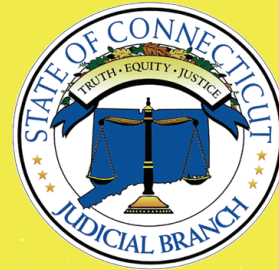


CSSD Chronicle

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Residential Sex Offender Treatment Facility Opens in Montville

On the grounds of the Corrigan-Radgowski Correctional Center in Montville, a separate building has been built to house *The January Center*, Connecticut's first and only male sex offender residential treatment center. The facility is a collaboration between the Connecticut Department of Correction (DOC) and the Court Support Services Division (CSSD) in response to criminal justice reform legislation that was passed in 2008 by the Connecticut General Assembly. At that time, legislators called for DOC and CSSD to provide a total of 24 beds for residential sex offender treatment to help transition offenders being released to parole and probation after serving sentences for sexual violence. "This center has been a long time coming," said CSSD's Executive Director Bill Carbone. "This is a major step to provide offenders a safe and therapeutic alternative to community-based shelters after their release."

Outline of the program—*The January Center* is operated by The Connection, Inc. (TCI), a state-contracted treatment provider

with expertise in treating sexual offenders. Residential treatment and services are available to an offender from three to six months (or, up to a year) depending on his needs. After being released from the center, sex offender therapy is



The January Center

continued through TCI, in the town where the offender returns to live, as part of his terms of probation or parole.

According to *The January Center's* director, Stephen Moore, treatment begins with a thorough risk and needs assessment of an offender to determine the type and level of therapeutic intervention required. Individual and group sessions are designed to help

offenders deal honestly with their sexual abuse history, and clinicians work with them to develop a solid plan of action to deal with their risk factors when they are released back into the community. Case management and discharge planning also includes a vocational assessment and job skill evaluation, assistance in locating appropriate housing, and help in building a positive, post-program support system.

The January Center accepted its first resident on February 14th, and currently houses 14 offenders. The inside of the building is bright and spacious with two separate corridors of simple, comfortable, two-person bedrooms. An open community room, dining room, and kitchen are centrally located near a staff monitoring area. There are private offices for individual therapy as well as conference rooms for group sessions. A laundry area is located in another wing of the facility.

Addressing local concerns—Towns and cities that have correctional facilities within their borders have a heightened awareness when it comes to community safety. The Town of Montville and its citizens were understandably worried when the site for *The January Center* was first proposed at Corrigan-Radgowski. Initially, there was widespread opposition to its construction. However, DOC and the Judicial Branch worked with local officials and residents to address the town's safety issues and concerns. Prior to the center's opening, TCI held two open house events for a range of state and program representatives, along with Montville's mayor,

and a small entourage of community leaders and residents. “Our goal is to be a good neighbor,” said Moore, “and we are not adverse to having people visit in the future if Montville feels it is warranted.”

Checks and balances—In its agreement with the town of Montville, CSSD and DOC implemented several safeguards into the program. The treatment center is located within chain link fencing and razor wire, and all program activities are conducted within a secured, camera-monitored area. Currently, offenders are allowed



Bright and open rooms, offices, and corridors at *The January Center*

to leave the building for medical or mental health appointments, accompanied by a DOC, CSSD, or program staff member. As the program evolves, offenders will also go to job and housing interviews, as long as state or program supervision is available. An approved security and emergency plan is on file with the Town of Montville, State Police Troop E, and local law enforcement. Additionally, there is no wireless access within the building, and offenders are not allowed to have cell phones or devices with internet access. However, there are two stand-alone computers with a word processing program so the men can complete written homework assignments. There are also a few non-internet computer games available for entertainment.

Staff and programming—At this point, the center has a staff of 19—with no less than three staff members on the second and third shifts—that reaches across age, ethnicity, and gender. “Women need to be a part of treatment,” said Moore. “Therapy groups, when led by male/female clinician teams, offer offenders the opportunity to witness appropriate interactions between men and women in order to model that behavior in their own relationships.”

Moore admitted, with a wry smile, that the first few days of the program’s opening were “demanding.” It was a challenge to establish a structured daily schedule that included treatment modules, meals, recreation time, and other day-to-day protocols for offenders, as well as for staff. “Fortunately, we created a good plan and hired excellent staff who quickly eased into the routine and helped offenders adjust to their new surroundings. There will always be adjustments that need to be made, but I’m pleased that offenders are being helped as soon as they come to us. The program is off to a good, solid start.”

For more information on *The January Center*, contact Michael Aiello, CSSD Program Manager at Michael.Aiello.jud.ct.gov or Stephen Moore, M.ED., L.P.C. at smoore.ctpsb@theconnectioninc.org.

The CSSD Chronicle is a regular publication of information and news about the Court Support Services Division. Questions or comments on this edition, or suggestions for future articles, can be directed to Linda.Grzeika@jud.ct.gov