



For Immediate Release

IDOC Announces Closure of Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility

Indianapolis, IN (May 7, 2010) – The Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) is announcing plans to close the Northeast Juvenile Correctional Facility in Ft. Wayne, IN. In early 2009, the IDOC created the Division of Youth Services (DYS) to oversee all aspects of juvenile services for those youth committed to the Department of Correction. DYS immediately undertook major efforts to reduce the length of stay of juveniles in secure (prison) facilities and to assign youth to the least restrictive setting based on their individual needs and risks in accordance with national best-practice approaches. IDOC has also worked closely with Juvenile Courts to establish appropriate community-based diversion programs aimed at reducing the commitments to secure confinement. Through these efforts, the overall juvenile population has been dramatically reduced from almost 1,100 youth to approximately 750 today. The population level at Northeast Juvenile has steadily declined through these efforts from 100+ to about 45 juveniles today.

Many of the students currently housed at the Northeast Juvenile facility are already scheduled for release before the facility officially closes on May 29th, 2010. Those who are not scheduled for release before then will be moved to the South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facility. South Bend Juvenile will then become the primary juvenile facility for providing services for the youngest youth committed to the IDOC, those students who are 12, 13, 14 and some 15 year olds who will be housed separately from older students.

“The Division of Youth Services has been able to establish best-practice approaches to providing services to the youth in our care. Through these efforts, these youth are spending less time in prison and are returning to community-based programs as quickly as possible in order to re-establish family ties and support,” said Commissioner Edwin G. Buss. “Our ability to close this facility and redirect these resources will not only save the State of Indiana precious tax dollars during times of economic hardships, but, more importantly, will continue to ensure that these troubled youth receive appropriate services in the least restrictive setting.”

Approximately 60 IDOC employees will be laid off with the facility’s closure, although all will be able to apply for vacancies at other IDOC facilities. The IDOC expects to realize approximately \$4,000,000 in savings as a result of the closure of the facility.

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