



New York State
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The Buffalo News

Dear Editor,

In your recent article "Randolph Children's Home probes riot by residents" the facility was described as "run under the supervision of the state's Office of Children and Family Services". I would like to clarify that this facility is licensed by, but not operated by OCFS, and that this recent altercation demonstrates the poor judgment of Commissioner Carrión in closing two local exceptional state operated youth facilities while promoting the use of privately operated facilities such as the Randolph Home, which has experienced numerous AWOLs and other problems in recent months. Great Valley and Cattaraugus Residential Center, both scheduled to close on July 1, were a more sensible placement alternative for the youth at Randolph Home. These small facilities for low risk youth provided a full range of treatment options led by experienced staff. Commissioner Carrión's campaign to close state operated facilities is likely to result in more threats to the safety of youth and our communities.

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