

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: January 19, 2021

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Division of Youth & Family Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on the Department of Corrections**

Background

Since December 2015, key partners, including the County Executive, County Board of Supervisors, Chief Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director, Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) 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 Schools and ensure the safety of youth. DHHS has been providing regular updates on the status of the State-operated Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls. This report provides a follow up on the number of youth committed to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC)-Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) and the type of placement for the youth.

Discussion

New commitments to Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake

The chart below shows the number of youth who have been committed to the DJC per month. Please note that commitments can fluctuate daily and a final number of commitments in the most recent month may not be available until the next month's report.

New Commitments	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January	3	6	3	6	4
February	8	5	5	1	6
March	6	3	3	4	2
April	4	9	3	2	0
May	7	4	3	3	3
June	4	5	1	8	7
July	8	4	3	2	1
August	4	6	5	5	2
September	9	5	6	5	3
October	12	4	8	2	4
November	5	7	6	5	4
December	3	13	6	4	4
Total	73	71	52	47	40

The youth ordered to the DJC in December 2020 included one, 17-year-old Black male and one, 15-year-old Black male. Both of them were on regular Court orders. In addition, there were two youth on Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) orders, one, 17-year-old Black male and one, 16-year-old Black male.

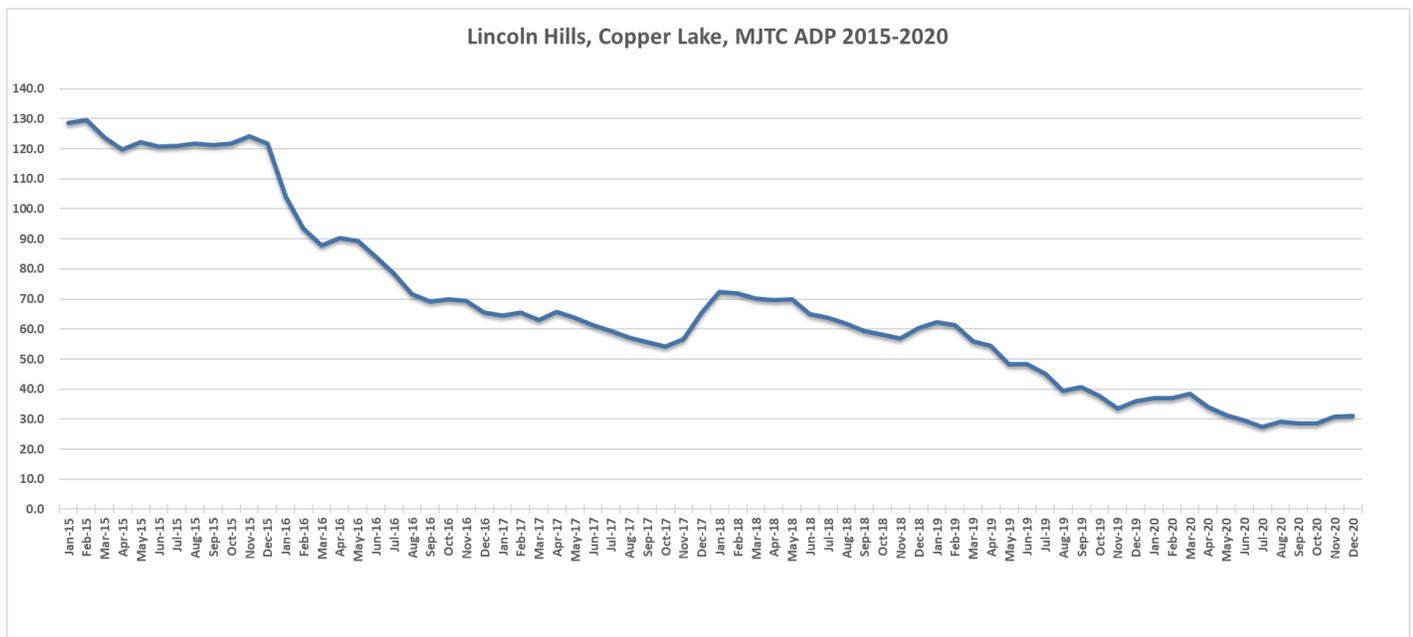
Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

As of January 19, 2021, there were a total of 41 boys at Lincoln Hills (16 on SJO orders and 25 on regular DOC commitments). There was one girl on a regular DOC commitment at Copper Lake. In addition, there were six youth at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (two on SJO orders and four on regular DOC commitments).

Milwaukee County took over the Aftercare supervision from the State of Wisconsin effective July 1, 2017 for all non-SJO youth. All DOC-DJC youth placed in the community were assigned to a DYFS Human Service Worker who provides supervision and case management for the youth and their families. The youth are all receiving appropriate services in the community including, but not limited to, GPS monitoring for the initial 30 days or more in the community, intensive monitoring, clinical services, etc.

As of January 15, 2021, there were nine youth on Aftercare in the community. Of those youth, three were placed in-home and two in Secure Detention. As of the time of this report, four youth were missing, and Capias/apprehension requests had been issued.

The current average daily population (ADP) of Milwaukee County youth in Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools (excluding youth in the SJO Program under a state commitment) has fallen steadily from 2015 to the current reporting period. The ADP for December was 31. Please see the chart below:



Recommendation

This report is informational, and no action is required.

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Mary E. Triggiano, Chief Judge
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst – DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office