



For immediate release:
May 17, 2004

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Children's Department Earns Full License for Drug, Alcohol Treatment Program

WILMINGTON _ The Delaware Children's Department has recently been granted a full license for its drug and alcohol residential treatment program for youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

In 2001, the Department began applying for licensure of its residential treatment program at Ferris School for Boys, a national model for juvenile treatment facilities, and its transition program Mowlds Cottage, and subsequently received provisional licenses. This year the program met all required documentation standards and was awarded a full license effective through May 2005 from the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services.

Cabinet Secretary Cari DeSantis says the program is important to a youth's rehabilitation process as 65 percent of those in Ferris School come from homes that have substance abuse issues.

"Untreated substance abuse among our youth could have a serious impact on communities in Delaware," Secretary DeSantis said. "We must address a youth's substance abuse at our treatment facilities and during the after care period. If not, the repercussions can include premature deaths, emergency room visits, domestic violence, arrests, adult incarceration, and education and employment problems."

The treatment program is currently serving 40 youth who participate two times per week while at Ferris School and four times per week at Mowlds Cottage. The program includes peer counseling to help the youth acknowledge that they have a problem and how it impacts their lives.

The Ferris School is a maximum secure care facility for 80 males adjudicated delinquent and committed by Family or Superior Court. Youth sent to Ferris School have been identified as serious and/or chronic repeat offenders who pose a risk to the public and require intensive rehabilitative programming and treatment for substance abuse, emotional problems, and violence. The average length of stay for juveniles is six months, and is followed by a six-week step down program at Mowlds Cottage, a staff secure facility. For more information on the programs, please contact 302-933-3810 or visit <http://www.state.de.us/kids>.

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