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Record of Variance Action at May 8, 2018 Public Meeting

This variance allows the Department of Correction a 6-month extension of time, commencing on May 17, 2018 and ending on November 17, 2018, to house people in custody ages 18 through 21 in Enhanced Supervision Housing for Young Adults (“YA-ESH”).

Type of Variance: Limited

Date on which Variance will commence: May 17, 2018

Time period, if any: 6 months

Minimum Standard for which Variance is Granted: 1-16(c)(1)(ii)

Date on which Board of Correction first approved Variance (for renewals only): July 12, 2016

Requirements imposed as conditions on Variance during its pendency:

1. The Department may operate multiple levels of YA-ESH, with Level 1 being the most restrictive. There shall not be a separate unit for assessment purposes.
2. A young adult can be placed in YA-ESH Level 1 only if the person has recently participated in an actual or attempted slashing or stabbing, or engaged in activity that caused serious injury to an officer, another person in custody, or any other person, and provided that the use of a restraint desk is the least restrictive option necessary for the safety of others.
3. Restraints, including restraint desks, shall not be used except to control an incarcerated person who presents an immediate risk of self-injury or injury to others, to prevent serious property damage, for health care purposes, or when necessary as a security precaution during transfer or transport. When restraints are necessary, the

Department shall use the least restrictive forms of restraints that are appropriate and should use them only as long as the need exists.

4. Each request for approval of a placement of a young adult in YA-ESH (i.e., any ESH unit where young adults are housed) must be in writing and specify the reason(s) why a less restrictive housing setting is not a safe option. If the placement is to include the use of a restraint desk, the request for approval must include why YA-ESH without restraint desks is not a safe option. The Chief of Department, or designee, must also specify his reason(s) for approving or disapproving the request for YA-ESH placement. If the placement is to include the use of a restraint desk, the Chief or his designee must, separately, approve or disapprove this use and specify his reason(s) for approving or disapproving the use of a restraint desk. The request for approval and the Chief's or designee's approval or disapproval thereof shall be sent within 24 hours to the person who is the subject of the request, NYC Health + Hospitals, and the Board.
5. The Department shall review each young adult in ESH Level 1 every fifteen (15) days to determine whether the person will advance to a less restrictive level or unit. At each such review, a young adult will advance to a less restrictive level or unit unless: (1) he has engaged in violent or aggressive behavior while in his current level; and/or (2) there is credible intelligence that he may engage in additional violence in a less restrictive unit; and/or (3) he has willfully disregarded rules and regulations and these instances are reported and documented. If (1), (2), or (3) is applicable, DOC shall make a specific determination that the restraint desk remains necessary to control this incarcerated person who presents an immediate risk of self-injury or injury to others or to prevent serious property damage. The Department shall commence 15-day evaluations on June 11, 2018.
7. The Department shall not keep K9s stationed in YA-ESH units.
8. The Department shall provide all young adults housed in ESH with a minimum out-of-cell time of seven (7) hours per day, not inclusive of school hours. If exceptional circumstances occur where the Department cannot comply, it will notify the Board immediately as to the reasons why it cannot comply.
9. The Department shall notify the Board, in writing, every time the lock-out periods in YA-ESH do not start on time and the reasons therefor. The Department shall provide written notice to the Board within 24 hours of such occurrence.
10. The Department shall conduct and report on a monthly audit of its compliance with BOC Minimum Standards:
  - § 1-05(b) (Lock-in), specifically, the number of out-of-cell hours per person;
  - § 1-08(f) (Access to Courts and Legal Services, including Law Library);
  - § 1-06 (Recreation); and

- § 1-02(c)(2) (Classification), specifically, the number of programming hours offered to each young adult and the number of hours each young adult participated in programming.

The Department shall provide its monthly audit report to the Board by the tenth business day of the following month.

11. Where the Department is permitted to consider a young adult's activity occurring or actions committed at a time prior to the instant incident in connection with the young adult's placement in YA-ESH, such activity or actions must have occurred within the preceding year.
12. The Department shall offer five (5) hours of programming to each young adult in YA-ESH each day. For young adults enrolled in school, the five hours of programming can include three (3) hours of school.
13. Within 60 days, the Department shall develop a curriculum and plan to provide specialized trainings, including crisis intervention and conflict resolution training to all YA-ESH staff. The Department shall update the Board at the July public meeting as to its projected timeline for implementation.
14. The Department shall provide the Board with a public report on the implementation of the foregoing conditions. The requirements for this report are outlined in a document titled ESH and Secure Unit Variances – Public Reporting Condition, dated May 8, 2018 and available at: <http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/boc/downloads/pdf/Meetings/2018/May-9-2018/2018.5.7-%20ESH%20Secure%20Unit%20Variance%20Report%20for%20web.pdf>.
15. On at least a monthly basis, the Department shall provide the Board access to all documentation considered in each YA-ESH placement and review decision for young adults. This includes, but is not limited to, all records reviewed or created by YA-ESH adjudication, Health + Hospital's placement review, the Chief's reviews, the YA-ESH Entry Unit Review Committee, and the YA-ESH 45-day periodic review. On a monthly basis, the Department shall transmit to the Board a list of all YA-ESH placements and reviews. The Department shall provide this documentation for each month by the tenth business day of the following month. Documentation for the month this Variance expires shall be provided by the fifth day of the following month.
16. By September 11, 2018, the Department shall submit an update to its June 2017 Evaluation of Enhanced Supervision Housing for Young Adults. The update shall focus on outcomes and include progress updates on the issues the Department and the Board identified in the initial report.