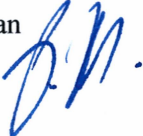


COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

FROM: Phil Mendelson, Chairman 

DATE: December 16, 2024

RE: **Notice of Intent to move an amendment in the nature of a substitute at the December 17, 2024 Legislative Meeting**

This memorandum serves as notice that I intend to move an amendment in the nature of a substitute (ANS) for the following measure on second reading at the December 17, 2024 Legislative Meeting:

- **Bill 25-826, Recidivism Reduction at DYRS Amendment Act of 2024**

The ANS makes several substantive changes to the Committee Print approved by the Council at the November 12, 2024 Legislative Meeting in response to concerns raised by the Executive and some members of the Council.

First, the ANS reduces the burden of the predisposition meeting on the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services by narrowing the number of potential participants and making it clear that the Department does not have to have a fully developed individualized rehabilitation plan by the time it convenes a predisposition meeting.

Second, the ANS includes language that would explicitly allow DYRS to delay the convening of a predisposition meeting if the Department has not received court ordered evaluations conducted by the Court Social Services Division (CSSD). In many cases, CSSD does not provide these evaluations to DYRS in a timely manner. As such, this change is helpful to ensure that DYRS has all the information it needs to begin the development of an individualized rehabilitation plan when it convenes a predisposition meeting.

Third, the ANS strikes a subsection that would have required DYRS to provide services consistent with an individualized rehabilitation plan to a committed child within 30 days after entry of a dispositional order. The ANS strikes this subsection for two reasons. First, challenges in finding appropriate placements, such as contract facilities, are widespread due to the fact that many contract facilities have wait lists or may not accept the child in question. Given this, it's not clear that the provision would have led to quicker placements. Second, other provisions in the bill would give the child a mechanism for relief if they are not receiving appropriate services or level of placement after placement. A primary goal of this bill is to ensure the timely provision of rehabilitative services to juveniles committed to DYRS custody. The subsection being struck is not necessary for the goal.

Finally, the ANS includes a new section that would require the Mayor to submit a report to the Council by January 1, 2027, evaluating the feasibility of constructing and operating a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for children in the District. The lack of a PRTF in the District is a barrier to the timely placement of children with psychiatric disorders committed to DYRS. As such, it is critical that the District seriously begin planning for such a facility.