STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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February 16, 2024

The Honorable Mark Pearson, Chairman
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Cassandra Sanchez
Director, Office of the Child Advocate
Johnson Hall
107 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Progress toward completion of replacement secure juvenile treatment facility

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the requirements of HB 49, Chapter 2:2 Laws of 2023, the Department provides a quarterly progress reports to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Office of the Child Advocate:

> VI. The department of health and human services shall submit quarterly progress reports to the joint legislative oversight committee on health and human services, established by RSA 126- A:13, and to the office of the child advocate established under RSA 21-V beginning no later than 60 days after the passage of this act, until such time as the facility is operational. Each quarterly report shall include a statement indicating whether the reported progress is sufficient to meet the accepted completion deadline for the opening of the facility. In the event that sufficient progress to meet this deadline has not been made, the progress report shall include the reasons for any projected delay in meeting the deadline, a description of the efforts being undertaken to minimize any delay in the development and opening of the facility and projected completion date. In addition, the quarterly progress reports shall include the following information:
>
> (a) Progress towards retaining an architectural consultant to design the plan for the facility;
> (b) Progress towards completion of the design for the facility;
> (c) Progress towards contracting with the company that will construct the replacement facility;
> (d) The anticipated date construction of the replacement facility will be completed; and
> (e) The anticipated date by which the replacement facility will be operational.

EXPLANATION

HB 49, Chapter 2:2 Laws of 2023 does not set a specific date by which the project must be completed; however, Chapter 2:5 Laws of 2023 anticipates the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds and those funds must be obligated by September 30, 2024 and expended no later than December 31, 2026. The project is on target to be completed within those established dates. Progress on the enumerated items is as follows:

a) Progress towards retaining an architectural consultant to design the plan for the facility;
DHHS and the Division of Public Works (DPW) within the Department of Administrative Services collaborated to develop a Request for Letters of Interest and Qualifications which was issued in September 2022. Multiple proposals were received in November 2022. DHHS and DPW interviewed well qualified applicants in December 2022, and subsequently scored proposals and selected the most qualified vendor: HDR. On June 14, Governor and Council approved the $1.6 million design contract with HDR. On June 27, HDR received a Notice to Proceed.

b) Progress towards completion of the design for the facility;
HDR is currently working with DHHS, DPW and community members. Pre-Design work began with a visioning meeting on 07/20/2023. Pre-Design involves HDR and the Using Agency accurately establishing and documenting the space programming requirements; visioning (outlining design objectives); and understanding adjacencies, special equipment and systems and security. Several more programming and site meetings are pending. This phase is concluded on or about 11/1/2023.The Department has reviewed Pre-Design deliverables with Division of Public Works and issued HDR a notice to proceed with Schematic Design services on or about October 23, 2023. Schematic Design Phase was completed on or about 12/15/2023, and initial Schematic cost estimates have been provided by HDR and an independent third party hired by DAS. The project estimate shows the project as over budget as designed. DHHS working with HDR, DPW and others is working to realign the project scope and budget. Approval to being Design Development was given to HDR on 2/15/2024. During Design Development HDR, DPW and DHHS will work to develop the design detail and layout to both meet the operational needs of YDC, and budgetary constraints. Design Development is scheduled to be completed on or about 5/15/2024.

c) Progress towards contracting with the company that will construct the replacement facility;
Contingent upon completion of design process above. Design is scheduled to be complete 6/28/2024. Bidding, negotiation, award and G&C approval is scheduled to occur between 7/9/2024 and 11/13/2024. Construction is estimated to begin on or about 11/15/2024.

d) The anticipated date construction of the replacement facility will be completed;
The Using Agency is scheduled to have beneficial occupancy on or about 01/31/2026, assuming a 14-month construction period. The construction period, depending upon market conditions and the complexity of the project will require between 14 and 18 months to construct.

e) The anticipated date by which the replacement facility will be operational.
2/28/2026 to 6/30/26. DHHS must fully furnish and equip the facility, and train personnel in the facility before youth may be relocated.

As always, please let me know if you have any additional questions regarding development of the new facility.

Respectfully Submitted,



Morissa Henn
Deputy Commissioner, DHHS