

September 25, 2017

Ty Johnson, CEO  
Seasons Residential Treatment Program

Re: Response for Application of Seasons Residential Treatment Program, LLC  
to Establish a Residential Treatment Center

Dear Ms. Johnson,

Below is the response that SSA provided to the Maryland Health Care Commission in February 2017. Some of the responses have been updated to reflect recent changes to services in the State. Please let me know if additional information is required regarding your application.

***In response to your request for the Department of Human Services (DHS) view on the need for additional residential treatment services in the State of Maryland. Please see the responses below.***

1. How accurate is the above statement from Seasons' CON application regarding the Department of Human Services and, if known, other relevant Maryland agencies?

**Response: DHS is always looking for additional provider resources to service the youth entrusted to our care. Based on the information that Seasons Residential Treatment has provided, there program will offer services to youth in Maryland in a jurisdiction where there is a service gap.**

2. What is DHS's position on the adequacy of RTC services to meet the needs of the population it serves who need such services? Please address:

(a) The overall adequacy of supply of RTC services in Maryland compared to demand for RTC services. It would be most helpful if you could provide supporting data.

**Response: Data for youth placed in RTC Placement by DHS per fiscal year.**

**November 31, 2016 - 140**

**FY2016-June - 143**

**FY2015-June - 170**

**FY2014-June - 190**

**There are currently seven (7) RTC providers located in Maryland. Within the last year two (2) providers have closed within the State. The current providers only provide services in Central Maryland. Season is proposing to provide services in the Southern region of Maryland. It is the philosophy of DHS to ensure services are provided to youth in close proximity to their home. This ensures that families are able to participate in the therapeutic process.**

(b) Are in-state RTC providers required to admit all referrals from state agencies for RTC services for the gender and age group served by that provider? If no, what are the criteria and circumstances under which



a RTC provider can refuse a referral?

**Response: No. Many RTC providers reject referrals based on their ability to meet the needs of the youth. Some of the contributing factors to rejections are as follows; developmental disabilities/IQ, severe aggression, sexualized behaviors, sever self injurious behaviors, and juvenile delinquency. These rejections often lead to the youth being placed out -of -state.**

(c) What is the availability of in-state programs that meet the needs of youth served by DHS who require specialized RTC care as described in the first paragraph above?

**Response: When a youth qualifies for an RTC placement, the RTC has indicated that they are able to meets the needs of said youth and that there is an available bed in the state. With the closure of two in- state RTC's this year, the RTC providers have maximized their operational capacity.**

(d) What is the adequacy and proximity of the supply of out-of-state RTC services to meet the needs of the segments of youth not being met by in-state providers?

**Response: DHS contracts with different providers in the country. There are currently contracts with RTC's in eight different states (e.g. FL, TX, MA, VA, GA, SC, PA, and NJ). Although the youth are receiving adequate care in the out- of -state placements, DHS believes that the youth would best be served in- state with a provider that can treat their unique needs. Youth receiving services in-state allows for families to participate in the therapeutic process.**

3. How many females and males aged 13-17, and males aged 18-to-21 served by DHS were in out-of-state RTCs as of January 31, 2016?

**Response: Overall, we had 34 youth aged 11-21 in an OOS residential placement as of September 2017. Of that group, 18 are males and 16 are females. Based on the grouping there is one youth between the ages of 11-13, 22 youth between the ages of 14-17 and 11 youth between the ages of 18-21.**

(a) Do you consider that number representative of a typical day? If not, please provide data that is more representative, ideally stratifying DHS's RTC population by type of facility and programmatic needs.

**Response: Yes, referrals received vary from day-to-day. The local department only seeks technical assistance with OOS placement after all other in-state providers have been exhausted.**

(b) What percentage of these youth received care in an RTC in a neighboring state (DC, PA, DE, VA, and WV) versus all other states?

**Response: 16 of the 34 (48%) youth receive services in neighboring states (PA and VA).**

(c) What are the attributes of programs needed for youth currently being sent out-of-state for RTC placement? If possible, please include the number of youth and programs needed and any other information that could be helpful, such as citations or copies of regulatory requirements or guidelines for such programs.

**Response: Referrals for children for out-of-state-placement include the following behaviors:**

- **Sexual offenders**
- **Developmentally Disabled**
- **IQ's of 70 and below**
- **Medically Fragile**
- **Highly Aggressive**
- **Self-Injurious**

If you have further questions regarding the responses provided, please contact Tennille Thomas, SSA Chief of Staff at 410-767-7754 or [Tennille.Thomas@maryland.gov](mailto:Tennille.Thomas@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,



**Tennille Thomas**  
**SSA Chief-of-Staff**