

FALL RIVER DEACONESS HOME

P.O. Box 2118
Fall River, MA 02722
Contact: Hilda Moniz, LCSW
Website: www.deaconesshome.org

TEL #: (508) 674-4847
FAX #: (508) 730-1167
hildam@deaconesshome.org

Populations Served

Abuse Reactive/ Sexually Aggressive, Anxiety disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder, Serious Emotional Disorder, Learning Disabled, Mild-Developmentally Delayed, Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Reactive Attachment Disorder

School Profile

Gender: F
Age Range Served: 11 - 22
Age at Admission: 11 - 21
Program: Residential/Education
Staff/Pupil Ratio: 1 : 4
of Months Open: 12
of Days Open: 365
Current Enrollment: 24

Admissions Procedure

The program accepts referrals and admissions throughout the year. Referrals are sent to the Director of Admissions and Quality Management and include: presenting problem; family background and history; school information (IEP, if available); previous placement reports; psychological evaluations; medical and dental history; funding source. Families and care-givers are notified upon receipt of referral and involved in the pre-placement interviews and admissions process.

Approval/Licensing/ Accreditation

Licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care; Approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Affiliations/Membership

Member of Child Welfare League of America; Children's League of Massachusetts; National Association of Private Special Education Centers; National Association of Home and Services for Children; Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers, Inc.; Massachusetts Association of 766 Approved Private Schools/Affiliations include: Charlton Memorial Hospital; St. Anne's Hospital, Boston Children's Hospital; Corrigan Mental Health Center; United Way of Greater Fall River; and Katie Brown Educational Program

Programs and Services

Deaconess offers a continuum of programs: staff secure; group home; transition to independent living and comprehensive support and stabilization services. Treatment is individualized and focuses on building relationships toward family reunification, personal growth, self-actualization, living as a responsible adult, as well as academic achievement. Special education is offered all year and is designed to address educational needs, and to develop academic skills that will allow residents to succeed and excel in the least restrictive school environment. Clinical services are Trauma Specific and include DBT and CBT in individual, family and group therapies. Groups include: Social Skills/Conflict Resolution; Trauma Reactive/Sexually Aggressive Youth; Healthy Boundaries, Substance Abuse; Expressive Therapy. Healthcare and self-care are an integral part of treatment. We work with residents, families, physicians and the community to ensure comprehensive health services. We obtain work opportunities and volunteerism is encouraged as a step towards paid employment. We provide an extensive and varied activity schedule. Our entire staff is responsible for maintaining a secure and safe, home-like environment. Services are developed by an interdisciplinary team and concentrate on a short, productive length of stay.

Location and Facilities

Deaconess's five sites (four Victorian houses and one apartment) are located in the Lower Highlands of Fall River, and blend seamlessly into the community. Residents attend school on-grounds and are able to transition into the community. Administrative and professional services, family meeting and conference rooms are fully integrated, in a natural and respectful way in program sites. The program's sites reflect that of a home in which the children are able to thrive in a comfortable nurturing environment.

History and Philosophy

Since 1893, Deaconess Home has provided a safe haven, home and education for adolescent girls. Our program is designed to develop the strengths that will allow our residents to make the academic, behavioral and emotional progress they require to participate freely and fully in family, community, school and work. We are committed to providing an environment that is safe and home-like. We believe each resident has the capacity to learn to live in a less restrictive environment and to contribute positively to the community.