

The NYC Department of Correction has been in the process of developing a comprehensive young adult management plan and preparing to eliminate punitive segregation for young adults, ages 19 to 21 years old. While much progress has been made, given the need to expand on and develop appropriate models to address the challenges the Department has been facing with the new alternatives to punitive segregation, we cannot say with certainty that we can responsibly eliminate the current form of punitive segregation as applied to the 19-21 year olds by October 11, 2016. Since July, the Department has continued to refine and evaluate the overall plan, including how best to achieve separation and security while assessing the reason for assaultive and violent behavior. To this end, the Department has focused on the following areas summarized below.

The Department effectively ended the traditional twenty-three (23) hour lock-in punitive segregation for the young adult population. Replacing it with a unit that affords enhanced recreation and programming totaling approximately 6.5 hours of out-of-cell time. During this time period there has also been a significant reduction in the usage of this housing. As of today, there are two (2) young adults in punitive segregation including the Restrictive Housing Unit. In addition to the dramatic changes in both the use and operation of punitive segregation for the young adults, the Department has conducted a thorough assessment of the young adult housing structure to determine where further modification or enhancement is warranted.

As we have previously reported, in June, George Motchan Detention Center (GMDC) experienced a pronounced spike in the number of uses of force and alarms due largely to an increase of high classification young adults housed together. We have decreased the total census of this target population and eliminated GMDC's function as a new admission facility for 19-21 year olds. At its peak, the number of alarms reached a high of twenty-four (24) within a day. The current average for August reflects a significant reduction to eight (8) to ten (10) alarms daily. The Department has noted further stabilization of the facility as indicated by an eighteen percent (18%) decrease in uses in force. As we addressed the immediate issues at GMDC, we then shifted our attention to the three (3) alternative to punitive segregation housing units: Second Chance, Transitional Restorative and Secure units.

The Secure unit, established in George R. Vierno Center (GRVC) in June 2016, to date has housed a total of fourteen (14) young adults. During this time period, preliminary findings indicate that this housing model is working; one (1) young adult has successfully transitioned out of the unit and rates of violence have remained low. At the end of August there was a noted increase in tension directly correlated to the increase of young adults placed in the unit. To date, there has been a total of four (4) lockdowns and two (2) fights.

Based on lessons learned since the inception of the Secure unit, it has been determined that when managing this population a more comprehensive assessment protocol and additional housing resources are essential to the overall success of the young adult plan. The Department has learned that an intensive review of a young adult's background will at times require the implementation of separation and security measures prior to housing placement particularly after the young adult commits an assaultive act, to ensure that the incidents in which they were involved are not repeated

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due to improper housing placement or lack of consideration of an individual's history, conflicts with others and/or affiliation issues.

To enhance security and facilitate the appropriate housing placement for this target population, additional evaluation by key Department divisions through a coordinated approach is critical. The goal of this evaluation will be to determine the most suitable housing options for the young adults, based on their individualized needs, history of violent behavior, and consideration of the young adults' associations and interactions with others in DOC custody.

The Department is continually evaluating this unprecedented young adult plan and identifying new and innovative ways to manage this population. As we advance this ground breaking new young adult management structure, we will work closely with the NYC Board of Correction to effectively and safely end the use of punitive segregation for this population.

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