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Facility to end Conn. contract for troubled youth

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NORTH STONINGTON, Conn.

A North Stonington facility is ending its contract to treat adolescents in state custody who have drug problems or mental illness.

Stonington Institute cited a lack of demand for the inpatient programs, resulting from the state's increasing preference to send those youths to community-based programs.

This week's decision comes two months after reports that employees forcibly injected medications into out-of-control teen boys last spring to restrain them.

That news prompted criticism over whether the state Department of Children and Families adequately monitors facilities that care for adolescents in state custody.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and state Child Advocate Jeanne Milstein called Stonington's decision "sad, but entirely necessary" as the state overhauls its handling of troubled youths under DCF authority.

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