



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

October 1, 2013

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of Virginia

Honorable Walter A. Stosch
Chairman, Senate Finance

Honorable Lacey E. Putney
Chairman, House Appropriations

THRU: Honorable William A. Hazel Jr., MD
Secretary of Health and Human Resources

FROM: Margaret Ross Schultze
Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margaret Ross Schultze".

SUBJECT: 2013 Appropriation Act Item 343 (J) Youth for Tomorrow

The 2013 Acts of Assembly, Chapter 806, Item 343 J, provides \$100,000 in State Fiscal Year 2014 to the organization Youth for Tomorrow (YFT) to provide "comprehensive residential, education and counseling services to at-risk adolescents and youth." The Department of Social Services (DSS) is required to report on outcomes supported by these funds by October 1, 2013.

A contract between YFT and DSS is effective August 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. YFT will use the funds provided in the appropriations act for their Girls on a Journey (GOAJ) program. This program works with girls between the ages of 12 and 18 who have been sexually exploited or are victims of sex trafficking. They will be provided services that include residential, educational, medical and mental health services.

Human trafficking is on the rise in Washington DC, Maryland and Virginia. Since 2010, the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia (Alexandria Division) has prosecuted 21 cases against 38 defendants. These cases have involved at least 37 juvenile victims. YFT provides comprehensive services including housing for girls who have been victims.

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Some of the outcomes that are expected include:

- Residents will meet 90% of counseling goals by the end of the first year of care,
- 75% of residents will present with increased pro-social behaviors as evidenced by documented progress in their case files by end of the first year of care,
- Residents will report a sense of safety,
- Residents will show improvements in life skills scores,
- Residents will attain educational goals including GEDs and Diplomas,
- Residents will obtain employment if appropriate, for their age,
- Residents will reunite with family, and
- Residents will development of transition plans for return to family or community

A report on the outcomes achieved through this program will be submitted by October 1, 2014.