

# Treatment center gets budget ax

---

**JG** [journalgazette.net/News/Local/Courts/Treatment-center-gets-budget-ax-4395605](http://journalgazette.net/News/Local/Courts/Treatment-center-gets-budget-ax-4395605)

When the Kelley House opened officially in 2011, the chief justice of Indiana spoke at its dedication.

But just over three years later, the minimum-security treatment facility that housed those suffering from both mental illness and substance abuse problems and was operated by Allen County Community Corrections will soon shut its doors, a victim of a grim financial reality.

On Friday, the Allen Superior Court announced the Jan. 30 closure of the Kelley House, 2720 Culbertson St.

When it shuts its doors, 14 residents, all male, will be displaced, as will eight full-time employees, according to a statement.

Four additional employees will be reassigned to other positions within Community Corrections.

"It is an outstanding and unique program that unfortunately does not have a built-in sustainability plan," said Kim Churchward, the executive director of Allen County Community Corrections.

The facility, which treated 137 offenders during the course of its operation, was named in honor of Jim Kelley, a founder of the original Washington House, a substance abuse detoxification facility that once occupied the location where Kelley House was located.

Offenders come into the program through Allen Superior and Allen Circuit courts as part of the Allen Circuit Court's Restoration Court program.

According to the statement, 33 active participants are in the program, with 14 in residence and 19 living on their own but participating in aftercare services at the House.

Its 2014-15 operating budget was \$1.3 million, a good chunk of the entire Allen County Community Corrections budget of \$5.5 million, the statement said.

Those participating in the residential portion of the program are not charged any fees.

When they move out on their own and obtain employment, some fees are assessed, Churchward said.

"It is a loss," said Allen Superior Court Judge John Surbeck, who chairs the Allen County Community Corrections Advisory Board. "It's a great program. We can't afford it. It's just not sustainable."

The program provided a very expensive form of treatment, designed as a "modified therapeutic community."

And, Churchward said, it provided care for the entire individual, not just mental health or substance abuse treatment.

Kelley House also provided medical, psychological and psychiatric care through contract physicians and therapists, she said.

"It is a valuable, needed and appropriate program," she said. "But it is cost-prohibitive to continue in our current budgetary environment."

The 14 men living at the facility will not be pushed out into the cold, literally, Surbeck said.

Churchward said the staff was working with each resident to process the change, and to come up with a new case plan for treatment.

According to Barb Cox, one of the founders of the Shepherd's House, a residential and transitional housing facility, Shepherd's House is expecting to have two Kelley House residents referred there early next week.

"We have several beds available," she said.

"They will never be homeless. We will make something work."

rgreen@jg.net

*© Copyright 2015 The Journal Gazette. All rights reserved. Neither this material nor its presentation may be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.*