

Allison Krutsinger email response to questions about Q&I sites for general public. Dates May 13, 2020.

Thank you for reaching out related to the quarantine and isolation sites that the Department of Children, Youth and Families is establishing. There is misinformation spreading that has appears to have stemmed from a DCYF job posting. We appreciate the opportunity to clarify.

The job postings was for current DCYF staff who would be willing to serve as staff for quarantine and isolation facilities if needed, to care for children in state dependent care. Additionally, the post prematurely named potential locations in the community. The listings have since been taken down to avoid further confusion.

These quarantine and isolation sites will only house State-dependent children and youth in out-of-home care who, as a result of being COVID positive or COVID exposed, do not currently have a safe and stable placement. These facilities are for this limited scope of children and youth in dependent care. They are not considered quarantine centers or intended for the general public.

I thought it might be helpful to include the statement from Bethel Communications, one of the sites who will host a facility, released on May 11, 2020 related to this topic.

*On April 15th, 2020 the local Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF) office asked foster parents if they knew of any local churches that would be willing to partner with DCYF in setting up a quarantine space for older foster children in need of quarantine. These are youth who have tested positive for COVID-19 or have suspected exposure to COVID-19 and unable to be placed with a family due to this exposure.*

*Here at Bethel, we have many who have responded to care for orphans (James 1:27) by becoming licensed foster homes, and it was through these families that Bethel was made aware of this new opportunity to help the community in a safe way.*

*As you can imagine, placing an older foster child is very difficult under normal circumstance but, with COVID-19 it has been even more of a challenge. At Bethel we have been blessed with the facilities to provide a safe place for these youth while under the care/supervision of a DCYF social worker. So far, no one has been placed at Bethel and we are currently setup to house two youth.*

*To be clear, Bethel's facilities will only house foster children who have been taken into care due to abuse or neglect who might be COVID-19 positive or have been exposed. We desire to be a safe place for foster children who have experienced trauma and now face instability in housing options due to COVID-19. Bethel has always and will continue to stand with vulnerable children in partnership with public and private entities.*

*We are thankful to the many Bethel families who sacrificially serve our community through foster care, and we celebrate the opportunity to love our community in this new way.*

*For more information on how DCYF is handling the COVID-19 crisis, visit the Washington DCYF COVID-19 response page. For DCYF's press release regarding temporary housing for foster children exposed to COVID-19, click here.*

As always, please let me know if you have additional questions or would like more information.