



NH OFFICE OF THE CHILD ADVOCATE

Travel Report

MAY 3 & 4, 2023



Vermont Permanency Initiative, Bennington Vermont

THE VISIT

The Child Advocate Cassandra Sanchez and Assistant Child Advocate Jennifer Jones embarked on a two day trip to visit residentially placed young people. The first day, they visited with many of the young women who live at the Vermont Permanency Initiative (VPI). VPI's mission is to provide a therapeutic community that enables youth to heal from past trauma, find pleasure and joy in their present lives and build resources for their futures. The kids shared that the greenhouse was a favorite spot and Jennifer noted that the housing spaces are well laid out and spacious.

LEARNING POINTS

- Need more access to employment for kids
- Increased education on independent living skills
- More peer building opportunities

Hillcrest Educational Center, Lenox Massachusetts



THE VISIT

On day 2, Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Jones arrived at Hillcrest Educational Center, whose mission is to facilitate the social, emotional, intellectual, and physical growth of our students through the development of new skills that will enable them to succeed in their home community. They toured the expansive grounds and multiple buildings. Jennifer was pleased with modern safety features in the dorms and the bussing available to the day program.

LEARNING POINTS

- Staffing challenges
- Long admissions waitlist for children



**INDIVIDUAL
CHILDREN
VISITED**

12

**DAYS OF
TRAVEL**

2

OF MILES

370

% OF BUDGET

8.75