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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release

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**THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES TO
CLOSE THOMAS O'FARRELL YOUTH CENTER**
*Closed Facility Projected to Save State \$1.5 Million;
DJS to Work with NAFI to Provide Evidence Based Services to Youth*

Baltimore, Maryland – (October 7, 2008) – The Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), under the leadership of Secretary Donald DeVore, today announced that the Thomas O'Farrell Youth Center, a 43 residential treatment beds for boys in Marriottsville, Maryland, will be closing on November 30, 2008, after 20 years of service to the State of Maryland. The closing of the residential facility is projected to save the State \$1.5 million. O'Farrell is operated by North American Family Institute (NAFI), who will continue to work with DJS by providing the Evidence Based Services in the community for the same population served at O'Farrell.

“DJS is leading the way in Evidence Based Services with increased funding and availability in Maryland's communities. I am thrilled NAFI understands what services have good outcomes for youth and are willing to make changes within their organization to benefit our youth,” said Secretary DeVore. “As a Department, we are committed to continuing to increase the number of slots in Maryland and encourage more service providers to adopt these practices.”

DJS and NAFI have been working very closely for the last nine months to improve the quality of care and to effectively serve youth in Maryland. DJS and NAFI have developed a plan that supports both their missions to reduce residential bed capacity and reallocate those resources to community home based services. Accordingly, a portion of dollars allotted for contract with O'Farrell will be transferred to 100 slots for community based programming, which will serve approximately 300 families over the course of a year. Comparatively, O'Farrell only had the capacity to serve 80 youth a year at cost of over \$3.7 million to the State.

“We are excited to announce that NAFI's MultiSystemic Therapies (MST) Program will open January 1, 2009, to serve youth in both Baltimore City and Baltimore County,” stated Dania O'Connor, Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Region. “This shift will allow for Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services to increase the number of youth served and the families impacted by using positive community based care, which has also been a long standing goal of NAFI.”

MST is an intensive family- and community-based treatment that addresses the multiple determinants of serious antisocial behavior in youth at imminent risk of out-of-home placement. The multi-systemic approach promotes behavior change in the youth's natural environment, using the strengths of each system (e.g., family, peers, school, neighborhood, indigenous support network) to facilitate change.

Evaluations of MST have demonstrated reductions of 25-70% in long term rates of re-arrest for serious juvenile offenders, as well as 47-64% reductions in out-of-home placements.

The funding for these additional 100 MST slots is in addition to the 300% increase in funding from FY07 to FY09 DJS has provided for Evidence Base Services under the leadership of Secretary DeVore. Currently, DJS has a total of 849 Evidenced Based Service slots statewide.

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