

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: July 1, 2016

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

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Delinquency and Court Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on State juvenile corrections as well as the Juvenile Detention Center in the Delinquency and Court Services Division**

Background

Since December 2015, key partners, including the County Executive, Chief Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director, Delinquency and Court Services Division 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. The first step in the plan was to immediately increase staffing capacity to expand the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) to 24 beds within the Juvenile Detention Center and to monitor and assess all youth in Lincoln Hills, Copper Lake, and the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center for needs and any appropriate alternative placements and services in the community.

Discussion

New commitments of Milwaukee County juveniles to the Department of Corrections (DOC) centers of Lincoln Hills, Copper Lake and the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center have declined since February.

| Month | Number of New Commitments |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| January | 3 |
| February | 8 |
| March | 6 |
| April | 4 |
| May | 7 |
| June as of 6/21/16 | 4 |

Assessment and Placement Options for Youth at State Centers

Since January of 2016, a total of 150 youth have been screened by Wraparound Milwaukee staff. DCSD will continue to work with Wraparound to have youth assessed as needed or when a youth is newly committed to a DOC facility.

To date this year, Children's Court has granted five revisions that were filed seeking removal of the DOC order and allowing placement of youth with DCSD. A total of 40 revisions seeking removal of the DOC order and extensions of existing DOC orders were either denied, dismissed or withdrawn. This will be an ongoing process as new petitions for revision and extension of DOC orders are received. Currently, another five revision petitions are pending before Children's Court.

All youth committed to DOC since November 2015 have been assigned to a Milwaukee County reentry program. Return to Success or Wraparound Re-Entry are providing services to these youth in accordance to case plans developed by DOC and include transition planning with an emphasis on family involvement.

DCSD receives an active client list from DOC identifying placements for youth on DOC orders twice a month on varying dates. This reflects youth under a Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) order or a regular DOC order. A SJO order has the youth placed at the facility for three years with two years of aftercare for five-year sentence. A regular DOC order places the youth at the facility for up to two years. These youth may be released before that time by the Office of Juvenile Offender Review (OJOR) to provide for aftercare in the community. As of June 28, total Milwaukee County youth placed at the State facilities increased since May 31 by 6 but is still lower by 10 compared to April.

Please see the chart below:

| Location | Lincoln Hills (boys) | Copper Lake (girls) | Mendota (boys) | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| April 19 Regular DOC Order | 87 | 10 | 3 | 100 |
| April 19 SJO | 33 | 1 | 1 | 35 |
| Total April 19 | 120 | 11 | 4 | 135 |
| May 31 Regular DOC Order | 74 | 6 | 5 | 85 |
| May 31 SJO | 32 | 1 | 1 | 34 |
| Total May 31 | 106 | 7 | 6 | 119 |
| Change April 19 to May 31 | -14 | -4 | 2 | -16 |
| June 29 Regular DOC Order | 80 | 9 | 5 | 94 |
| June 29 SJO | 30 | 1 | 0 | 31 |
| Total June 28 | 110 | 10 | 5 | 125 |
| Change May 31 to June 28 | 4 | 3 | -1 | 6 |

As of May 31, 2016, there are a total of 86 youth on State Aftercare in the community. Milwaukee County continues to collaborate with the Department of Corrections to provide services to these youth returned to the community. The Human Service Workers continue to make their focus on youth in the institutions and developing alternative plans to return them to the community.

Development of a Type II Residential Treatment Facility

Progress has been made in building consensus among the system stakeholders for the development of a Type II residential treatment facility to be used as a “step down” program for youth discharged from MCAP or juvenile corrections and who are in need of additional treatment in a structured residential program. The DCSD Administrator has been researching effective staff-secure residential treatment models that serve high risk delinquent youth and is in discussions with a national expert about the possibility of entering into a technical assistance contract to assist in developing, training, and implementation of the program. The DCSD Administrator is also working with DHHS Contract Administration staff to draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) for providers interested in developing an approximately 44-bed facility. The contract is contingent upon the provider agency’s assessed capacity to implement the program with fidelity to the model that will be developed by the DCSD Administrator. Work is also underway to find and secure a site for the facility. Please refer to Attachment 1 which identifies a specific timeline for implementation of a step down program.

Update on Milwaukee County Assuming Aftercare Services from the Department of Corrections

A letter was sent to Secretary Litscher on June 9, 2016 indicating our intent to assume responsibility for aftercare services for youth effective July 1, 2017. This request required a year notice per State Statute. By assuming aftercare for all non-SJO youth, Milwaukee County can better manage the appropriate placement of youth back in to the community and more effectively utilize community based treatment programs to address the continued needs of aftercare youth.

Ongoing discussion with the Annie E. Casey Foundation

DCSD continues to receive support and technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in regard to our Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. We are waiting for a decision from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in regard to assistance from their “deep end” initiative. Deep end placements refer to the small number of youth who are determined to pose the highest public safety risk and require the most restrictive placement options like a juvenile correctional facility or a residential treatment center. DHHS and DCSD leaders met with the administrative team from the Annie E. Casey Foundation on April 21, 2016. No decision has been made yet by the Casey Foundation whether to offer assistance to Milwaukee County. The DCSD administrator is beginning to reach out to other national organizations to inquire about alternatives.

Census in the Juvenile Detention Center

The Juvenile Detention Center continues to experience an increased average daily census compared to before the issues at Lincoln Hills surfaced. From May 23 to June 23, 2016, census has exceeded capacity 17 times with a peak of 135. Expansion of the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) from

12 to 24 beds in 2016 has contributed to the overcrowding concern. However, other factors such as the increase in armed robberies and carjackings are also contributing.

A programming option which continues to be expanded in order to relieve the overcrowding includes the Level II Monitoring with optional Global Positioning System (GPS) Program. In May, the County Board approved DCSD's request to increase an existing contract with Southwest Key to provide 10 additional slots for Level II services. In addition, in the July cycle, DCSD is requesting an amendment to the St. Charles and Southwest Key contracts to provide funding for 24-hour staffing support related to the GPS component of the Level II monitoring. The Level II with optional GPS program is for primarily pre-dispositional youth who are pending a delinquency petition as an alternative to secure detention. The youth referred to this program are alleged delinquent and are not an immediate risk to the community but need additional support and supervision.

Finally, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Racine County Detention, placements of 10 Milwaukee County juveniles have occurred in June. While the use of the Racine County Detention Center has provided some relief to the overcrowding situation, the detention center has experienced a census over capacity on four occasions between June 16 when Racine County was first utilized and June 27.

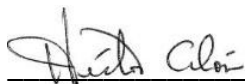
Detention Center Hiring

As of June 27, there were 69.5 total JCO positions, with 62.5 filled JCO positions and seven JCO vacancies. This compares to 60.5 filled JCO positions and nine JCO vacancies reported in the June report to the County Board. The operating vacancy is being offset by DCSD employees who have volunteered to work extra shifts. It is anticipated that by the end of June, many of the newly hired JCOs will be fully trained and available to share in the overtime load which will virtually eliminate mandating. DCSD is currently interviewing and anticipates filling the remaining positions by early July. Therefore, by late August, the need for overtime shifts is expected to be minimal.

Of the 62.5 filled positions, 5 are not working due to worker's compensation claims or Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and one is on county leave pending termination. Two employees on unpaid leave were terminated and we will begin the process to fill those positions. Another five employees are under intermittent FMLA but are working when able.

Recommendation

This report is informational and no action is required.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment (1)

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, DAS
Steve Kreklow, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lisa Wozny, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS
Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst – Comptroller's Office