

**ELDORA BOYS STATE TRAINING SCHOOL:  
Summary of Student Care and Treatment  
March 25, 2020**

The Boys' State Training School (BSTS) at Eldora provides treatment and educational services within a highly structured setting for youth who are adjudicated delinquent.

**Youth Served**

In state fiscal year 2020 (SFY20):

- 168 youth were served;
- 76 youth were admitted;
- 102 youth were discharged;
- No court-ordered 30-day diagnostic evaluations for FY20;
- The average daily census was 83; and
- The average stay is 10 months.

The youth the BSTS serves have the following characteristics:

- The average age is 16.5 years.
- The typical youth has had over eight prior placements.
- About 48% are on an Individual Education Plan.
- About 50% have a moderate to severe substance abuse issues.
- About 15% claim to be gang affiliated and about 50% claim to be gang members.
- Over 75% are from single parent households.
- Significant rates of childhood trauma
- Ingrained pattern of criminalist behaviors occurring over an average of 2 to 6 years.
- About 62% adjudicated on one or multiple felonies to include murder, robbery, weapons and sex crimes.
- About 74% have been adjudicated on multiple aggravated misdemeanors.
- 47% or more have at least one criminally involved immediate family members.
- Generally 1-2 grade levels behind same age peers and below the norm for IQ scores.
- About 58% are prescribed psychotropic medications.

**Eligibility**

Students must be adjudicated delinquent and court-ordered to the BSTS in accordance with Iowa Code (IC) 232.52(2)(e). The following briefly describes the eligibility criteria for the BSTS:

- The juvenile court officer makes recommendation for BSTS placement to the court. IC section 232.54 describes conditions for placement of a youth at the BSTS:
  - The Youth is at least twelve years of age;
  - The court finds the placement to be in the best interests of the child or necessary for the protection of the public; and
  - That the child has been found to have committed an act which is a forcible felony, as defined in IC section 702.11, or a felony violation of section 124.401 or chapter 707, or the court finds any three of the following conditions exist:
    - The child is at least fifteen years of age;
    - The court finds the placement to be in the best interests of the child or necessary to the protection of the public;

- The child has committed an act which is a crime against a person and which would be an aggravated misdemeanor or a felony if the act were committed by an adult.

## **Staffing**

### *Staffing Overview*

The BSTS consistently strive to fill all 201.3 permanent full time equivalent (FTE) staff funded through its budget.

	Average Filled in SFY20	Current Filled
Total	182	180.5
Youth Service Workers	83	83
Educators	20	16
Mental Health Staff	7	11

## **Mental Health Care**

The BSTS has 11 FTE staff positions assigned to provide direct mental health therapy services including the supervisor. The BSTS also has one .2 FTE contract child psychiatrist; one .2 FTE contract advanced registered nurse practitioner and one .2 FTE contract mental health therapist. Two of the dedicated mental health therapy services positions are funded through a Victims of Crime Assistance grant administered by the Attorney General's Office.

## **Chaplaincy Services**

In addition to faith and religious services as the youth so choose, the chaplaincy program focuses engaging students in social skill development, mentorship, transitional services and crisis resolution. In addition to the assigned staff the various chaplaincy programs average over 24 volunteers per month touching the lives of 94% of our students.

## **Lawsuit**

Disability Rights Iowa (DRI), Iowa's Protection and Advocacy organization, filed suit in November, 2017, joined by the national law firms of Ropes & Gray out of Chicago and Children's Rights out of New York City. The litigation seeks injunctive relief (policy changes) in the adoption of two sets of rigorous national standards, eliminating the use of the restraint bed known as the wrap, reduction in the use of seclusion, and increase in the provision of mental health services. The matter was tried to Judge Stephanie Rose in the Southern District of Iowa June 6-18, 2019. The court order was delivered on March 30, 2020. A remedial plan (corrective action plan) was approved on July 27, 2020. The facility has worked on remedial plan tasks based on established timelines for past 8 months with the court appointed monitor submitting her first report in February 2020. The court appointed monitor visited on-site for the first time from March 23-25, 2020.

## **Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)**

OSHA cited BSTS on May 24, 2018, for a deficiency under the general duty to maintain a safe work environment based on a severe student on staff assault. With a single unprovoked and unanticipated punch, a student fractured staff's facial bones, leaving staff with permanent injuries. OSHA's position would advocate for an increase in use of restraints and SWAT type equipment to keep staff safe and issued what had to be fixed on August 28, 2018. This was resolved on March 14, 2019, with Iowa OSHA.