

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: October 2, 2017

TO: Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Delinquency and Court Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on the Type II Residential Treatment Center**

Background

Since December 2015, key partners, including the County Executive, County Board of Supervisors, Chief Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, DHHS Director, Delinquency and Court Services Division (DCSD) Administrator, Wraparound Milwaukee Director and other involved parties have been meeting to formulate a plan to address the crisis at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake and ensure the safety of youth. As part of this process, the development of a Residential Treatment Center (RTC) for youth is being pursued as an alternative to corrections.

Discussion

Development of a Type II Residential Treatment Facility

Over the past 18 months, DCSD has been exploring alternative residential placements for youth to avoid correctional placement with the State Department of Corrections. In addition, the establishment of an alternative residential facility is expected to reduce the strain on the Detention Center which experienced higher-than-average census during 2016 as a result of the crisis at Lincoln Hills. DCSD's efforts to create an alternative placement have been detailed in monthly reports to the County Board beginning in 2016 (Resolution File No. 16-292 and 16-602).

Outcome of Facility & Programming RFP & Community Outreach

After issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a facility to site the RTC earlier this year, DHHS is currently negotiating the lease of a 24-bed, five-story facility owned by Bishop's Creek Community Development Corporation and located at 4769 N. 32nd Street in Milwaukee.

In order to gauge community support and address any issues or concerns from residents, DCSD hosted community meetings the evenings of August 24 and September 27 at the proposed facility. Some of the residents who attended the meetings raised concerns about neighborhood safety and overall security of the facility. Some expressed opposition to siting the facility in their neighborhood as well

as the potential for youth to run away from the facility. The DCSD Administrator addressed these concerns with attendees and is working closely with Sup. Michael Mayo who represents the district in which the facility is located. The proposed programming vendor for the facility is also canvassing the neighborhood to address concerns.

Further discussion will occur to determine whether an additional meeting should be held.

A separate RFP for the treatment and programming components of the RTC was released June 19. Two proposals were received and DCSD awarded the contract to one of the vendors. However, a contract has not yet been finalized.

The original plan was to submit the contract for treatment and programming to the County Board for approval in the October cycle. However, given the concerns raised by neighborhood residents and completion of a final contract, DHHS will need to postpone this submittal to the December cycle.

This delay could impact the opening of the facility which was anticipated to occur on March 1, 2018. DHHS will keep the County Board updated on the ongoing status of the RTC.

Recommendation

This report is informational and no action is required.



Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Hon. Maxine A. White, Chief Judge
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
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