



DATE: August 12, 2012
TO: Mr. John Maltbie, County Manager
FROM: Stuart J. Forrest
SUBJECT: Camp Glenwood Stakeholder's Meeting
Cc: Stakeholder's Group

Pages: 4

On August 10, I convened a meeting of current and past stakeholders of Camp Kemp. The stakeholders group consisted of representatives from county government, community-based organizations, criminal justice departments and organizations, as well as mental health, substance abuse, and child program professionals and volunteers. The purpose of the meeting was to examine and discuss a concept paper submitted by "Rite of Passage" as one possible way of returning a "girl's camp program" to the Camp Kemp facility. The concept paper provided a draft program design that stimulated a stakeholder group discussion; answering the following questions:

1. What are the most favorable aspects of the "concept paper"?
2. Beyond the content of the concept paper, what services and objectives should be included in the program?
3. What are the most troubling aspects of the "concept paper"?
4. Beyond the content of the "concept paper", what obstacles and problems should be avoided?

During the meeting, I consolidated the group's responses to the questions above and attached them at the end of this letter.

I believe you will find the responses to be fair, thoughtful, and mindful of the County's interest in providing reliable, cost-effective services for youth. You will also find that the concept paper from "Rite of Passage" does not propose the kind of program design that the group views as responsive to the needs of our at-risk girls.

Fortunately, the meeting may have answered three important questions:

What population are we trying to serve?

What services are the most important for that population?

How can the Camp Kemp facility house a program that provides such services in a cost effective way.

The group believes that the solution may be to convert the program into a group home that serves both juvenile court wards and dependent children (described in Sections 300, and 600 of the Welfare and Institutions Code) who have the same treatment needs. The group prefers that such a program would exclusively serve girls from San Mateo County.

There could include the consideration of adding boys (or perhaps screened girls from adjacent jurisdictions) if it were necessary for cost effectiveness.

In addition to the above, the group home would focus on the following:

- Trauma ranging from moderate to severe and complex trauma; many needing to receive special services in response to rape, abuse, domestic and/or street/gang violence;
- Early intervention to prevent the girls going forward to the adult criminal justice system;
- A “no fail policy” allowing girls to “fail” and return to programming and treatment;
- Facility upgrading (possibly from existing bond funding) that would allow Camp Kemp to legally accommodate juvenile court wards and dependent children together with low level criminal offenses, addictions and complex trauma.

The County Manager has authorized Paul Sorbo, Deputy Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, and Stu Forrest, Chief Probation Officer, to continue planning towards the utilization of the Camp Kemp as a group home to house and treat girls from the criminal justice and dependent children system. The planning will continue through the Children in Youth System of Care (CYSOC) and will likely include the creation of an RFP based on stakeholder feedback.

Attachment

Consolidated Notes From the Stakeholder's Meeting

What are the most favorable aspects of the "concept paper"?

The concept paper opens an opportunity to return the girl's camp program to the original facility.

The concept paper offers an opportunity to increase to capacity of the program.

The program concept keeps the girl's camp participants within the county.

The concept paper introduces evidence-based practices into the program's program structure.

The concept paper suggests a more cost effective way of operating the program.

The concept paper commits to hiring locals for staff positions.

The concept paper commits to working with our school district

Beyond the content of the concept paper, what services and objectives should be included in the program?

The program should include a strong multi-disciplinary team (collaboration) component.

The program should be a safe, non-detention environment

The program should serve girls with similar case and treatment needs as the current population and not restrict itself to serving only girls within the juvenile justice system (602s).

The program should be committed to a strong family reunification component.

The program should include "trauma informed treatment" and serve "commercially sexually exploited children" (CSEC)

The program should include meaningful "outcome measures"

The program should include a strong vocational training component

The program should include a strong program-to-community transition component.

What are the most troubling aspects of the "concept paper"?

The concept paper's age range of 16 to 21 is outside (older than) the profile that is currently served by the girl's camp program. Girls that are 16 to 21 should not be integrated into our younger population.

The concept paper suggests that the program would admit a more criminally sophisticated, treatment resistant girl.

The concept anticipates 13 months duration; however it lacks a set of performance/progress expectations that are reached at different points of the program's duration.

The concept paper does not mention the role of licensed mental health treatment.

Confusion persists over whether program staff will be hired locally or imported.

The stakeholder group is concerned that "Rite of Passage" is more experienced in operating programs in rural environments and may not be prepared to operate in an urbanized setting.

Evidenced Based Practice referenced in concept paper "Thinking for a Change" is a cognitive behavioral model, and current research states that CBT is not successful in working with highly traumatized, abused, sexually exploited youth.

A week long training on the Thinking for a Change model was presented by Dr. Edward Latessa by SMC Probation Department under past administration and extensive research on the model was initially based on Northeast adult male prison population focusing on criminogenic needs; further research by Latessa determined model too complicated for youth.

The stakeholder group are concerned about the history of the working relationship of San Mateo County and "Rite of Passage" during the last three years that, at one point, led to removal of children from their supervision due to allegations of "physical abuse", "failure to disclose case-related information", and refusing to accept children with mental health issues.

The stakeholder group question "Rite of Passages" experience with providing "gender-specific" therapeutic services outside of an athletic program model.

The stakeholder group is concerned about how much local program oversight will be allowed.

Beyond the content of the "concept paper", what obstacles and problems should be avoided?

Are you willing to participate in an on-going "solutions group" to regularly collaborate with the program staff?

The program should not be restricted to wards within the juvenile justice system.

The program should include a "no fail" policy so that girls can pursue long-term treatment goals

The program should be centered around mental health and substance abuse treatment and "linked" to the criminal justice issues.