

AGENCY OF EDUCATION
Barre, Vermont

TEAM: School Finance

ITEM: Will the State Board of Education grant renewal of tutorial approval, to serve a maximum of 9 males and females ages 13 up to 18 years of age, to Valley Vista in Bradford, VT?

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

That the State Board of Education grants renewal of tutorial approval, to serve a maximum of 9 males and females ages 13 up to 18 years of age, to Valley Vista in Bradford, VT. This approval is for two years, through June 30, 2018.

This approval is also subject to the condition that the tutorial immediately report to the Agency of Education whenever any changes occur in policies, programs, facilities, financial capacity, staffing, or administration during the approval period.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Title 16 V.S.A. §828
State Board Rule 2230

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

1. Valley Vista is an eighty bed, residential treatment center designed to serve male and female clients, who are in need of alcohol and drug detoxification as well as rehabilitation program services. Valley Vista's Adolescent Treatment Program (ATP) is an inpatient treatment program providing primary treatment and/or extended therapeutic supportive treatment for chemical dependency. Chemical dependency is influenced by physical, emotional, social, family, and spiritual factors which require a multi-disciplinary treatment approach over time. The ATP is committed to providing effective, best practice treatment which results in full restoration of each adolescent to optimal functioning as a contributing responsible citizen. Valley Vista's Adolescent Treatment Program is licensed by the Department for Children & Families Services (DCF) to serve a maximum of nine males and females ages 13 up to 18 years of age.
2. Valley Vista was granted renewal of tutorial approval by the State Board of Education on May 20, 2014 through June 30, 2016.

3. All males and females of 13 and up to 18 must participate in the tutorial program as soon after admission as they are deemed medically and clinically able to participate and benefit. There is an adult program to serve those males and females ages 18 and older, who are enrolled in a secondary school and without a high school diploma. The average length of stay in the program is 4-5 weeks. Most of the adolescents are admitted via either the Department for Children and Family Services (DCF) or the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs (ADAP). On the day of the visit there were four VT adolescents in the tutorial program, with two of them exiting the program within the next couple of days.
4. On behalf of the Agency, Cassandra Ryan and Pat Pallas Gray visited the tutorial program at Valley Vista on June 8, 2016.
5. Valley Vista tutorial program is located in a wood-framed farmhouse in Bradford on the grounds of the former Brookside Nursing Home. The property is quiet and private with plenty of outdoor space. The tutorial program utilizes two rooms in the farmhouse--the outer room provides space for the coordinator's desk as well as four computer stations for student work; the larger room is used for classroom group lessons and/or 1:1 instruction. The residences for the tutorial participants are in "D" Wing of the main Valley Vista facility. Included on this wing are the bedrooms, lounge/group therapy area, and professional staff offices, one of which is for the Adolescent Clinical Director/Primary Therapist. The Valley Vista facility is entirely handicapped accessible; the farmhouse is handicapped accessible on the first floor.
6. Upon admission, or whenever possible prior to admission, Valley Vista will inform the school district of the adolescent's admission to the program to coordinate educational services with the adolescent's last school district. Some educational materials are provided by the school district; and the program has available such assessment tools, textbooks, worksheets, and academic curriculum materials as are needed to generate and support educational plans for adolescent patients who have dropped out of school or whose school district fails to furnish plans and materials for their students who are admitted to Valley Vista.
7. Valley Vista's staff includes an Adolescent Program Director, an Educational Coordinator, a part-time licensed special educator, and four, part-time subject area teachers. The Educational Coordinator is responsible for supervising and overseeing the teaching staff, coordinating efforts with the school districts of record, coordinating with Valley Vista's professional staff, participating in patient treatment planning/treatment plan reviews, and maintaining records. The special educator is responsible for providing direct service per the adolescent's IEP, and meeting with the other educational staff members around curriculum and accommodations that may be needed. The tutorial's staff is qualified by degree and training for their positions.
8. The tutorial program maintains an operating schedule that includes instruction for no less than 10 hours per week unless inconsistent with medical and/or educational recommendations. The tutorial program operates year round.
9. The tutorial program goes through the Private Non-Medical Institution (PNMI) process through the Agency of Human Services to have a rate determination made for the adolescent program,

10. Valley Vista has implemented confidentiality of student records policies and procedures consistent with federal and state law. The tutorial program maintains a register of the daily attendance for each adolescent and reports the attendance to the responsible school district.
11. Valley Vista has developed policies for admissions, discipline, and significant change in placement. These were reviewed and found to be appropriate.

COST IMPLICATIONS: none

STAFF AVAILABLE:

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