



DCF COVID-19 Daily Update Supporting Children, Families and Staff

April 2, 2020

SOLNIT NORTH GIVING FAMILIES VIRTUAL TOURS PRIOR TO ADMISSION

The COVID-19 pandemic is leading all of us to do our business differently.

The Albert J. Solnit North residential center for boys is a leading example of creatively using technology to continue to engage families while still protecting the health and safety of the youth and workforce.

Dr. Brett Rayford, superintendent of Solnit North, said that prior to a youth's admission to the facility, families have been offered a tour to see the many available therapeutic programs. It is an important way to engage the families in their child's treatment, which is critical to its success.

But now that the fight to limit the spread of the corona virus requires strict limits on all unnecessary contact with individuals outside the Solnit North campus, in-person tours are not possible.

So Dr. Rayford's team found a way to still engage families prior to admission by using video-chat technology to provide a walking tour that highlights programs, including cooking, martial arts, LGBTQ support groups and a myriad of others.

"Our tours allow youth and their families to take in the variety of programs and services provided on campus resulting in a commitment to treatment," Dr. Rayford said. "Our admitting staff now walks the campus while talking with the youth via video-chat to showcase the various spaces where our programs occur. This walking show-and-tell experience has been highly successful in engaging our families."