



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
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September 20, 2024

TO: Green Hill School Staff & Residents

FROM: Felice Upton
JR Assistant Secretary *Felice Upton*

SUBJECT: Green Hill School Update – Sept. 20, 2024

Good afternoon, Green Hill School

Last week we shared some updates with you on our search for capacity options to solve the overcrowding challenge at Green Hill School as well as promising statistics that demonstrated significant safety improvements and an update on our population management progress. This update and previous updates can be found on our [Juvenile Rehabilitation webpage](#).

Our efforts are still underway to evaluate a possible new facility located at Stafford Creek. The main questions we have heard from legislators, stakeholders and families so far make it clear that access to programs and education is top of everyone's mind. We are ensuring this is a top priority for us as well.

This week, unified command emphasized training for our staff at Green Hill, who were eager to learn. This training included more detailed information about safe movements within the campus, how to handle specific scenarios and why orderly, structured movements are important.

Within this training Green Hill staff received instruction on radio use and how to request security clearance before moving residents across the campus. This is important because ensuring that it is safe to move through the campus, helps us ensure that we are not bringing too many young people together in the same area unexpectedly, which can increase the risk of fights.

This type of hands-on, detailed training helps us ensure that the positive changes you all have worked so hard to put in place, will be sustainable.

We are working towards getting our work experience program back up and running, applications were handed out to residents who expressed an interest. These programs provide job skills and life experience to Green Hill's residents, setting them up for success in the future when they re-enter the community.

Additionally, we continue to make improvements around the campus with removing surplus items and are preparing to bring in larger dumpsters to continue our clean-up efforts.

Thank you to everyone who continues to put your time and energy into ensuring that we have a safe space for our staff and those we care for, while we continue to explore solutions for our severe capacity challenges.

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Your continued hard work, cooperation and patience is greatly valued. If staff have questions, they can address them with their supervisor. Residents can reach out to their living unit manager.