

The Success of the Secure Juvenile Placement Program at Saint Clair Youth Treatment Center

By Dr. Ray Moss

At Saint Clair Youth Treatment Center, we are deeply committed to the rehabilitation, growth, and success of the young people entrusted to our care. Our secure juvenile placement program stands as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that with the right support, structure, and care, youth can overcome adversity and move toward a brighter future. Through our unwavering dedication to individualized treatment, community engagement, and a culturally specific approach, we have achieved remarkable success in fostering transformation among our youth.

A Track Record of Success

One of our proudest accomplishments is our ability to facilitate safe and meaningful outings for our youth without any instances of AWOLs. These outings, which are carefully planned and supervised, allow our residents to engage in enriching experiences that reinforce positive behavior, social skills, and emotional growth. The success of these outings is a testament to our strong therapeutic approach and the relationships built between our youth and our dedicated staff.

Furthermore, our commitment to comprehensive treatment is reflected in our ability to consistently meet and exceed the required treatment hours. Our program ensures that youth receive the individualized mental health and behavioral interventions they need to address trauma, develop coping skills, and set personal goals for their future. Our low incident rates further affirm the effectiveness of our approach, demonstrating that youth feel safe, supported, and engaged in their rehabilitation process.

Commitment to Excellence and Compliance

Saint Clair Youth Treatment Center has established itself as a model of excellence, meeting and surpassing the rigorous standards set by accrediting and oversight bodies. We are proud to be **CARF accredited**, which reflects our commitment to providing high-quality services that meet the highest standards in juvenile rehabilitation. Additionally, we have successfully passed key audits, including the **PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) audit, the State of Michigan audit, and the Wayne County audit**. These achievements validate our commitment to safety, compliance, and best practices in youth treatment and rehabilitation.

Removing Barriers for Families

We recognize that family involvement is a critical component of a young person's rehabilitation. Many families face financial and logistical challenges that can prevent them from maintaining a strong connection with their child. To address this, we have taken proactive steps by providing **gas cards and Uber transportation** to ensure that families can visit their children without financial hardship. By removing these barriers, we strengthen family bonds and reinforce the support systems that are crucial for a youth's long-term success.

A Holistic and Culturally Specific Approach

At the heart of our program is our belief in **leading with love** and fostering an environment where youth feel valued and understood. Our staff are not just employees; they are mentors, advocates, and role models who genuinely care about the well-being of every child in our program. This culture of care is evident in the way our team engages with youth, offering guidance, structure, and encouragement.

A significant part of our success comes from our **culturally specific programming**, which is designed to help youth—particularly youth of color—develop a strong sense of pride in their identity and heritage. We incorporate elements of history, mentorship, and culturally relevant activities that empower our residents to see themselves as leaders and changemakers. By fostering self-respect and cultural pride, we help youth develop the confidence and resilience needed to navigate challenges and build a better future.

Looking Ahead to Continued Growth

As we reflect on our successes, we remain committed to continuous improvement and growth. Our goal is to expand our services, enhance our educational programs, and further strengthen our community partnerships. We will continue to advocate for policies and resources that support youth rehabilitation, ensuring that every child who comes through our doors has the opportunity to thrive.

Saint Clair Youth Treatment Center is more than just a placement—it is a place of transformation, healing, and hope. By maintaining our commitment to excellence, family engagement, cultural empowerment, and staff dedication, we are proving that **juvenile rehabilitation can be effective, compassionate, and life-changing**. We look forward to continuing this important work and helping even more youth rewrite their futures.