Hills site to do assessments for only 1 year: state

-ps-collate Department of Social Ser-yiges officials said the new assess-ment program contract at Boys Re-public will run only one year, while on assessment facility is being built on assessment facility is being built

In Detroit.

You'we, as much as you, want to get back to our 60 beds in the (long-form) treatment program," said dames Granan, board president. I'we have no intention of expanding of trenewing the program."

At the Farmington Hills City Council meeting Monday, councilinhan Paul Sowerby asked for guarantees that the contract for the absessment program would not be re-ligned in April 1909. But Granan hald the decision can't be made unless all board members for the medium-secure home for delinquent boys

ages 12-17 have a chance to vote on

The Burton Center, on Mack and John R, is scheduled to be complete by November. It will house up to 58 delinquent boys who require medium security, said Daniel Chaney, regional director of Wayne/Metro Residential Services for the DSS.

"The city must recognize that this (assessment program) is a change in use," and George Roberts, Olde Town/Meadowbrook Heights Homeowners Association president. "This will open the door to further expansion."

"The area has now become a prison and a new stigma is placed on residents. There is a prison in their back yards," said Massie Kurzeja, who lives a half mile away.

BOYS REPUBLIC officials said

residents don't want to negotiate modifications to the assessment program or the one-year contract.

"What some of you really want is to kill it," said state Sen. Jack Fax-on, D-Farmington Hills, who is a board member. "They want this thing dead."

"Boys Republic has outlived its usefulness and closing it down alto-gether has got to be one of the alter-natives," said Walter Ream, a Spring Valley resident.

A tour of the facility Saturday led to more concerns for some city coun-cil members.

Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said he was frustrated with unclear answers to his questions regarding the program change.

"After our tour on Saturday, I found a miniprison," said council-

The city council can't decide whether the 99-year-old institution should continue to exist, Faxon said.

THE DSS sends boys who have undergone prescreening to the assessment program for a four-week evaluation before placing them in a long-term treatment facility. Only boys who require medium security will go there, the DSS said.

"The community is much better off with this style of assessment," said Nelson Griffith, a staff training consultant for the assessment pro-

In May, Boys Republic, a private, non-profit, social service agency, secured a \$1 million mortgage for immediate renovations and entered

into the contract with DSS to set up the assessment program. In exchange for improved security, the state, strapped for beds for delinquents, will continue to send more boys to Boys Republic. As part of the agreement, the facility will receive a higher dully payback.

receive a lighter daily payback.

Previously, Boys Republic estreat only long-term treatment for as many as 65 deliaquent boys, sent to the control of the c



State controls Boys Republic, neighbors charge

Continued from Page 1

The assessment program, started in July, houses up to 40 wards of the state, some repeat offenders placed in the medium-security facility by the DSS, for a four-week evaluation before placement in a long-term treatment program.

Section 1 to 10 to

nan said.

A REPORT by Farmington Hills
Police Chief William Dwyer showed
66 truancies in 1987 and 68 truancies
in 1988 for the 79 boys housed at the
facility each year. For the first cight
months of 1989, 12 of the 22 boys
boused in the treatment program
have been reported truan.

"Are the clittens of Farmington
Hills going to be safe?" DuFresne
asked. "They haven't been. But we
didn't know that."

The program that we have
worked with Boys Republic on redesigning would come into line with
the requirements of the program
that have realized only six truancies
over the past two and a half years
with 2,500 youngsters (in Wayne

County)," said Daniel Chancy, re-glonal director of Wayne/Metro Res-idential Services for the DSS.

ALTHOUGH THE DSS controls ALTHOUGH THE DSS controls the intake, the department has made the verbal agreement with Boya Republic that Class I and Class II offenders, involved in crimes such as such as the control of the control

said.

The department would agree to amend the contract in writing as to the verbal agreement, Chancy said.

"I was pleased when the DSS agreed not to send any Class I, Class II and selected Class III offenders to the facility," Dwyer said.

The contract includes an escalation policy allowing Boys Republic to ask the DSS to remove a boy exhibiting behavior harmful to himself or others, or who is habitually truant or violates program rules and shows a pattern of behavior that is out of control.

control.

The youth may be removed as soon as 24 hours after placement, Chaney said.

The report indicated the type of eastern program is not different from the type of youth in the treatment program is not different from the type of youth in the treatment program.

In 1987, 90 percent of the boys at the facility had been charged with Class III offenses, which include breaking and entering, auto theft and trafficking in less than 650 grams of drugs, the report said.

DWYER SUGGESTS that the DSS modify the contract further to limit Boys Republic residents to the charged with trafficking in tesses charged with trafficking in tess than 50 grams of drugs and to forbid other Class III offenders, such as boys involved in assault with a dangerous weapon or breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling.

nination and not even the court can order placement into the facilities, sald Martin Krohner, Farmington Hills resident and an assistant pro-secutor in the Wayne County Juve-nile Court.

DWYER SUGGESTS that the DSS modify the contract further to limit Boys Republic residents to those-tharged with trafficking in liess than 50 grams of drugs and to forbid other Class III offenders, such as boys involved in assault with a dangerous weapon or breaking and entering of an occupied dwelling.

In 1988, 47 percent of the power of the boys in the assessment program have been Class III offenders have been Class III offenders in the treatment programs in the such process of the St percent Class III offenders in the treatment programs in the such process of the St percent Class III offenders in the treatment programs in the such process of the St percent Class III offenders in the treatment programs in case to the St percent Class III offenders in the treatment programs in case to the St percent Class III offenders in the treatment programs in case two the medium security assessment programs in the process of the St percent Class III offenders in the treatment programs in the state gets hard up to gree or they get into a budge of the page of the transition of the process of the state gets hard up to get out the page of the p



Floyd DuFresne, vice president of the Olde Town/ Meadowbrook Heights Homeowners Association, wonders just how secure his neighborhood is with changes that have oc-curred at Boys Republic. The issue was discussed for 31/2 hours at a Farmington Hills City Council meeting Monday.

vegas party

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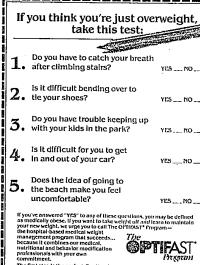
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