

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

Larry Hogan
Governor

Sam Abed
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 29, 2020

CONTACT: Eric Solomon
DJS Communications Director
(O) 410-230-3164 (C) 443-492-9781

DJS to Close Carter Youth Facility and Meadow Mountain Youth Center
All Impacted DJS Staff will be Placed at Other Facilities

Baltimore - The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) is announcing the closure of the J. DeWeese Carter Youth Facility in Chestertown, MD and the Meadow Mountain Youth Center in Grantsville, MD, effective June 30, 2020. All DJS staff from these facilities will be placed at other facilities. The Department will continue to ensure that treatment and education goals of the youth are met in a new environment.

Carter Youth Facility, an all-female, hardware-secure committed program, will become a staff-secure program on the campus of the Backbone Mountain Youth Center in Swanton, Maryland. The girls will have their own dedicated building, staff, and programming. Additionally, the female youth will have access to additional behavioral health resources in the area, educational resources through a local community college, and ample outdoor extra-curricular activities. The youth will share the dining facilities and other amenities on the campus. Currently, Carter is dependent on outside contractors for food service. Most recently, the girls were re-located to the Lower Eastern Shore Children's Center, because food service was suspended by the vendor. Three youth are currently receiving treatment at Carter.

Meadow Mountain Youth Center, is an all-male, staff-secure committed program. Staff and youth from this program will be moved to the neighboring Green Ridge and Backbone Mountain Youth Centers. Seven youth are currently in the Meadow Mountain program.

"The Backbone Mountain program better meets the needs of our girls," said DJS Secretary Sam Abed. "We no longer have to rely on outside vendors to provide food service for our youth and the girls will have access to additional programming. Based on the low-level offenses of these girls, a staff-secure facility is more appropriate."

"The Department's population has been decreasing for many years," Abed added. "Consolidating our resources now allows us to maintain the necessary services to treat our youth, and better aligns with our population trends."

Increased communication to families are currently being provided to youth, during this unprecedented time. When in-person visitation resumes, DJS will provide transportation to families, when needed.

For more information related to DJS facilities, visit djs.maryland.gov
Stay informed about the COVID-19 virus at coronavirus.maryland.gov/ or call 2-1-1.

###