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## FISCAL TOPICS

Fiscal Services Division

September 15, 2021



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Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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## Iowa Juvenile Home at Toledo

### Purpose and History

The Iowa Juvenile Home and State Training School for Girls at Toledo (herein referred to as the Juvenile Home) was managed by the Department of Human Services (DHS). Before closing in January 2014, the Juvenile Home provided a specialized structured setting to evaluate and treat youth between 12 and 18 years of age who had been determined by the juvenile justice system to require specialized structured program care, evaluation, and/or treatment due to numerous out-of-home placements, disruptive behavior, or extensive involvement in the system. At full capacity, the Juvenile Home served 57 youth and employed 114.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

The Juvenile Home provided educational, vocational, and health services, including:

- Comprehensive residential treatment program available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This program provided educational, skill-building, and treatment services to meet the individualized needs of the youth.
- Behavior-focused programs intended to improve youth and staff safety, develop social skills, and enhance academic achievement.
- Remedial, vocational, general, special, and postsecondary education; job readiness and active social skill building; and assessment, counseling, and treatment for substance abuse. Youth were able to receive a General Education Diploma (GED), high school diploma, and/or vocational training.
- Medication management, counseling, trauma care, testing, and assessment were used to address medical, psychiatric, and psychological needs.
- Specialized evaluation training services for juvenile court officers and judges.

### Iowa Juvenile Home Protection Task Force

On August 20, 2013, Governor Terry Branstad created the Iowa Juvenile Home Protection Task Force by signing [Executive Order Number 82](#). The Task Force was comprised of five members appointed by the Governor, including the DHS Director at the time, the Executive Director of the Drake Legal Clinic, the Director of Behavioral Services at Mercy Medical Center North Iowa, the Director of Special Education, Area Education Agency 267, and an additional consultant. The Task Force held four public meetings, and it delivered its [report](#) on October 9, 2013. The recommendations submitted by the Task Force included:

- Limiting both the Juvenile Home and Training School to serving only girls and continuing operations as a "girls only" facility.
- Operating the school at the Juvenile Home on a year-round basis, but removing the DHS as the operator and placing the local school district in charge of education. Funding would have been needed for the local school district, and the mission would have included integration and collaboration between treatment and education.
- Replacing the cottages on the Toledo campus with living units designed to meet current standards, minimize the opportunity for self-harm, and remove the need for seclusion rooms. The campus cottages had been built or remodeled during the mid-1900s and had outdated floor plans and

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### More Information

Iowa Juvenile Home Protection Task Force Report: [Iowa Juvenile Home Task Force Report](#)  
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accommodations. Past campus improvements had included an FY 2006 appropriation of \$8.1 million for a new school, infirmary, and support unit.

- Subjecting any facility operated in the Juvenile Home to third-party oversight or licensure.
- Establishing a funding mechanism to allow private providers the additional funds needed to maintain the children in need of assistance (CINA) youth in private facilities near the residence of each youth, and working with Magellan Behavioral Services to assist with arrangements. Once full capacity within private facilities had been reached, placement of CINA youth at the Juvenile Home would have been suspended and the facility would have served only as a State Training School. Any transition would have included ceasing new placements.

### **Funding**

The Toledo Juvenile Home and State Training School General Fund appropriation had historically been included in the annual Health and Human Services Appropriations Act; however, the last General Fund appropriation for the maintenance of the Juvenile Home facility was made through the FY 2016 Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF) appropriation in HF 650 ([FY 2016 Infrastructure Appropriation Act](#)).

### **Closure**

On December 9, 2013, the DHS announced the closure of the Iowa Juvenile Home and State Training School and alternative placement of the youth being served at that time. The layoff of DHS staff employed at the Juvenile Home was effective January 16, 2014. The DHS stated that the closure and alternative placement decision was based on Executive Branch interpretations of recommendations from the Task Force's report.

### **Related Statutes and Administrative Rules**

Iowa Code chapters [218](#), [233A](#), and [233B](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [441—101](#)

Doc ID 1230550