

# SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMISSION

TERRY CRAM • CHRISTI HASWELL • MIKE NICKEL • TOM RINGLEY • NICK SIDDLE

Director Korin Schmidt  
Wyoming Department of Family Services  
2300 Capitol Avenue  
Third Floor Hathaway Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

August 6, 2019

Re: Status of Normative Services Incorporated in Sheridan County

Dear: Director Schmidt

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of our joint concern about the operation of the Normative Services Incorporated (NSI) facility in Sheridan County. The situation is alarming and presents a dangerous situation for our community. We believe immediate action is required to deal with this problem.

Below is a summary of incidents at NSI since 2017; which illustrate an unacceptable trend. (Note: These are only incidents that were dealt with by the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office. The City of Sheridan Police Department likely has others not reported here.)

- In **2017**, the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office responded to **41** incidents at NSI. **Twenty-two** of those incidents were runaway cases involving **40** juveniles. One case resulted in a stolen vehicle within the City of Sheridan, which was investigated by the Sheridan Police Department.
- In **2018**, the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office responded to **36** incidents at NSI. **Eighteen** of those incidents were runaway cases involving **29** juveniles. One case resulted in a stolen vehicle, one resulted in a theft, two cases resulted in Criminal Trespass/Entry, and one case involved a juvenile who was injured while fleeing in a trespass situation.
- In **2019**, as of this date, the Sheridan County Sheriff's Office has responded to **35** incidents at NSI. **Twenty-one** of those incidents have been runaway cases involving **36** juveniles. Four cases have resulted in stolen vehicles, three were investigated by the Sheridan Police Department and one was investigated by the Sheridan County Sheriff's office.

Of particular concern is the fact that surrounding neighbors, and other members of the community, are fearful for their safety. Social media is rife with outraged citizens who do not understand how such a situation could be allowed to develop. It is realistic to imagine that an escaped juvenile could possibly be wounded or killed by a neighbor if they perceive their property or family is being threatened. This is our worst fear.

It is our understanding that there are no Wyoming DFS students currently placed at NSI save for one placement from an Indian reservation. While our main issue is with the high incident rate, regardless of the student demographics, we are curious why DFS does not use this facility. We hope that if there are overriding considerations (i.e. like security, liability, etc.) that could affect this community that you would share them with us.


The Sheridan County Sheriff and the City of Sheridan Police Chief have met with NSI officials to address this problem. In addition, the Board of County Commissioners met with the former Executive Director on his last day of duty to express our concern. The meetings have not reduced the volume of runaways or calls for service.

This situation needs to be resolved immediately. We hope the licensing authority will share our concerns and take appropriate action. Please advise if we can be of assistance in providing further details about incidents or other questions you may have.

Respectfully,



Tom Ringley  
Chairman



Dianna Bennett  
County Attorney



Allen Thompson  
Sheriff

cc: Governor Mark Gordon  
Sheridan County Legislators  
Clayton Carr, Executive Director, Normative Services, Inc.