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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
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04333-0111

RANDALL A. LIBERTY
COMMISSIONER

Memo

To: Senator Pinny Beebe-Center, Senate Chair, Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety
Representative Tavis Hasenfus, House Chair, Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

CC: Mary Anne Turowski, Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Mills

From: Randall A. Liberty, Commissioner, Maine Department of Corrections

Date: March 3, 2026

Re: Report on Juvenile Division under 34-A M.R.S.A. § 7010

The Department of Corrections submits the attached report under 34-A M.R.S.A. § 7010.

Randall A. Liberty
Commissioner
Maine Department of Corrections

Encl.

MDOC's Mission Statement:

Making our communities safer by reducing harm through supportive intervention, empowering change, and restoring lives.

Maine Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services 2026 Annual Report



Randall Liberty, Commissioner
Christine Thibeault, Associate Commissioner of
Juvenile Services

INTRODUCTION

This report is submitted to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety pursuant to Title 34-A M.R.S.A. §7010 regarding the Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services (hereinafter referred to as “the Division”) and includes information regarding efforts of the Division to divert youth from the formal juvenile court system, provide community-based services for justice-involved youth and those at risk of becoming justice-involved, and collaborative efforts with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that youth with behavioral health needs receive appropriate services in their homes whenever possible. Additionally, this report contains data reflecting trends in juvenile diversion, probation, detention at and commitment to Long Creek Youth Development Center and data regarding staffing vacancies and services provided to residents of Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Throughout 2025, the Division met with representatives of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) to implement requirements of the Settlement Agreement between the State of Maine and the United States Department of Justice approved by the Federal District Court in December 2024 (hereinafter referred to as “the Settlement Agreement”). Information sharing protocols were developed and training provided to Juvenile Community Corrections and Long Creek Youth Development Center staff to ensure that Division employees understand the Division’s responsibilities under the Settlement Agreement.

Collaboration between the Division and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services, occurred throughout 2025 as the State prepared for implementation of the federal Consolidated Appropriations Act. The federal law became effective January 1, 2026, with Long Creek Youth Development Center being the pilot site for implementation in Maine. As a result of the federal law, all eligible committed (post-adjudication) residents of Long Creek will have active MaineCare coverage 30 days prior to release from Long Creek. The new law also requires that within 30 days of release, eligible residents receive behavioral and medical health screenings and that referrals for case management and necessary physical and behavioral health care are made.

As a result of significant changes to the Maine Juvenile Code in 2025, the Division prepared for an increase in the number of juvenile cases likely to be referred to the Division. Violation of most Title 12 cases and Title 29-A statutes by juveniles were previously not managed through the juvenile justice system and instead were processed in the Unified Criminal Court. The most significant change in Maine’s juvenile justice system to occur in decades is an expansion of the definition of “juvenile crime” to include ALL conduct that would be murder, or a Class A, B, C, D, or E crime if committed by an adult. This change will result in increased referrals to the Division for violations of Title 12 (Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Marine Patrol, and Forestry offenses) and Title 29-A (motor vehicle offenses). Also effective September 24, 2025, the definition of “juvenile” at 15 M.R.S.A. §3003(14)(A) was amended to establish age 11 as the *minimum* age of juvenile criminal responsibility unless a juvenile is alleged to have committed murder, felony murder, or manslaughter, for which there remains no minimum age of juvenile criminal responsibility. Previously, there was no minimum age of juvenile court jurisdiction.

Historically, few juveniles under age 11 are referred to the Division so the latter change is expected to have minimal impact on the number of cases received.

Efforts to increase the number of youths diverted from the formal juvenile court process continued during 2025 through the Division's continued commitment to the Annie E. Casey's Juvenile Probation Transformation Initiative. Representatives of all three Juvenile Community Corrections regions regularly participated in meetings with a multi-disciplinary team of juvenile justice professionals dedicated to reducing the number of youths under supervision with the Division and improving services for those youth who are supervised by Juvenile Community Corrections Officers. Efforts to improve supervision of juveniles include adoption of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Family Engaged Case Planning Model and adoption of the Coaching Model of juvenile supervision created by Dr. Brian Lovins of Justice System Partners.

Improvements in staffing at Long Creek Youth Development Center continued throughout 2025. Efforts to recruit and retain front line staff were largely successful in eliminating the need for support from outside staff, i.e., dually-certified juvenile community corrections officers, adult probation officers, and adult correctional facility officers. Although not all Juvenile Program Worker positions are currently filled (31% vacancy rate), efforts continue to recruit and retain excellent candidates.

Programming at Long Creek Youth Development Center has consistently improved over the past year with expanded opportunities for residents to engage with community members at the facility as well as increased opportunities for residents to participate in activities in the community. Volunteer services at Long Creek returned to pre-COVID-19 levels in 2025 as a result of concerted efforts by leadership at the facility to provide as many opportunities as possible for youth to engage in pro-social activities and make connections with community partners.

The Division of Juvenile Services has continued to build relationships with other State agencies, community-based program providers, and juvenile justice system professionals in an effort to limit Maine youths' involvement in the juvenile justice system as much as possible and to ensure that those youth who do enter the system receive equitable and beneficial services from the Maine Department of Corrections.

DIVISION OF JUVENILE SERVICES ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT 2025

DATA SNAPSHOT

The table below provides data on key points in Maine’s juvenile justice system over the past seven years. Data from each year since 2019 is included to demonstrate changes in diversion, probation, detention, periods of confinement, and indeterminate commitment prior to, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data Snapshot for Maine’s Juvenile Justice System Over the Past Seven Years

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Cases* Referred to Division of Juvenile Services	2,041	2,073	2,128	1,925	1,595	1,748	2,464
First Time Referrals	1,007	984	1,076	1,043	863	625	1,332
Diversion Rate of Eligible Cases**	83%	86%	86%	87%	88%	74%	74%
Monthly Average Number of Juveniles on Probation	54	60	66	90	92	117	163
Number of Juveniles who Started Probation	82	83	84	112	66	65	101
Probation Violations Filed with Court	57	34	20	52	54	70	96
Average Length of Juvenile Probation	365	354	332	329	405	383	400
Long Creek Detention Admissions (not individual youths detained)	186	201	166	100	107	136	277
Average length of stay in detention	34.6	32.7	32.5	31.9	24.4	21.9	18.4
Number of Youths Serving 1-30 Day Periods of Confinement (court-ordered dispositions)	25	14	10	12	19	14	29
Number of Youths Committed to Long Creek	22	18	18	20	19	14	29
Average Length of Stay During Commitment	199.5	244.6	102.2	169.7	343	360.8	450.3
Long Creek Average Daily Population (ADP)	39	36	28	28	31	28	53

* A youth may be referred more than once in a calendar year; consequently, “cases” does not reflect the individual number of youths at any point in the juvenile justice system.

** 2025 data collection limitations limit diversion rates to only first-time referrals charged with a juvenile crime that would constitute a civil violation or Class D or E crime if committed by an adult. Diversion of second or subsequent offenses and Class A, B, or C crimes do occur although not reflected in the diversion data. Beginning January 1, 2026, the Division will utilize a more accurate and reliable method of determining the rate of cases diverted from formal juvenile court involvement, i.e., the diversion rate will be calculated by comparing the number of cases referred for prosecution (NOT diverted) to the total number of cases referred to the Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services.

Comprehensive data regarding the number of juveniles referred to the Division of Juvenile Services; placed on juvenile probation; detained, served a court-ordered specific period of confinement, or ordered to serve an indeterminate commitment at Long Creek is publicly available on the Maine Department of Corrections website at:

<https://www.maine.gov/corrections/juvenileservices/reports>. The Juvenile Division Overview Report is updated monthly and each report contains cumulative data from all prior months of the calendar year. Bi-weekly data regarding movement of youth in and out of Long Creek is also available.

INTERAGENCY EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO INCREASE DIVERSION AND REDUCE DETENTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

Implementation of the December 2024 Settlement Agreement Between the State of Maine and the United States Department of Justice

Representatives from the Division of Juvenile Services and the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health (OBH) consulted regularly throughout 2025 regarding implementation of the requirements of the Settlement Agreement between the State of Maine and the United States Department of Justice as approved by the United States District Court, District of Maine, in December 2024 (the Settlement Agreement). The agencies have communicated on numerous occasions to ensure the State fully complies with the Settlement Agreement by taking the following actions:

- Training provided for all Juvenile Community Corrections staff and several Long Creek staff regarding which youth are eligible for and entitled to receive behavioral health services under the Settlement Agreement.
- Training provided by OBH for all Juvenile Community Corrections staff and several Long Creek staff regarding the process for referring youth for a Single Assessment.
- Training provided for all Juvenile Community Corrections Officers on Care Coordination according to the Wraparound Planning Principles.
- Protocols and practices developed for data sharing between the Division and OBH to ensure that all youth eligible for services under the Settlement Agreement are properly identified in a timely manner.
- Joint efforts of the Division and the Department of Health and Human Services to reduce the likelihood of a youth being detained at or committed to Long Creek Youth Development Center including, but not limited to:
 - ~ Regular (daily and/or weekly) communication regarding youth awaiting community-based or residential treatment services provided by OBH;
 - ~ Supplemental funding from the Division for community-based programs proven to reduce the likelihood of secure confinement such as Multisystemic Therapy, Functional Family Therapy, and High Fidelity Wraparound Services;
 - ~ Weekly presence of OBH staff at Long Creek to ensure proper and timely referrals for residents eligible for behavioral health services provided by OBH;
 - ~ Inclusion of Division representatives in efforts to establish Treatment Intensive Homes in Maine.
- Interagency protocols developed for ensuring that the Division provides the U.S. Department of Justice with de-identified data regarding all youth detained at or committed to Long Creek and copies of de-identified reports submitted to the juvenile court when a Long Creek resident's commitment is reviewed.

Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Probation Transformation Initiative

Throughout 2025, a team of dedicated juvenile justice professionals, including representatives of the Division and the Department of Health and Human Services, continued active participation in the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Probation Transformation Initiative, now referred to as the “Maine Youth Community Supervision Initiative.” This project is executed by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of the individuals listed below who are working to accomplish two juvenile justice reform goals in Maine:

1. Reduce the number of youths under formal juvenile justice system supervision by safely diverting more young people to community-based supports, services, and opportunities. This goal will be supported by the creation of diversion resources throughout Maine, starting with pilot programs in each of the three DOC juvenile Regions. In 2025, Region 1 created the first diversion pilot program in York County through a contract with Apex Youth Connection in Biddeford. This program allows JCCOs to refer youth to Apex Youth Connection in lieu of intake with a JCCO and traditional diversion practices. Once referred, youth are not subject to further oversight by a JCCO or in the juvenile justice system regardless of their participation in the program. Youths’ participation in services offered by Apex Youth Connection is purely voluntary and is designed to connect them with local resources and support outside of the juvenile justice system.
2. Improve supervision for youth being served by the formal juvenile justice system by ensuring all interventions are strength-based, time-limited, rooted in relationship building and community partnerships, and focused on positive youth development, meaningful accountability, and healing. One of the efforts toward achieving this goal is collaborating with the Maine Judicial Branch to modify court-ordered expectations of juveniles petitioned to court by eliminating many of the standard conditions of release and probation in favor of individualized conditions aligned with the juvenile’s needs and risks.

The team implementing the Maine Youth Community Supervision Initiative meets monthly and include the following stakeholders:

1. A Juvenile Community Corrections Regional Correctional Administrator
2. A Juvenile Community Corrections Regional Correctional Manager
3. A juvenile community corrections officer
4. A representative of the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child and Family Services
5. A District Court judge who presides over juvenile court cases
6. A prosecutor with experience in the juvenile justice system
7. A defense attorney with experience in the juvenile justice system
8. An employee within the University of Maine system with experience in youth programs, research, and data analysis
9. A representative of a community-based organization or program that provides services designed to divert youth from the juvenile justice system

10. The Director of the Center for Youth Policy and Law at the University of Maine School of Law
11. A person who has directly experienced the juvenile justice system; and
12. A person related to a youth who has been involved in the juvenile justice system.

Family Engaged Case Planning

The Division is also implementing Family Engaged Case Planning as part of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Probation Transformation Initiative. Throughout 2025, Juvenile Community Corrections staff from each of the three Regions worked with Annie E. Casey Foundation staff, representatives of youth-serving community-based programs, and a young person with experience in Maine's juvenile justice system to provide all JCCOs virtual and in-person training that promotes a family-centered case planning model that identifies a youth's personalized goals and fosters community connections. Each JCCO is required to apply the Family Engaged Case Planning Model to one of the families currently being served by the Division. Because the model is time-intensive and recommended only for youth and families with identified needs, the Division launched the Family Engaged Case Planning Model on a pilot basis that allows JCCOs to gain skills and refine techniques before broader implementation.

Children's Behavioral Health Services (CBHS) Program Coordinators

Juvenile Community Corrections and Long Creek Youth Development staff work closely with Children's Behavioral Health Services Program Coordinators (employees of the Office of Behavioral Health) to facilitate services for youth being served by both State agencies. Division staff and Program Coordinators meet virtually every two weeks to discuss the status of all youths detained at Long Creek, those eligible for release from Long Creek in the coming weeks, and those on community reintegration status. These bi-weekly meetings are also attended by community case managers and other service providers working with residents of Long Creek and allow for discussion of each resident's unique needs. Staff with both State agencies and providers share information and collaborate on how best to facilitate each resident's release from Long Creek as soon as possible.

Funding for Community-based Programs Proven Effective at Reducing Likelihood of Juvenile Justice Involvement

The Division of Juvenile Services provides supplemental funding for community-based services that are primarily provided through the Department of Health and Human Services. Funding from the Division ensures that youth who are not MaineCare-eligible receive evidence-based in-home services which are generally not covered by private insurance. Funding from the Division will also allow program expansion to support delivery of services to as many youths and families as possible. The Department of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Services provide funding for the following evidence-based in-home services for youth: Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) including Multi-systemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behaviors (MST-PSB) and High Fidelity Wrap Around Services.

Participation in Regional Care Teams

The three Regional Care Teams are multidisciplinary and multi-agency local community response teams that provide services to juveniles in Maine to help keep them in the community.

As of February 2026, a total of 423 youths have been referred to the three Regional Care teams. Most (87.5%) of the youth referred have juvenile justice system involvement. Those who do not will hopefully be diverted from formal juvenile justice system involvement as a result of resources and/or services provided by the Regional Care Teams.

Regional Care Teams were created during the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce the number of youths in secure confinement at Long Creek Youth Development Center. As cited in the 2023 *Regional Care Team Year Two Update* published by the Catherine Cutler Institute,

“[I]n April 2020, the Maine [Juvenile Justice Advisory Group] obtained approval from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to allocate approximately \$62,000 in unspent federal funds for emergency COVID-19 response to help community service providers keep youth safely in the community and out of secure residential settings. The approval called for multidisciplinary and multi-agency local community response teams (Corrections, Health and Human Services, Education, and Labor) to determine how funds could be spent in each MDOC region to best assist in keeping youth in the community. In June 2020, through a cooperative agreement with the USM and in partnership with [Maine Center for Youth Policy And Law], the Maine Department of Corrections formalized the creation of Regional Care Teams and helped developed a public facing referral process, group facilitation and confidentiality procedures, and the state’s first public facing data dashboard to track needs and outcomes that inform current and future investments in the continuum of care.”

The Department of Corrections continues to support the Regional Care Teams with both funding and staff resources. Regional Care Teams include representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, and Office of Behavioral Health.

Regional Care Teams serve justice-involved youth in two ways:

1. Monthly meetings of State and private youth-serving agencies in each of the three Juvenile Community Corrections Regions to identify existing local resources, share information, develop and improve system-level practices, and inform state-wide policies regarding the needs of systems-impacted youth, and
2. Distribution of emergency response funds directly to youth when resources are not available through traditional services. To learn more about Regional Care Teams visit <https://placemattersmaine.org/regional-care-teams/>.

The Division of Juvenile Services has continued to support Regional Care Teams since their inception by providing funds that are provided directly to youth to meet emergency needs and as the sole funder of the cooperative agreement with USM. Emergency funds address emergency needs for counseling services not covered by insurance, transportation, equipment needed for participation in school sports activities, furniture for youth transitioning to independent living, heating and utility assistance, technology devices and/or internet services, rental assistance, and much more.

Funding for the Regional Care Teams has come solely from the Juvenile Justice Advisory Group (\$115,752.64) and the Division of Juvenile Services (\$712,408.00) except in fiscal year 2023 when an additional \$76,559.40 was obtained from the federal Second Chance Act award through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. A breakdown of the funding for the Regional Care Teams since their inception is reflected in the table below:

Funding For Maine's Regional Care Teams

Fiscal Year	Funding Source	Flex Funds	Cooperative Agreement	Total Funding for RCTs
FY 2021	JJAG	\$61,993.64	\$0	\$61,993.64
	MDOC	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
FY 2022	JJAG	\$33,759.00	\$0	\$33,759.00
	MDOC	\$2,925.00	\$117,775.00	\$120,700.00
FY 2023	JJAG	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
	MDOC	\$23,000.00	\$125,933.00	\$148,933.00
	2nd Chance Grant	\$76,559.40	\$0	\$76,559.40
FY 2024	JJAG	\$20,000.00	\$0	\$20,000.00
	MDOC	\$20,000.00	\$98,045.00	\$118,045.00
FY 2025	JJAG	\$0		\$0.00
	MDOC	\$40,000.00	\$115,306.00	\$155,306.00
FY 2026	JJAG	\$0		\$0.00
	MDOC	\$40,000.00	\$129,424.00	\$169,424.00
TOTALS		\$318,237.04	\$586,483.00	\$904,702.04

Participation in the Children's Cabinet Juvenile Justice Working Group

Members of the Children's Cabinet staff meet bi-monthly to share information and consider ways in which youth-serving State agencies can collaborate to effectively and efficiently serve Maine children and adolescents. Meetings are facilitated by the Governor's Office of Policy and Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) and attended by representatives of the Departments of Corrections, Health and Human Services including the Offices of Child and Family Services and Children's Behavioral Health, Education, and Labor. As a result of these meetings, representatives of the State agencies have increased knowledge of resources available in other agencies and create relationships and communication pathways that improve cross-system communication. During 2025, the Division reached out to representatives from the Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Labor to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth. For example, as a result of the Children's Cabinet Staff Meetings, the Division obtained a vocational rehabilitation counselor who serves residents at Long Creek Youth Development Center and connects them with services available as they transition to their home community.

The Children's Cabinet Juvenile Justice Work Group has also participated in the Forum for Youth Investment's Building Ecosystems Statewide for Thriving Youth (B.E.S.T. Youth) initiative for the past three years. This initiative is a 3-year program that focuses on fostering collaborative, cross-system, and youth-led approaches to enhance education, health, and economic stability for

youth. Although support from the Forum for Youth Investment’s B.E.S.T. initiative will terminate earlier than anticipated in early 2026, members of the Work Group are committed to implementing the goals of the project, which include building capacity among and providing support to community-based organizations to enhance their ability to serve disengaged and disconnected youth.

SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO COMMUNITY-BASED THERAPEUTIC SERVICES

Division of Juvenile Services Investment in Community-Based Services

Community-based therapeutic services for youth funded by the Division of Juvenile Services include: Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Multisystemic Therapy (MST), Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behaviors (MST-PSB), and High-Fidelity Wrap Around Services. These programs are evidence-based and proven to reduce youths’ involvement in the juvenile justice system. In fiscal year 2026, the Division appropriated \$1,514,331 for community-based therapeutic services. This appropriation reflects an increase of approximately \$60,00 for those services from the previous fiscal year and an approximately \$387,000 increase from fiscal year 2024.

As referenced in the section above, and as reflected in the itemized table of investments in community-based programs attached as Appendix A, the Division of Juvenile Services continues to provide substantial financial resources to community-based organizations that provide services that reduce the likelihood that youth receiving services will become involved in the juvenile justice system, and especially reduce the likelihood of detention at or commitment to Long Creek Youth Development Center. In addition to the therapeutic services described above, the Division supports community-based organizations that provide the following:

- Emergency Shelter Services
- Transitional Living Programs
- Master Lease Programs
- Transformative Mentoring and Advocacy
- Restorative Justice Services
- Diversion Programming
- After School and Evening Supervision and Activities

Unfortunately, some youth lack access to the community-based services above. Access to community-based programs may be restricted due to geography for youth in rural Maine. Additionally, community-based providers may not exist within a particular region. For example, Multisystemic Therapy for Problem Sexual Behaviors is a home-based intervention that is not available in all parts of Maine.

The Department and DHHS’s implementation of the Settlement Agreement will provide data and identify where moderate and high-level behavioral health services are needed but unavailable in Maine. MaineCare-eligible youth identified as needing moderate or high-level behavioral health services will be referred for a Single Assessment to determine which type of intervention the youth requires. The Office of Behavioral Health will maintain data on all youth who receive a

Single Assessment including where the youth lives and the type of behavioral health service they require. Collecting this data will allow OBH to identify where resources are needed and develop resources in those areas.

While telehealth and remote contact does increase access to some community-based services, some youth do not have access to the technology (devices and connectivity) required to utilize remote service delivery. Additionally, not all services are effectively delivered remotely. For example, transformative mentoring, diversion services, and community supervision are services that require in-person contact with youths.

Throughout 2025, representatives of the Division participated in meetings with the Office of Behavioral Health as they continue efforts to create Treatment Intensive Homes in Maine and to continue and/or expand access to the Youth Villages Intercept program. Both of these community-based programs require determination of MaineCare reimbursement rates for services and DHHS rulemaking to govern delivery of the services. Once available, programs administered by OBH will be available for eligible justice-involved youth and those at risk of becoming justice-involved. The Division of Juvenile Services has provided data to OBH and participated in several meetings to discuss how Treatment Intensive Homes and in-home services including the Intercept program will reduce the need for secure detention and decrease the likelihood of a youth being committed to Long Creek Youth Development Center. If resources are available when these programs begin serving youth in Maine, the Division will provide supplemental funding to support Treatment Intensive Homes and evidence-based in-home interventions including the Intercept program.

**SUMMARY OF LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER
STAFFING LEVELS**

Staffing Levels At Long Creek On January 2, 2026

Type of Position	Filled	Vacant	Vacancy Rate
Administration	14	0	
Security Positions			
Director of Security	1	0	
Facility Operations Supervisors	6	0	
Juvenile Program Supervisors	9	2	18%
Juvenile Program Workers (<i>includes JPW/Cooks</i>)	48	22	31%
Program Providers			
Juvenile Program Managers	4	0	
Psychiatric Social Workers	3	1	25%
Juvenile Accuity Specialists	1	1	50%
Recreation Supervisor	1	0	
Restorative Justice Coordinator	1	0	
Correctional Trades Instructors	3	0	
Chaplain	1	0	
Food Services Supervisor	1	0	
Education Staff			
Administration	4	1	20%
Teachers	14	2	
Resident Education Technology Steward	1	0	
Facility Maintenance Staff	4	0	
TOTALS	116	29	20%

Long Creek Youth Development Center Employee Demographics on January 2, 2026

Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	Unstated	Totals
White (68.9%)	47	33		80
Black/African American (8.6%)	9	1		10
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (2.6%)	3			3
Hispanic/Latino (5.1%)	6			6
Asian (<1%)	1			1
2 or More Races (5.1%)	4	2		6
Blank/Unstated (8.6%)	4	1	5	10
Total	74	37	5	116
Age	Male	Female	Unstated	Totals
Age 18-25 (7.6%)	7	2		9
Age 26-40 (42.3%)	33	12	4	49
Age 41-60 (40.5%)	29	17	1	47
61 and Over (9.5%)	5	6		11
Totals	74	37	5	116

- ♦ Three (3) Juvenile Basic Correctional Officer Training Academies were completed at Long Creek throughout 2025.
- ♦ Twenty-eight (28) students graduated to become certified juvenile correctional officers.

Clinical Services at Long Creek Youth Development Center



The Maine Department of Corrections contracts with Wellpath to provide medical, psychiatric, mental/behavioral health, and substance use disorder assessment and treatment services to detained and committed residents of Long Creek Youth Development Center.

The facility's medical office is staffed by a registered nurse at all times. A physician and psychiatric nurse practitioner are on site to see residents eight hours per week and available for consultation 24 hours per day. All residents receive dental services, including regular dental cleanings, on site in the facility's dental office.

Upon admission to Long Creek Youth Development Center, every resident is seen by a registered nurse and screened for any medical conditions requiring immediate attention, e.g., cuts or abrasions, infectious respiratory diseases, etc. As part of the admission process, all residents also complete the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2), a validated and reliable screening tool designed specifically for use in juvenile detention centers. The MAYSI-2 is a self-administered screening tool consisting of 52 yes/no questions regarding thoughts, feelings, and behaviors experienced in the past few months that indicate whether the resident may have pressing behavioral health needs related to drug/alcohol use, suicide ideation, anger/irritability, depression/anxiety, somatic complaints, and thought disturbances. If indicated, urgent behavioral and/or mental health needs are immediately addressed by Wellpath staff.

The table below provides information regarding medical, behavioral, and mental health services provided to residents at Long Creek Youth Development Center and when those services are available.

Clinical Services Provided to Residents of Long Creek Youth Development Center

Professional Staff Availability	On-site hours	On-call hours
Physician	8 hours/week	24 hours/day
Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner	8 hours/week	24 hours/day
Nursing (Registered Nurse)	24 hours/day	
Health Services Administrator	40 hours/week	
Assistant Health Services Administrator	40 hours/week	
Dentist	4 hours/week	
Dental Hygienist	4 hours/week	
Dental Assistant	4 hours/week	
Mental Health Director	40 hours/week	Mental Health staff on call 24 hours/day
Mental Health Coordinator	40 hours/week	
Mental Health Professionals	80 hours/week	
Mental Health Technician	40 hours/week	
Optometrist	As needed	

Behavioral Health Services

Wellpath's behavioral health team at Long Creek Youth Development Center is made up of independently-licensed leadership, independently-licensed and conditionally-licensed clinicians and providers, behavioral health technicians and licensed substance use clinicians. The team includes:

- Behavioral Health Technician
- Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor LADC, CCS
- Behavioral Health Clinician LCPC-c
- Behavioral Health Clinician LMSW-cc
- Nurse Practitioner APRN-CNP
- LCPC: Mental Health Coordinator
- LCSW, LADC, CCS: Director of Mental Health at LCYDC
- LCPC: Assistant Regional Behavioral Health Director
- DSW, LCSW, CCS: Regional Behavioral Health Director

The Wellpath Behavioral Health Team provides all Long Creek residents with assessment and treatment services to address mental health diagnoses and symptoms, substance use disorder, grief and loss, intimate partner violence, problematic sexual behavior, family issues, and other clinical needs.

Assessments Completed by Wellpath Behavioral Health Staff

Initial Assessment and Orientation: Within the first 72 hours of arrival, a mental health clinician will meet with each resident for an initial mental health evaluation to obtain information regarding acute and historic mental health symptoms and/or past interventions. During this initial evaluation, clinical staff determine whether further assessments (e.g., substance use disorder assessment, problematic sexual behavior assessments, or targeted diagnostic assessments) should be completed. Residents who arrive with confirmed medication prescriptions from their community providers will promptly meet with the psychiatric nurse practitioner for a review of medications and to develop a plan for continuity of care.

Clinical Needs Assessment: If a youth is committed to Long Creek, a more in-depth Clinical Needs Assessment is completed. Assessments completed following commitment include a biopsychosocial assessment, substance use disorder assessment, and a Structured Assessment of Violence Risk in Youth (SAVRY). Recommendations for long-term treatment are derived from these assessments, and updates to the resident's treatment plan will be made to reflect these recommendations.

Therapeutic Services

Individual Therapy: Detained and committed residents are offered weekly individual therapy with a licensed mental health professional. Individual treatment plans are updated every 90 days or sooner based upon the resident's progress or change in detention status. Some evidence-based practices currently utilized by clinical staff at Long Creek include Motivational Interviewing

(MI), Narrative Therapy, Action and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT).

Group Therapy: All Long Creek residents are offered weekly group therapy covering a wide range of topics. Examples of groups currently offered are anger management, psychoeducation, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) skills, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) skills, healthy boundaries, healthy relationships, resisting peer pressure, ADHD symptom management, and social skill development groups. Additionally, activity therapy groups are offered by a Wellpath behavioral health technician. Group activity therapy may include mindful movement, music production, songwriting, art, games, and other recreational style activities that provide an environment for residents to practice skills they are learning in individual mental health treatment or clinical groups.

Substance Use Psychoeducation Groups: All residents are also offered psychoeducation on substance use and other health and wellness topics, including but not limited to: the impact of substances on mental, physical, and emotional health; the relationship between substance use and sexual violence, emotional abuse, or physical abuse. Other aspects of coercion and control are also discussed in the substance use psychoeducation groups.

Substance Use/Recovery Individual and Group Therapy: Residents who require substance use treatment are offered individual and/or group substance use disorder treatment. Group therapy is the gold standard for substance use disorder treatment and groups are offered in weekly, unit-specific sessions. Individual treatment is offered to residents for whom group therapy is contraindicated.

Family Therapy: Family therapy is available to residents with complex family dynamics. For residents returning to live with family, beginning family therapy while at Long Creek improves the likelihood of a successful transition home. Family therapy is offered in addition to individual therapy when clinically indicated.

Crisis Services: Wellpath Behavioral Health Professionals are available to all residents for crisis services 24 hours a day. Crisis services are provided any time a resident expresses or is suspected of having suicidal or homicidal ideations and/or has engaged in non-suicidal self-injury. Crisis services are also utilized to assess a resident's safety following critical incidents (in the facility or in the community) or when a resident is identified as needing additional clinical support.

Psychiatry Services: Some residents arrive at Long Creek with active prescriptions for psychotropic medications that assist in the treatment of their mental health symptoms. The psychiatric nurse practitioner meets with residents who have active prescriptions to review medications and to establish a plan for continuity of care. During the course of a resident's detention, behavioral health staff will work with the resident to master non-pharmacological interventions and refer residents to community providers for continued care upon release from Long Creek. Residents may request to meet with psychiatric and behavioral health service providers at any time.

Discharge Planning: All committed residents have a multidisciplinary treatment team made up of facility staff and community members who are involved in the resident's release planning. If a resident has a complex set of circumstances, including psychiatric and/or medical needs, a Wellpath discharge planner may also assist the treatment team in developing a comprehensive release plan.

Resident Engagement: Many residents of Long Creek Youth Development Center have complex mental health needs, and psychotherapy can be a difficult endeavor for youth with complex trauma. Wellpath clinicians adhere to trauma-informed practices that acknowledge the need for trust, compassion, and centering agency with residents. To this end, all behavioral health services offered to Long Creek residents are voluntary, and residents are free to refuse services. In addition, residents are free to terminate their participation with any mental health service at any time. Services continue to be offered weekly in case the resident changes their mind or becomes ready to engage with the clinical team. Wellpath clinicians use every opportunity to inform residents of the common risks of terminating services and the benefits of engaging in services and are skilled in developing therapeutic alliances with youth.

Mental & Behavioral Health, Psychiatric, and Substance Use Treatment Provided

Service Provided	Monthly Average	2025 Yearly Total
Psychiatric New Patient Visits	5	55
Psychiatric Follow Up Visits	30	358
Nursing Intake Screenings	17	209
Nursing Contacts: Treatment and Monitoring	358	4,292
Provider Initial Health Assessments	16	193
Laboratory Testing (blood drawn on site)	53	634
Initial Dental Examinations	12	141
Mental Health Technician Individual Sessions	213	2,554
Mental Health Group Sessions	60	715
Mental Health Intake Screening and Orientation	15	177
Initial Mental Health Evaluation	14	172
Number of Residents Receiving Mental Health Treatment	34	408
Mental Health Individual Therapy Contacts	165	1,985
Mental Health Follow Up Contacts	44	526
Number of Residents in Group Therapy Sessions	15	185
Substance Use Disorder Screenings	10	122
Substance Use Disorder Assessments	3	31
Substance Use Disorder Individual Sessions	13	159
Substance Use Disorder Groups	8	90
Number of Residents in Substance Use Disorder Groups	41	491
Referrals for Discharge Planning	2	18
Discharge Planning Sessions	1	15
Optometry	2	27
Hospital Crisis Assessments	Less than 1	2

MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES AT LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Most of residents' medical and dental needs are served by Wellpath staff in the medical office located within Long Creek Youth Development Center. In the event a resident requires medical or dental treatment that Wellpath staff cannot provide, the resident is transported to a local medical or dental provider or hospital by Long Creek staff for appropriate treatment.

The table below outlines the timing of medical and dental services provided and available to residents at Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Frequency and Timing of Medical and Dental Services

Screening for Urgent Medical Needs	Immediately Upon Admission to Long Creek
Physical Examination	Within 14 days of Admission - Annually Thereafter
Medical Sick Call	As Needed
Nursing Sick Call	As Needed (available 24 hours/day)
Medication Management	As Needed (available 24 hours/day)
Dental Examination (including X-rays)	Within 30 days of Admission - Annually Thereafter
Dental sick Call	Weekly As Needed
Dental Hygiene (including education)	Every Six Months
Optometry (exam & glasses if needed)	As Needed

As reflected in the tables above, Wellpath clinical staff provide a wide range of assessment and treatment services to both detained and committed residents at Long Creek. Services for committed residents, i.e., those who have been adjudicated in the juvenile court and ordered to serve an indeterminate commitment to Long Creek, include individualized treatment plans that address the conduct underlying the adjudication. Services for detained residents, in contrast, are focused on immediate medical needs and mental/behavioral health stabilization and do not address illegal conduct allegedly committed by the resident because the juvenile criminal charges are pending and the resident has constitutional rights against self-incrimination.

Occupational Therapy provided by Students at the University of New England

In addition to clinical services provided by Wellpath, occupational therapy services are often available to residents through a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Corrections and the University of New England (UNE). The Agreement allows occupational therapy students at UNE to receive academic credit for completing their clinical semester at Long Creek Youth Development Center by providing occupational therapy services to residents for 40 hours per week over a three-month period.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AT LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Arthur R. Gould School (A.R. Gould) is a Public High School approved by the Maine Department of Education that is located inside Long Creek Youth Development Center. All youth serving an indeterminate commitment to Long Creek are automatically enrolled in A.R. Gould unless they have graduated, elect to pursue a High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) certification, or seek to earn a Maine Department of Education diploma. Upon enrollment in A.R. Gould, the student's academic records are transferred from the school in which they were previously enrolled, and an assessment of their current educational needs is completed. Committed residents who are close to earning enough credits to graduate from the high school in which they were previously enrolled may, at the discretion of the previously-attended high school, be able to earn diplomas from their "home school" after completing education credits at A.R. Gould.

Because many detentions are short, residents in detained status at Long Creek remain enrolled in their "home school," which may provide education, including Special Education services, while a youth is detained. The Project I.M.P.A.C.T. (Interagency Model Project for Academic and Correctional Transition) Coordinator at Long Creek contacts each detained resident's "home school" to obtain an Academic Programming Agreement that determines whether the "home school" will provide education services to the student while detained at Long Creek or award credit for all schoolwork successfully completed by the student from attending courses offered at A.R. Gould.

Long Creek residents may also enroll in community college classes through the "Creek to College" program. Students enrolled in the Creek to College program earn college credits while attending classes for free through a collaborative agreement with Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) and funding from the Friends of Long Creek. Students still attending high school may enroll in remote courses offered by SMCC and receive dual credit, i.e., high school and college credits, upon successful completion of the course. Students who have earned a high school diploma or HiSET certification may also enroll in the Creek to College program.

Classes at the A.R. Gould School run throughout calendar year and students attend five (5) academic periods per day (an increase from 4 academic periods earlier in 2025). There are two vocational education tracks offered through A.R. Gould: Culinary Arts and Graphic Design/Screen printing. The Graphic Arts/Screen Printing program was established in the summer of 2025 and utilizes state-of-the art technology and screen printing equipment. Residents create products such as T-shirts for Long Creek events, including the Long Creek Trades Day.

In 2025, A.R. Gould staff received "Creating a Culture of Care in Schools Using Restorative Practices" training from the Maine Department of Education's School Safety Center. This program provides staff the skills needed to strengthen trusting relationships with students and create a more positive school climate. A.R. Gould staff gained knowledge and tools needed to provide restorative responses to student misconduct in the classroom and to create a school

environment focused on safety, belonging, and accountability for students and staff that increases learning while reducing undesirable behavior.

In the summer of 2025, A full-time Special Education Director was hired to ensure that the needs of A.R. Gould students with Individual Education Plans and 504 Plans are met. The Special Education Director works closely with A.R. Gould administrators, teachers, security staff, and Wellpath clinicians to support student education-related needs both in and outside the classroom.

2025 Long Creek Resident Graduations

- ♦Six (6) residents graduated from the Arthur R. Gould School
- ♦Two (2) residents earned HiSET High School Equivalency certifications
- ♦One (1) resident graduated from their “home school” (school of enrollment prior to commitment to Long Creek)

College Class Attendance

Throughout 2025 Spring, Summer, and Fall semesters, the following college courses were attended by residents of Long Creek through the Creek to College program:

Course Name	Residents Enrolled	Average Student Grade
Oral Communications (ENGL110)	5	B+
English Composition (ENGL 100)	4	B
SMCC Guitar (MUSI 102/152)	6	A-
Academic Success (ACLL LC)	8	A-
Introduction to Business (BUSN 100)	5	B+
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 100)	4	A-
SMCC Singers (MUSI 106)	3	A
Introduction to Literature (ENGL 115)	2	A-
Literature and Film (ENGL 260)	1	A-
Academic Success (ACSS LC)	3	A-
Oral Communications (ENGL 110)	4	B-
World History from 1500 (HIST 125)	8	B
Poetry (ENGL 270)	3	Audited
SMCC Guitar (MUSI 102/152)	5	A

Additional Educational Programming Offered to Long Creek Residents during 2025

- ♦Vocational Rehabilitation/Goodwill “Boot Camp”- 18 residents (13 males, 5 females) engaged
- ♦Telling Room – Residents build literacy skills through creative written expression
- ♦Creative Hope Studios – Residents have access to a professional recording studio equipment
- ♦Smooth Feather Productions – Residents filmed and edited two short films titled “Swamp Dog” and “Bigger Than Us.”
- ♦Maine Academy of Modern Music – Residents learn music theory, reading, and to play the guitar or keyboard
- ♦Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) certification
- ♦ServSafe certification (food service credential)

Federal Funding Received by the Arthur R. Gould School

As a Department of Education accredited Maine school, the Arthur R. Gould School receives federal funding from the Department of Education.

Federal funding for educational programming at Long Creek has been utilized as follows:

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)	FY 2025	FY 2026
Professional Development for faculty and staff	\$ 8,357.47	\$4,462.95
Responses to Intervention	\$9,248.14	
Supplemental Education (e.g., MAMM, Telling Room, etc.)	\$49,745.86	\$54,790.64
Technology and Supplies	\$13,208.40	
Transitional Skills Development and Support Services	\$13,095.60	\$14,000.00
Increasing Parent/Guardian Engagement		\$7,815.62
Individualized Curriculum Support		\$5,126.16
Standardized Digital Curriculum Courseware		\$9,583.20
Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins CTE)	FY 2025	FY 2026
Regular Vocational and Technical Instruction	\$39,085.44	\$50,000.00
Instructional Staff Training	\$1,234.96	\$1,500.00
Instruction Related Technology	\$19,679.60	\$8,500.00
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)	FY 2025	FY 2026
Special Education Consultation and Related Services	\$43,573.29	\$37,117.26
Instruction and Supplies		\$8,000.00
Totals	\$197,228.76	\$200,895.83

CREATION OF AN “EARNED LIVING UNIT” (ELU) AT LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

In May 2025, the Elm Unit opened as Long Creek’s Earned Living Unit (ELU), and the first two residents were admitted. The ELU is a transitional program designed to support residents as they build independence, confidence, and practical life skills needed for successful community living. The program emphasizes personal responsibility, self-advocacy, and healthy relationships within a supportive, resident-driven environment.

Residents in the ELU actively participate in daily living tasks and decision-making. They wear their own clothing, manage their personal laundry, prepare basic meals, and practice money management skills. Resident-led meetings encourage leadership, accountability, and collaborative problem-solving, reinforcing respectful communication and shared responsibility.

A strong focus is placed on independent living skills, community practice, and transitional planning. Residents are supported in developing healthy relationships, navigating social dynamics, and understanding expectations of community living. Through structured guidance and real-world practice, the ELU prepares residents for increased independence and successful transition to less restrictive environments.

Committed residents are eligible to apply for acceptance into the ELU once they reach Phase Three (3) and have demonstrated a consistent ability to engage in programming reflected in their case plan and comply with all behavioral expectations. The Earned Living Unit is designed for residents who are invested in their case plan goals, and are ready for the next steps of independent and responsible living. Residents accepted to this unit are expected to operate with minimal staff redirection, focus on personal goals, and contribute to a positive and supportive community. Leadership is the foundation of this program with residents creating a positive culture for the unit, facility, and wider community. Residents will demonstrate their pro-social skills in daily living and model behavior for other residents. Residing in the ELU allows those residents who are fully committed to successfully transitioning from Long Creek to the community an ability to focus on independent living skills in an environment with fewer disruptions and more individualized attention.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES AT LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Through contracts and partnerships with other State agencies and community-based organizations, programming for Long Creek residents improved consistently over the past year. In addition to clinical and educational services described earlier in this report, below is a list of supplemental programming and activities offered to Long Creek residents in 2025.

GOODWILL BOOT CAMP



Thanks to a partnership with the Maine Department of Labor, residents of Long Creek engaged in a 20-week work readiness program that provides skill development in effective communication, occupational exploration, stress management, goal setting, self-advocacy, financial literacy, job search, creating a resume and cover letter, completing job applications, and mock interviews.



LONG CREEK DAY OF TRADES

Through a partnership between the Department of Corrections and the Maine Community College System, “Day of Trades” events were held in January and October 2025. Representatives from several Community Colleges and local employers transformed the Long Creek gym into an interactive space for residents to explore career and college opportunities. Residents experienced hands-on learning opportunities in areas such as virtual welding, aquaculture, robotics, culinary arts, and heavy equipment operation.



MAINE ACADEMY OF MODERN MUSIC

MAMM staff provide Long Creek residents weekly education on music theory, reading music, and instruction on instruments, such as guitar and keyboards, based on the interests of residents. Students who complete the course receive elective credits that count toward their High School diploma.



THE TELLING ROOM

Residents of Long Creek participate in a dynamic English and Language Arts program that builds confidence, strengthens literary skills, and improves youth's ability to successfully transition from Long Creek to education and/or employment opportunities in the community.

YOUNG EMERGING ARTIST FELLOWSHIP: One of our residents was accepted into a fellowship through the Telling Room. This is a year-long fellowship program with five other youth from across Maine to write, share their work, and give feedback for written pieces. When the fellowship concludes, the youth will have the opportunity to publish a book.



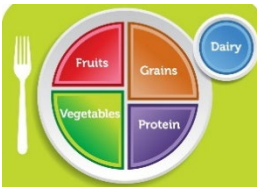
SMOOTH FEATHER

Smooth Feather is a non-profit organization in southern Maine with a mission to empower youth and community through filmmaking, the arts, and wellness. Residents work with Silas Hagerty, founder and Director of Smooth Feather, to make a short film from beginning to end including script writing, filming, recording music and editing and creating a final film presentation.



PATHFINDERS – CENTER FOR JUSTICE AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Pathfinders is an outdoor adventure program that takes residents from Long Creek on outdoor adventures. Passes have included a hike on Bradbury Mountain, a trip to Mackworth Island and a visit to Nauti Sisters Sea Oyster Farm. Winter trips are expected to include ice fishing, cross-country skiing, and ice skating.



COOKING MATTERS

In collaboration with The Opportunity Alliance, residents attended weekly cooking and nutrition classes focusing on comparing prices, budgeting, and reading and following recipes. Meals are prepared during each class.



WEEKEND YOGA

Trauma-informed yoga delivered to our female residents on the weekend by Physical Therapist Lauren Skoczenski.



LIMITLESS WRESTLING

Long Creek collaborated with Limitless Wrestling to deliver a high-energy wrestling event inside the facility to promote motivation, connection, and positive engagement for the residents.



PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Planned Parenthood delivers in-person sexual health education to residents on topics including: Reproduction, HIV and STIs, Birth Control and Safer Sex, Healthy Relationships, Consent and Masculinity, and Youth Sexual Rights in Maine.



CREATIVE HOPE STUDIOS

A custom-built high-quality music recording studio and podcast station was created inside of Long Creek. Residents have state-of-the-art equipment and space to record beats, produce music, and design album graphics.



PORTLAND POTTERY STUDIOS

Residents attend pottery classes through Portland Pottery.



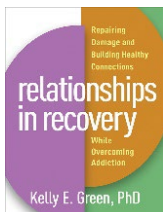
STUDENTS EMPOWERED TO END DEPENDENCY

Residents participate in substance use groups facilitated by S.E.E.D and Wellpath clinicians, delivered to residents on a bi-weekly basis.



CPR/FIRST AID/NARCAN

Eighteen residents were trained and certified in CPR, First Aid, and Naloxone administration.



RELATIONSHIPS WHILE IN RECOVERY

Nine residents in the Earned Living Unit (ELU) have completed this program that focuses on repairing relationships that may have been harmed during substance use while improving communication, using validation, rebuilding trust, and maintaining healthy boundaries.



MAINE STATE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS

Residents learn hands-on skills with horses including grooming techniques, hand signals, reading horse body language, cleaning stalls, and feeding.



LONG CREEK CREATES

An evening of art, music, written work, and culinary treats to show off the talents of our residents to family, volunteers, and community members.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

During the holiday season, the facility hosted family dinners for residents and their families. Chef Greeley and students enrolled in the Culinary Arts program prepared and served meals to over 240 people during the 2025 winter holiday season.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS AT LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Rebuilding volunteer services for residents has been a priority of Long Creek administration since the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically reduced volunteer opportunities for individuals and organizations in 2020 and 2021. Currently there are several individuals and organizations regularly meeting with residents of Long Creek including:



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Providing monthly full-day sports clinics and sponsoring Resident vs. Staff basketball games.



THE ROCK CHURCH/DEERING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Offering weekly unit sponsorship and both group and one-to-one mentorship multiple times per week.



THE ROCK CHURCH WORSHIP BAND

Quarterly music concerts.



RICHARD HAGERSTROM

Magician, juggler, and storyteller provides quarterly performances for residents.



THE ROTARY CLUB

Sponsor summer barbeques and support the Friends of Long Creek in funding activities and needs of youth at Long Creek and under supervision of DOC in the community.



WHITE PINE CHURCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Monthly in-person birthday celebrations including cake and gifts for all residents with a birthday in that month.



BLANKET MAKING WITH DAN REARDON

Every week residents make blankets that are delivered in person to local shelters and other community members in need. Residents alone determine where the blankets will be donated.



UKULELES HEAL THE WORLD

Weekly ukulele lessons and regular performances, including resident performances at Long Creek events.



PET THERAPY

Certified therapy dogs visit residents and staff multiple times each month.

FAITH-BASED SERVICES AT LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The Long Creek Chaplain provides all Long Creek residents with opportunities for religious/spiritual growth and expression regardless of religious preference. Activities administered by the Chaplain include:



- ♦ **Interdenominational weekly Chapel** service for all residents.
- ♦ **Individual counseling** for a variety of personal needs such as grief counseling, religious concerns, anxiety, and family issues. The Chaplain also utilizes available community contacts to help support the religious practice of residents.
- ♦ Straight Ahead Ministries: **Weekly discipleship ministry** offered to residents.
- ♦ **Active volunteer program:** A number of religious volunteers regularly meet with detained and committed residents. Volunteers from the Rock Church in Scarborough visit as a group twice a month to provide general support and encouragement for residents. Several volunteers from CenterPoint Church in Gorham regularly visit to play basketball, cornhole, flag football, chess etc. with our residents. Religion-specific mentors are sought for any interested resident.
- ♦ **Monthly basketball camps:** Every month The Fellowship of Christian athletes (FCA) facilitates a day-long basketball camp offered to all Long Creek residents.
- ♦ **Wabanaki Alliance Education:** Members of the Wabanaki Alliance visit periodically to meet with all interested residents. Past visits have explored topics including the history, culture, language, beliefs, and cuisine of Maine's indigenous people.
- ♦ **Concerts:** Volunteers from the Rock Church offer concerts to all interested residents on a regular basis.
- ♦ The Long Creek Chaplain has completed the **Prison-based Interventions for Muslim Offenders (PRIMO)** training course which enables him to support/teach Muslim residents.
- ♦ **Assorted opportunities:** The faith-based community provides an assortment of programs to enrich the lives of Long Creek residents. For example, in 2025 Long Creek hosted the Cumberland Community Band, and Richard Hagerstrom (local magician/juggler).

CHALLENGES AT LONG CREEK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Two Incidents of Escape Involving Four Residents

Structural vulnerabilities of the secure facility were revealed as a result of two separate incidents of escape in July and August 2025. Following each incident, Department-wide resources were deployed to review factors that contributed to residents' ability to leave the secure building. After identifying contributing factors, structural improvements and other remedial measures were taken to prevent future escapes.

A brief description of both escapes and subsequent remedial measures taken in response follows:

Single Resident Escape on July 18, 2025

During the evening of July 18, 2025, a committed male resident broke through the window of his assigned room utilizing a metal leg removed from the desk in the room. Once outside of his room, the resident was able to access the facility's rooftop and descend to the ground outside the perimeter fence. Staff immediately initiated an emergency response plan and enlisted the assistance of local law enforcement and additional Department of Corrections resources for support. The resident was apprehended by a South Portland Police Officer approximately 2 hours later at a gas station a short distance from the facility and immediately returned to custody.

Remedial actions taken in response to the escape

- Windows for the entire housing unit were reinforced with additional steel framing to prevent a person from being able to fit through the window. A subsequent attempt of a different resident to break out his window and escape was unsuccessful as a result of the window reinforcements.
- All desks with post legs were removed from resident rooms in the housing unit and replaced with alternative plastic desks that do not have detachable legs.
- Additional anti-climb fencing was installed on the identified vulnerable rooftop areas.
- Additional lighting was installed on the exterior of the facility to improve visibility of outside areas during dark.
- Additional staff training was provided to ensure proper identification of room fixtures that may be compromised and need to be replaced.

Three Residents Escape on August 15, 2025

During physical education class at about noon on August 15, 2025, one committed male resident forcefully kicked open the egress doors of the gymnasium and was able to leave the secure facility. He was followed out by two other committed male residents. The physical education teacher was present and attempted to stop the residents from leaving but was unsuccessful. (Several residents present chose not to leave the building.) The gymnasium doors are outside of the secure perimeter of the facility, giving the residents ability to flee from the secure facility. Long Creek staff immediately requested assistance from local law enforcement agencies, the Maine Department of Corrections Fugitive Investigative and Apprehension Team (FIAT), K-9 Teams, and Community Corrections staff. All responding agencies assisted in searching the vicinity of the facility and began a coordinated investigation to locate the residents. As a result of

information obtained in the investigations, the location of the residents was determined. All three residents were identified and apprehended by Saco Police Department and Department of Corrections officers. Within approximately 10 hours of escape, all three residents were safely returned to Long Creek Youth Development Center.

Remedial actions taken in response to the escape

- Enclosed fencing was installed outside of the gymnasium egress doors.
- Gymnasium egress security door locks were repaired and tested.
- All facility doors were examined and tested for structural and/or locking mechanism defects.

Evolving Staffing Needs

As reflected in the table on page 12 of this report, several vacant Juvenile Program Worker (JPW) positions exist. Juvenile Program Worker positions are “foundational” positions at Long Creek and many JPWs promote quickly to higher level positions such as Juvenile Program Specialists and Juvenile Correctional Accuity Specialists. As foundational positions, JPW vacancies are the first to be eliminated when additional positions are required.

As improvements are made to programming and services at Long Creek, new positions may need to be created to implement changes. For example, improving the Long Creek agriculture program that includes teaching residents how to plant seeds, properly care for a garden and harvest food produced required an additional Correctional Trades Instructor (CTI) position. In order to fund a third CTI position, two vacant JPW positions had to be eliminated. As programming and services for residents evolve, staffing positions must be modified to ensure their success.

Structural Repairs and Improvements to the Building Required

As is the case with any building, regular maintenance and repairs are required. Challenges exist in finding and engaging qualified professionals who can respond to the facility’s structural needs in a timely manner. For example, damage to the ceiling in one of the resident housing units was not repaired until months after the damage occurred. Despite having financial resources to fund the repairs, the contracted service provider was unable to complete the work as quickly as the Division would have liked, resulting in one of the resident housing units being unusable for several months. While minor structural repairs may not disrupt housing assignments, significant repairs such as replacing windows, doors, ceilings, etc., may result in having to assign all residents to a different housing unit while repairs are being done.

Structural improvements started and/or completed in 2025 include:

- ♦ Installation of additional fencing to secure perimeter (work continuing)
- ♦ Replacement of drop ceilings in resident housing units (work continuing)
- ♦ Installation of Lexan in and/or reinforce damaged windows in resident housing units
- ♦ Reinforcement or replacement of defective security doors in common areas
- ♦ Removal of trees that obscured visibility around secure perimeter of the facility
- ♦ Additional lighting for exterior of the facility

Structural improvements to be completed in coming year(s):

- ♦ Replace or repair damaged or defective doors in resident housing units
- ♦ Upgrade access door/ security system
- ♦ Replace roof-top air handlers

Acuity of Residents' Needs

As noted in last year's report, efforts to divert youth from detention and commitment to Long Creek Youth Development Center have reduced the number of youth at the facility. Youth who exhibit behaviors that cannot be safely managed in the community or in less restrictive placements are more likely to be ordered detained at or committed to Long Creek.

Youth admitted to Long Creek may have a history of unmet mental and behavioral health needs prior to detention or commitment. While some residents' needs may be managed and improved in a relatively short period of time, others' (especially those who choose not to engage in treatment) needs may not be easily managed. Encouraging and incentivizing youth with acute mental and behavioral health needs is an on-going challenge at Long Creek just as it is in less secure residential treatment facilities.

FUNDING FOR JUVENILE-FOCUSED COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

In fiscal year 2026, the Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services appropriated \$4,660,892.61 to support local community-based programs that serve Maine youths and families. Attached to this report, as **Appendix A**, is a breakdown of community-based programs funded by the Division in fiscal year 2026. In addition to the funding for programs listed in Appendix A, Regional Correctional Administrators in each of the three DOC Juvenile Regions allocated a portion of their budgets for community-based programming and direct support of clients through "flex funds." Examples of items purchased using flex funds include: clothing, bedding and household supplies for clients transitioning from Long Creek to independent living, etc.

In addition to providing financial support for community-based programming that serve justice-involved youths, JCCOs and other Juvenile Community Corrections staff participated in several community activities that support youth and reduce the likelihood of justice involvement throughout 2025. Examples of such activities include:

- ♦ A series of weekly community barbeques in Springvale and Sanford. The Friends of Long Creek, a non-profit agency that supports justice involved youth provided funding for a grill and DOC staff helped prepare and serve free barbeque meals for all members of the community.
- ♦ The Friends of Long Creek also funded a barbeque at the Augusta Juvenile Community Corrections Office in Augusta where staff provided free barbeque meals to their clients and other members of the community.

- ♦ JCCOs and about a dozen of their clients participated in the annual visit to Seacoast Fun Park in Windham during February school vacation. This event and lunch for participants at a local restaurant were also funded by the Friends of Long Creek.
- ♦ A bass fishing tournament was hosted by registered Maine Guides who provide their boats and expertise for this competitive event that has been enjoyed by youth and Juvenile Community Corrections staff for years. Every youth who participates leaves with a basic fishing kit of their own!
- ♦ Juvenile Community Corrections Officers and one of the Regional Correctional Managers volunteered as staff at Camp P.O.S.T.C.A.R.D. (Police Officers Striving to Create And Reinforce Dreams) in June. The Department of Corrections provides funding that allows 5th and 6th grade students to attend this week-long camp held at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop for free and donates benches and tables from their Industries program.

SUCSESSES AND CHALLENGES IN EXPANDING JUVENILE-FOCUSED COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR YOUTH IN MAINE

As reflected in Appendix A, the Division of Juvenile Services invests millions of dollars in community-based programs and services. The Division is committed to providing resources to Maine youth in their homes and communities in an effort to reduce the number of young people referred to the juvenile court, placed on supervision or probation with the Division, and detained at or committed to Long Creek Youth Development Center.

New community-based services for justice-involved youth and those at risk of becoming justice involved were established in 2025. Additionally, funding for restorative justice programming for youth was restructured from a sole source model to a competitive RFP process to expand services state-wide and ensure consistency of programming.

Expansion of Restorative Justice Services to Cover All Areas of the State

In 2025, the Division of Juvenile Services issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for delivery of restorative justice programming throughout Maine. Prior to fiscal year 2026, restorative justice services were funded through sole source contracts with six independent organizations to deliver restorative justice programming to justice-involved youth and youth at risk of justice system involvement. Restorative justice services were not available in all areas of Maine and services varied among providers.

In March 2025, the Division issued Request for Proposals soliciting bids from community-based organizations interested in providing restorative justice services within each of the three Maine Department of Corrections Juvenile Community Corrections Regions. The Division allocated up to \$1,000,000 per for state-wide restorative justice programming. Several in-state and out-of-state organizations submitted proposals in response to the RFP.

Awards totaling \$2,000,500 were granted to the following community-based organizations to deliver victim-centered restorative justice services to youth in Maine in fiscal years 2026 and 2027:

- Region 1 – Restorative Justice Project Maine
- Region 2 – Restorative Justice Project Maine
- Region 3 – Penquis C.A.P., Inc.

Implementation of a New Gun Safety Program in Lewiston/Auburn

As a result of an increase in the number of juvenile cases involving use or possession of a firearm referred to the Division of Juvenile Services in recent years, a Juvenile Community Corrections Officer in Region 2 implemented an innovative program that utilizes AI-facilitated case-management tools and internet-based trauma-informed programs that can be accessed by youth using modern technology.

The Journey.do Gun Safety program will also be offered to up to 23 youth referred to the Division of Juvenile Services who reside in the Lewiston/Auburn area. The program will utilize Credible Messengers who will connect with youth, and together with the on-line program, will help them understand the long-term consequences of carrying a gun such as risks to themselves and loved ones while addressing the deeper issues behind their choices.

If shown to successfully reduce the likelihood of a youth possessing or using a firearm, the Division anticipates expanding availability of this program to youth in other parts of the state.

CONCLUSION

In 2025, the Division of Juvenile Services continued efforts to increase the number of youths diverted from the formal juvenile court process. The Division accomplished an increase in volunteer services at Long Creek Youth Development Center that restored volunteer services to pre-COVID levels. There has been significant expansion of unique programming and educational opportunities for youth at Long Creek and increased opportunities for college-level coursework. Staffing levels at Long Creek Youth Development Center improved, with the juvenile program supervisor vacancy rate at only 18%. The Division looks forward to continuing this important work.

APPENDIX A



Maine Department of Corrections Division of Juvenile Services (FY26)

The table below identifies the total FY26 (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026) for Community-Based Services

Provider	Description of Services	FY26 Allocation
New Beginnings	Emergency Shelter, Transitional Living Program, Master Leasing Program	\$218, 000.00
Preble Street Teen Services	Independent Living & Master Leasing Program	\$218,000.00
Shaw House	Emergency Shelter	\$25,000.00
Spurwink Services	Family Functional Therapy (FFT)	\$201,680.00
Kennebec Behavioral Health	Multi-Systemic Therapy and Problem Sexual Behavior (MST/MST-PSB)	\$456,201.00
Maine Behavioral Health	Multi-Systemic Therapy and Problem Sexual Behavior (MST/MST-PSB)	\$304,950.00
Opportunity Alliance	High-Fidelity Wraparound	\$350,000.00
Wings for Children & Family	High-Fidelity Wraparound	\$200,000.00
Family Functional Therapy LLC	Family Functional Therapy (FFT) Consultation Services for providers	\$1,500.00
Youth Advocate Program	Transformative Mentoring and Advocacy	\$740,000.00
Restorative Justice Midcoast	Restorative Justice (RFP Awardee Region 1)	\$328,849.61
Restorative Justice Midcoast	Restorative Justice (RFP Awardee Region 2)	\$369,650.00
Penquis C.A. P.	Restorative Justice (RFP Awardee Region 3)	\$304,500.00
Spurwink Diversion to Assets	Diversion Services	\$80,562.00
Alfond Youth & Community Center	Diversion, Prevention & Intervention Services	\$170,000.00
Apex Youth Connection	Region 1 Diversion Project – No DOC Supervision	\$5,000.00
Carleton School	Alternative Education Services	\$57,000.00
Tree Street	Day/Evening Reporting Center & Educational Programming	\$180,00.00
LearningWorks Service Works	Community Service Projects	\$270,000.00
Journey.do	Gun Safety Program	\$10,000.00
Center for Justice & Human Dignity	Recreational/Educational Opportunities for Justice-Involved Youth	\$10,000.00
University of Southern Maine	Cooperative Agreement for Regional Care Teams Evaluations and Consultations and Young People’s Caucus	\$150,000.00
Maine Immigrant and Refugee Services (MEIRS)	Translating Juvenile Documentation for Families	\$5,000.00
Youth with Lived Experience	Participation in Annie E. Casey Probation Transformation Initiative	\$5,000.00
	TOTAL SPENT to date	\$4,660,892.61