


To: DCF/DMCPS Administrator  
DCF Area Administrators  
Child Placing Agency Directors  
Child Welfare Agency Directors  
County Departments of Community Programs Directors  
County Departments of Human Services Directors  
County Departments of Social Services Directors  
Group Home Providers  
Tribal Social Service/Indian Child Welfare Directors  
Private Child Placing Agencies  
Residential Care Center Providers  
Shelter Care Providers  
Tribal Chairpersons

From: Fredi-Ellen Bove   
Administrator

Re: Residential Care Center for Female Youth who have Experienced Sex Trafficking

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this memo is to inform counties about the Department's recent contract with Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc. (LSS) to establish a residential care center (RCC) for female youth who have experienced sex trafficking and are under the jurisdiction of balance of state counties. This memo also explains the payment structure for this program.

**BACKGROUND**

2015 Wisconsin Act 55, the 2015-2017 biennial budget bill, provided \$2 million per fiscal year to support treatment and services for youth who have experienced sex trafficking. Funding from Act 55 will be used towards start-up costs and implementation of programming for the new RCC.

**INFORMATION SUMMARY**

The Department has finalized a contract with LSS to establish an RCC for youth who have experienced sex trafficking. The facility will be located in Clark County, Wisconsin. The RCC will exclusively serve female youth up to age 21 who have experienced sex trafficking and who are under the jurisdiction of the child welfare or juvenile justice system in Wisconsin counties other than Milwaukee County. Entry into the facility must occur prior to the youth's eighteenth birthday to be eligible for services. The LSS facility will offer a trauma-informed 10-bed emergency, stabilization, and treatment program. The program will also coordinate services across multiple systems and partners to provide the most effective treatment for youth.

DCF will be the payer for youth served by this program, while the Placing Agency (i.e., the county child welfare or juvenile justice agency) will be responsible for case management, including the development of an individual treatment plan with LSS for each youth placed in the facility. The Placing Agency remains responsible for any extraordinary payments above the approved daily rate.

LSS is currently developing admission and wait list criteria for the RCC that will be subject to DCF final approval. LSS is also developing a Placing Agency template agreement. Another memo will be issued in

early January 2017 that will detail this information and how to make referrals. The expected start date of service delivery is February 2017.

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