

New Hampshire Youth Development Center Claims Administration and Settlement Fund

John T. Broderick, Jr.
Administrator

January 17, 2024

Chris T. Sununu, Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Sherman Packard, Speaker
New Hampshire House of Representatives
State House, Room 311
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Jeb Bradley, President
New Hampshire Senate
State House, Room 302
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Kenneth Weyler, Chairman
And Members of the New Hampshire Joint
Legislative Fiscal Committee
State House, Room 102
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: 2023 Quarter Four Report for the YDC Claims Administration and Settlement Fund

During the last quarter of 2023 the YDC Claims Settlement Fund received 79 new filings. That brought the total for the first year to 259. Many of these recent filings involve claims originally filed in the Superior Court. The vast majority involve claimants represented by counsel. Claims are slowly migrating into the administrative claims process, but without some statutory changes, it is unlikely the Fund will attract significantly more claims this calendar year than it did last year.

As you know, the current deadline for filing a claim with the Fund is December 31, 2024. If statutory changes are implemented to encourage more claims to migrate from the Superior Court to the administrative claims process, perhaps the time deadline for filing should be extended by several months. Obviously, that is a legislative decision. If changes are adopted, I suspect that the vast majority of all claims currently in the Superior Court will migrate to the administrative claims process. We are hopeful that will happen, which will undoubtedly require an expanded budget and space modifications for our current operation. That would be a good investment.

We have held numerous resolution proceedings this fall where we heard directly from the claimants, and they have gone smoothly. All those hearings are conducted in a trauma-informed, and victim-centered manner as mandated by statute. Listening to the claimant in person is very helpful to achieving a thoughtful resolution. Almost all claimants have accepted my decision and executed waivers/releases to the State. I have made numerous Awards in accordance with the dictates of the statute and *Guidelines*, and the Attorney General's Office has settled numerous claims without our direct involvement. We have many resolution proceedings already scheduled through February and will shortly begin scheduling hearings for March and into April.

P.O. Box 1930, Concord, NH 03302-1930

Phone: 603-415-2136

Fax: 603-798-3420

email: claims@ydcclaims.nh.gov

www.ydcclaims.nh.gov

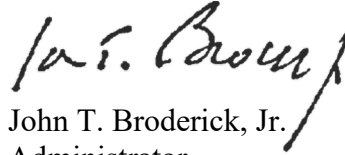
My small staff has devoted considerable time to developing needed technology for claims administration including an online portal for the ability to complete and submit the claim form online. This will make filing a claim easier and subsequent processing more efficient. It is anticipated that we will be ready to go live with this new system sometime in April or May. It will be hugely helpful.

We have continued our sessions and ongoing dialogue with claims counsel and the Attorney General's Office this quarter to streamline forms, process, and filings and to be available at set times to respond to questions and feedback.

We have successfully addressed safety and security measures with law firms who host our resolution proceedings at no cost to the state or the Fund. We have appreciated their assistance and understanding.

We are now working directly with Commissioner Hanks and her office to schedule resolution proceedings at department of corrections facilities in both Concord and Berlin. That requires sensitivity to correction requirements and we are making genuine progress. We hope to conduct our first hearings there later this quarter.

Respectfully submitted,



John T. Broderick, Jr.
Administrator

New Hampshire Youth Development Center
Claims Administration and Settlement Fund

CC: Michael Kane, Legislative Budget Assistant
Office of Legislative Budget Assistant
State House, Room 102
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Jennifer S. Ramsey, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Civil Bureau
New Hampshire Department of Justice
1 Granite Place South
Concord, NH 03301
jennifer.s.ramsey@doj.nh.gov

John M. Formella, Attorney General
New Hampshire Department of Justice
1 Granite Place South
Concord, NH 03301
attorneygeneral@doj.nh.gov