

NEWS RELEASE

Department of Social Services



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Intensive care services will be offered in-state for South Dakota's children *Clinicare and Lutheran Social Services Chosen to Take the Lead*

PIERRE, S.D. – The Departments of Social Services and Corrections announced today that two organizations have been selected to provide Intensive Residential Services for South Dakota's youth with challenging behaviors and are in the custody of one of these departments.

Clinicare, headquartered in West Allis, Wisconsin and Lutheran Social Services (LSS) of Sioux Falls were chosen from a pool of several applicants for their advanced and intensive treatment services to help the youth in our state.

"We are extremely pleased many South Dakota children who are served in out-of-state facilities will now be able to be served in-state, closer to their homes and families," stated Gov. Mike Rounds.

Clinicare, a family owned organization will offer Intensive Residential Services to 66 youth, males and females, some with aggressive and behavioral challenges and others who have been diagnosed with mental health disorders. These young people will be served in Plankinton, South Dakota, at the former state training school beginning January 1, 2007. Clinicare provides a wide range of behavioral and mental healthcare services designed to meet the needs of youth and their families. Clinicare currently provides services in Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin.

Lutheran Social Services was selected to provide Intensive Residential Services for 18 young people who have been diagnosed with severe and chronic mental health disorders. These young people will be treated in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. LSS will begin providing these services in the spring of 2007. For more than 85 years, LSS has provided an array of services for children and families in outpatient clinic settings, in family homes and in residential treatment services.

Currently, there are 130 youth placed in out-of-state facilities because their needs could not be met within South Dakota. The Department of Social Services has 37 children and the Department of Corrections has 93 children placed out-of-state. The new intensive residential services in South Dakota are intended to meet the needs of these youth and those who may need services in the future.

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The Intensive Residential Treatment Centers will provide youth with the following:

- Psychological services
- Case services treatment planning
- Case management
- Psychiatric services
- Family services
- Transitional services
- Aftercare services

In addition to the advanced quality of services, requirements for higher staffing ratios have been established to ensure each child receives the best care to prepare them for a healthy future. Youth currently in out-of-state placements will be evaluated on an individual basis before being transitioned home to South Dakota. Depending on their progress, some children will remain out-of-state; others will be brought home for treatment.

Families and friends will have better opportunities to spend time and interact with these youth. Both programs encourage, when appropriate, active family involvement.

“We look forward to working with Clinicare and Lutheran Social Services in this new endeavor on behalf of the children in South Dakota,” stated Secretaries Deb Bowman and Tim Reisch. “What better place to serve South Dakota’s children than in South Dakota.”