to address issues we identified, we have addressed the issues or concerns you raised in your letter. As of 10-03-07 we removed the old beds and installed 23 newer suicide resistant beds. We also have installed new doors and locks. We have plans to install new screens in each of the youth rooms within the next 30 days. We have re-assigned some additional staff to assist with operations and we have temporarily capped the population at 20 with a goal of keeping it around 15 youth. We have made some leadership changes at the facility that we feel benefit the overall operations of the facility. As the Assistant Secretary of Residential I will increase my presence at the facility during this transition period.

We were in the process of recruiting and hiring nurses, but as you know this is very difficult given the nursing shortage across the state. In the interim we had re-assigned Nurse Allen to the facility and we hired an additional nurse who started on September 12, 2007. The department presented a contract renewal to BPW and it was approved allowing DJS the opportunity to increase physician coverage. Additionally, Dr. Maehar, Nurse Manager Schoo has been on-site to address physical and medication administration.

MSDE has submitted a response to the concerns raised around the education services. Additionally, MSDE has temporarily re-assigned a special education teacher to the Carter Center. MSDE also reports that they have hired a Guidance Counselor and a Special Education teacher for the facility but they are awaiting a start date. The Secretaries of DJS, DHMH, and MSDE met and agreed on plans for the relocatable classrooms to be located at Carter.



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We are also in the process of increasing after-school and weekend structured programming to address some of the idle time that youth have which leads to misbehavior in many cases. We are also re-training staff on seclusion, security practices and staff/youth interaction. We will continue to recruit for additional staff and we currently have 5 applicants going through the hiring process. We have also re-allocated 5 additional positions to the Carter facility pending new hires.

We have developed a corrective action plan and will be finalizing a Strategic plan for the Carter facility within the near future. Please do not hesitate to contact me if further information is needed.

Respectfully submitted,

James Smith
Assistant Secretary
Department of Juvenile Services (DJS)

c: Donald DeVore, Secretary, DJS
John Dixon, Deputy Secretary, DJS
Francis Mendez, Deputy Secretary, DJS