



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
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September 27, 2024

TO: Green Hill School Staff & Residents

FROM: Felice Upton
JR Assistant Secretary *Felice Upton*

SUBJECT: Green Hill School Update – Sept. 27, 2024

Good afternoon, Green Hill School,

Last week, we shared updates regarding staff training that included important information about safe movements on campus, how to handle specific scenarios, and the significance of orderly, structured movements. You can find this update and previous communications on our [Juvenile Rehabilitation webpage](#).

Unified Command has installed temporary interior fencing as a necessary interim measure for the safety of both residents and staff until the population at GHS decreases. Incidents like the one that occurred on Monday remind us of the importance of following all safety protocols as well as the need for additional safety measures. We recognize the temporary fencing may impact the campus culture and aesthetic, but safety remains our top priority, and I hope this action will support our efforts to offer programming and education.

Ongoing efforts include training, safety practices and process evaluations. This week, Unified Command conducted an all-staff training session focused on elements of Emergency Response. 74 GHS staff members attended, and we've heard a lot of positive feedback. This training ensures the sustainability of the safety improvements that everyone is working diligently to implement.

We are also working on installing new exterior door locks, conducting ongoing searches, and will continue implementing all-staff security-focused training.

DCYF continues to explore the possibility of a new facility at Stafford Creek. We sought clarification with the court to begin to expand capacity of a new JR facility that is located on the DOC campus. This morning the court ruled it has no jurisdiction or authority to act on the motion. The court likened the motion to seeking an advisory opinion on a hypothetical question. DCYF is still considering options for more capacity, including a possible new JR facility on the Stafford Creek campus. At this time no immediate action is planned. Updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Thank you to everyone who continues to dedicate time and energy to ensuring a safe environment for both our staff and the residents in our care. While we still have a long way to go, the data and the feedback from staff indicates these changes are having a positive impact. We

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appreciate your cooperation and patience as we explore solutions for our significant capacity challenges.

If you have questions, please address them with your supervisor. Residents can reach out to their living unit manager.