



*The Department of Services
For Children, Youth and
Their Families*

NEWS

Press Releases for 2000

June 13, 2000	JUNE 13 DESIGNATED AS “PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION” DAY New “Youth and Family Resource Van” unveiled
November 17, 2000	GOVERNOR CARPER and LT. GOV. MINNER BREAK GROUND ON NEW 77-BED DETENTION FACILITY IN MILFORD. New facility will help alleviate population issues in the detention center



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Karen Murtha
302-633-2502

June 13, 2000

JUNE 13 DESIGNATED AS “PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION” DAY New “Youth and Family Resource Van” unveiled

Wilmington, DE - Secretary of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Thomas P. Eichler announced June 13 as “Prevention and Early Intervention Day,” and unveiled a Youth and Family Resource Van, provides the public with educational material about children and family issues.

“By strengthening our prevention and early intervention services, we hope to limit the number of youth entering the care of the Children’s Department,” said Secretary Eichler. “The Youth and Family Resource Van is just one of the tools we provide to try and reach children and parents who may need help solving family problems,” he added. “We hope the public will use the resource van to educate themselves about issues concerning children, and how best to care for them.”

The van, accessible statewide to the public at no charge, features videos and brochures on a variety of family and youth issues including self-esteem, problem-solving skills, and parenting skills, and was provided by the Delaware Army National Guard.

“Working with community organizations and state agencies such as the Delaware Army National Guard, plays such a significant role in how we reach children,” said Carlyse Giddins, who leads the Department’s Office of Prevention and Early Intervention. “Our partnership with the National Guard enables us to provide children and families in Delaware with resources that can help strengthen families.”

To become a community partner, or to request the Youth and Family Resource Van, please call (302) 892-4500.

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November 17, 2000

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GOVERNOR CARPER and LT. GOV. MINNER BREAK GROUND ON NEW 77-BED DETENTION FACILITY IN MILFORD

New facility will help alleviate population issues in the detention center

Milford, DE – Governor Thomas R. Carper and Lt. Governor Ruth Ann Minner broke ground today for the Stevenson House Complex, a 77-bed secure-care detention facility which will house youths ages 12-19 in Kent and Sussex counties who are awaiting trial. It is scheduled to open in approximately 18-24 months.

The facility provides a safe, secure residential environment for detained youth and is operated by the State's Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services. The new complex will exist in conjunction with the current Marion Stevenson Detention Center, a 30-bed detention facility, built in 1967.

"This is a great day for the Stevenson House," said Gov. Carper. "My administration, through the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, has made improving our youth rehabilitation system a top priority by providing secure facilities where juveniles are held accountable and also rehabilitated. A new state-of-the-art facility will allow the Stevenson House to continue setting the standard in providing a safe, secure residential environment for detained youth."

The new detention facility will feature:

Intake and Assessment Unit -- a youth's medical needs and educational level will be determined upon admission;

Special Needs Unit – to house youth who are younger than the general population, or who require special medical attention -- Mental health counselors will

monitor this population;

Maximum security unit – to house youth with challenging behavioral problems;

Two General Population units;

Medical Unit - provides both medical and dental services;

Female Unit - to house up to 12 girls;

Training Center - for the professional development of staff members;

Surveillance System - an internal and external camera security system.

Each housing unit will also have its own set of classrooms in addition to separate recreation areas.

“The Stevenson House Complex will support our mission of safety for youth and will provide an environment where the learning process can begin,” said Secretary of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families Thomas P. Eichler.

“We are grateful to the General Assembly, Milford community members, and our community partners for their support in helping us break this ground,” said Secretary Eichler. “The Stevenson House Complex will not only help to alleviate our overcrowding issues, it will provide a safe and secure environment for both youth and staff.”

The total cost for the Stevenson House complex includes \$15.9 million in capital funds and \$5.6 million for operational and personnel expenses for approximately 95 staff members.

The Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services oversees three juvenile delinquent facilities in Delaware: the Stevenson House and New Castle County detention centers, which house youth awaiting a court hearing, and the Ferris School in Wilmington, where youth are sentenced for rehabilitative services, including academic and behavioral programs.

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