

**NEW HAMPSHIRE JUVENILE DETENTION
ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE**

**DIVISION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
(GRAFTON COUNTY AREA DISTRICT OFFICES)**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BACKGROUND

The New Hampshire Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI-NH) has been operating in partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) since 2001. The work being done statewide revealed that a significant number of New Hampshire youth were being securely detained at the DJJS Youth Detention Services Unit (YDSU) for misdemeanor level offenses that frequently resulted from intra-family altercations. The majority of these youths were released to their families within seven to ten days.

Family violence is a serious offense that cannot be taken lightly. The risk of further violence is heightened when effective intervention does not occur. Alternatives to secure detention can enhance the safety of the public, maintain supervision of the alleged offender and provide better options for the affected parties.

Using the limited number of secure detention beds at YDSU for misdemeanor level offenses reduces the availability of beds for higher risk juveniles who have committed more serious crimes. Given limited resources, the juvenile detention system in New Hampshire needs to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible. These goals, in part, can be met through alternatives to detention. JDAI beds are such an alternative. JDAI beds provide short-term crisis placements for youths charged with misdemeanor level, domestic violence related offenses. JDAI beds are fully licensed and certified by the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services.

JDAI and DJJS have agreed to institute this program, piloting the use of JDAI funded short-term foster home beds, at Becket in Grafton County. This will allow the Grafton County communities access to short-term foster home placements as a detention alternative. It is hoped that this pilot project will stimulate the development of similar programs in other parts of the State.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the Beckett JDAI beds are to provide an alternative to secure detention for those youth who would have otherwise been detained at YDSU on domestic violence related misdemeanor charges. In this instance, the beds are made available for **male residents only**.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

1. Under the terms of this program it is understood that police agencies will be requested to make every effort through discussion with the parent(s) to keep the youth within his setting or with appropriate relatives or responsible adults residing in the area prior to seeking the placement of the youth in the JDAI bed.
2. Police agencies are encouraged to search their own records for the juvenile's history in the first instance, and then call the JPPO during regular business hours and the Operations Office at YDC after business hours prior to calling the Judge for an order for placement of the youth.
3. The JDAI beds are not intended for long-term use or as an alternative dispositional placement for DJJS clientele. JDAI beds are to be used on a short-term basis only. JDAI beds will be available for a period of not less than one day, and not more than five (5) days. It will be the responsibility of DJJS and the assigned Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer (JPPO) to immediately address the future placement needs for a youth placed in a JDAI bed. Compensation from JDAI-NH for the bed will cease after five days. Any additional financial liability due to a youth remaining within a JDAI placement after five days will be the sole responsibility of DJJS.
4. Only residential facilities currently licensed and certified by the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, are eligible to participate in this program. A roster of available residential placements taking part in the program will be maintained at the Operations Office at the YDC. The Operations Office will also provide information pertaining to bed availability so that this information is available to police agencies within Grafton County seeking detention alternatives.
5. Access to a JDAI bed can only be authorized by a Judge's order preceded by the completion and submittal of a JDAI Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI).
6. No youth shall be placed in a JDAI bed under a "dual order", nor as a "deferred detention", which would require the youth's placement in YDSU without benefit of a detention hearing as required under NH RSA 169: B-14.
7. No youth exhibiting active suicidal ideation(s) and/or presently under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or exhibiting outright, significant, aggressive behavior shall be eligible for placement in an JDAI bed.
8. JDAI-NH will compensate Becket one-hundred and fifty dollars (\$150), every 24-hour period, for each youth placed in their home under this program. The initial number of beds to be made available is two (2). The alternative to detention shall be available for no more than five (5) days.
9. Parent(s) of those youth being placed in a JDAI bed will be requested to sign a medical authorization pertaining to their child, to allow for emergency medical treatment which may arise during the course of the placement. The police agency receiving any such signed medical authorization will immediately forward it to the

residential provider with whom the youth is placed.

10. Arraignment on the charge(s) that initiated the placement of the youth in the JDAI bed are anticipated to be scheduled in an expeditious manner, in accordance with applicable state statutes and in keeping within the five-day limit on the bed use. It will be the responsibility of the police agency seeking detention to notify the DJJS Supervisor of the appropriate District Office or designee, by fax, that a placement has been made to a JDAI bed. It will be the responsibility of the DO-DJJS Supervisor to assign a JPPO to the case and to resolve the issues of continued placement within the five-day placement period. Any services deemed necessary for the youth during the period of his placement with the JDAI, will be accessed through the JPPO assigned to the case. All liability for such services shall be borne by DJJS.
11. In the first instance, the police agency shall transport the youth to and from the arraignment. In the second instance, a transportation provider may be utilized via a court order.
12. Prior to the assignment of a JPPO for the youth, it is the responsibility of the police agency that placed the youth to immediately remove the youth from the residential facility in the event that the youth's behavior at the facility makes him/her unsuitable for a continued placement there. In the event that a youth must be removed from the facility, it is the responsibility of the police agency or the assigned JPPO to contact the Court that ordered the original placement and seek an alternative (i.e. YAP bed).

Date: _____

Date: _____

DJJS Representative

JDAI-NH Representative

**NEW HAMPSHIRE JUVENILE DETENTION
ALTERNATIVES INITIATIVE**

**DIVISION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
(MANCHESTER DISTRICT OFFICE)
FOSTER HOME PILOT PROGRAM**

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BACKGROUND

The New Hampshire Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI-NH) has been operating in partnership with the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS) since 2001. The work being done in Hillsborough County revealed that a significant number of Manchester area youths were being securely detained at the DJJS Youth Detention Services Unit (YDSU) for misdemeanor level offenses that frequently resulted from intra-family altercations. The majority of these youths were released to their families within seven to ten days.

Family violence is a serious offense that cannot be taken lightly. The risk of further violence is heightened when effective intervention does not occur. Alternatives to secure detention can enhance the safety of the public, maintain supervision of the alleged offender and provide better options for the affected parties.

Using the limited number of secure detention beds at YDSU for misdemeanor level offenses reduces the availability of beds for higher risk juveniles who have committed more serious crimes. Given limited resources, the juvenile detention system in New Hampshire needs to operate as effectively and efficiently as possible. These goals, in part, can be met through alternatives to detention. The Foster Home Pilot Program (FHPP) is such an alternative. FHPP provides short-term crisis placements for youths charged with misdemeanor level, domestic violence related offenses. FHPP homes are fully licensed and certified by the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services.

JDAI and DJJS have agreed to institute the Foster Home Pilot Program, piloting the use of JDAI funded short term foster home beds in the Manchester/Goffstown area. This will allow the Manchester and Goffstown communities access to short-term foster home placements as a detention alternative. It is hoped that this pilot project will stimulate the development of similar programs in other parts of the State.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the FHPP beds is to provide an alternative to secure detention for those youth who would have otherwise been detained at YDSU on domestic violence related misdemeanor charges.

OPERATING PRINCIPLES

13. Under the terms of this program it is understood that police agencies will be requested to make every effort through discussion with the parent(s) to keep the youth within his/her setting or with appropriate relatives or responsible adults residing in the area prior to seeking the placement of the youth in the FHPP.
14. Police agencies are encouraged to search their own records for the juvenile's history in the first instance, and then call the JPPO during regular business hours and the Operations Office at YDC after business hours prior to calling the Judge for an order for placement of the youth.
15. The FHPP beds are not intended for long-term use or as an alternative dispositional placement for DJJS clientele. FHPP beds are to be used on a short-term basis only. FHPP beds will be available for a period of not less than one day, and not more than five (5) business days. It will be the responsibility of DJJS and the assigned Juvenile Probation and Parole Officer (JPPO) to immediately address the future placement needs for a youth placed in an FHPP bed. Compensation from JDAI-NH for the bed will cease after five days. Any additional financial liability due to a youth remaining within an FHPP home after five days will be the sole responsibility of DJJS.
16. Only foster homes currently licensed and certified by the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, are eligible to participate in this program. A roster of available foster homes taking part in the program will be maintained at the Operations Office at the YDC. Homes will be assigned juveniles on a rotating basis. The Operations Office will also provide information pertaining to bed availability so that this information is available to Manchester and Goffstown police agencies seeking detention alternatives.
17. Access to an FHPP bed can only be authorized by a Judge's order preceded by the completion and submittal of a JDAI Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI).
18. No youth shall be placed in a FHPP bed under a "dual order", nor as a "deferred detention", which would require the youth's placement in YDSU without benefit of a detention hearing as required under NH RSA 169: B-14.
19. No youth exhibiting active suicidal ideation(s) and/or presently under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, or exhibiting outright, significant, aggressive behavior shall be eligible for placement in an FHPP bed.
20. JDAI-NH will provide, as long as grant funds remain available, those foster families licensed by the State of New Hampshire, certified by DCYF, and selected for participation in this program, a one hundred dollar (\$100) per month stipend to maintain the availability of a bed in their home on a monthly basis for JDAI-NH purposes. Additionally, JDAI-NH will compensate each foster home forty-four dollars (\$44) for each youth placed in their home under this program. The initial number of beds to be made available is two (2), a single bed in each home. The

rotation for on-call foster parents will be six months at a time.

21. In the event an FHPP bed is not available and provided grant funds remain available to JDAI-NH, an alternative to a detention bed may be utilized at the Webster House Manchester, NH. The alternative to detention shall be available for no more than five (5) days. The cost of the bed shall be \$150, for a 24-hour period.
22. Parent(s) of those youth being placed in an FHPP bed will be requested to sign a medical authorization pertaining to their child, to allow for emergency medical treatment which may arise during the course of the placement. The police agency receiving any such signed medical authorization will immediately forward it to the foster family with whom the youth is placed.
23. Arraignment on the charge(s) that initiated the placement of the youth in the FHPP bed are anticipated to be scheduled in an expeditious manner, in accordance with applicable state statutes and in keeping within the five-day limit on the bed use. It will be the responsibility of the police agency seeking detention to notify the DJJS Supervisor of the Manchester District Office (MDO) or designee, by fax, that a placement has been made to an FHPP. It will be the responsibility of the MDO-DJJS Supervisor to assign a JPPO to the case and to resolve the issues of continued placement within the five-day placement period. Any services deemed necessary for the youth during the period of his/her placement with the FHPP, will be accessed through the JPPO assigned to the case. All liability for such services shall be borne by DJJS.
24. In the first instance, the police agency shall transport the youth to and from the arraignment. In the second instance, a transportation provider may be utilized via a court order.
25. Prior to the assignment of a JPPO for the youth, it is the responsibility of the police agency that placed the youth to immediately remove the youth from the foster home in the event that the youth's behavior at the home makes him/her unsuitable for a continued placement at the home. In the event that a youth must be removed from the home, it is the responsibility of the police agency or the assigned JPPO to contact the Court that ordered the original placement and seek an alternative (i.e. YAP bed).

Date: _____

Date: _____

DJJS Representative

JDAI-NH Representative