



CLARK COUNTY
JUVENILE JUSTICE
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SUPERIOR COURT OF
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CARIN S. SCHIENBERG
DAYANN M. LIEBMAN
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SUPERIOR COURT COMMISSIONER

CLARK COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER

*We will put our energy and resources into the future.
Our focus will be on what needs to be healed, what needs to be repaid, what needs to be learned.*

November 17, 2015

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the Clark County Juvenile Court, I am writing to express our support for residential treatment for female youth in Clark County who need a higher level of youth addiction treatment.

The Clark County Juvenile Court is a division of the Clark County Superior Court which has exclusive jurisdiction of juveniles who violate criminal laws and who are in need of protection and/or advocacy as a result of abuse, neglect or abandonment. The Clark County Juvenile Court has committed itself to a holistic Balanced and Restorative Justice approach to meeting our responsibilities for both immediate and long-term safety of our community. We seek to create a justice system that focuses not just on short-term external control of offenders, but on addressing both the immediate and long-term needs of victims, community and offenders.

Youth who are involved with the juvenile justice system often struggle with drug and alcohol dependency issues. As part of developing the necessary skills to overcome this struggle, youth may be required by the court to participate in residential treatment. Currently, residential treatment in Clark County is only available to male youth. Female youth in need of residential treatment are required to seek services as far away as Spokane or Bellingham and may be held in detention for their own safety while awaiting placement in these beds.

Youth often experience difficulty transitioning back to their community when they are unable to remain close to home to receive intensive interventions, such as residential treatment. When youth remain in their communities for residential treatment, they are able to stay connected to natural supports, such as family members, counselors, and teachers. By remaining in close contact with their support network, youth are able to experience increased success both while in program and after completion of treatment. A local option creates the ability to support the youth during this sometimes difficult process. In addition, by creating a female youth residential treatment program in Clark County, families and courts would no longer need to incur the financial hardship of providing transportation expenses to support youth while they are in treatment.

Clark County Juvenile Court supports the addition of female inpatient treatment beds in Clark County as this is a gap in services that impacts the accessibility and success rate for the youth and families of Clark County.

Patrick Escamilla
Administrator