

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: August 30, 2018

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

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, 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-Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) commitments and update to the 2017 Wisconsin Act 185**

Background

Since December 2015, key partners, including the County Executive, County Board of Supervisors, Chief Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, 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 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 on a daily basis and a final number of commitments in the most recent month may not be available until the next month's report.

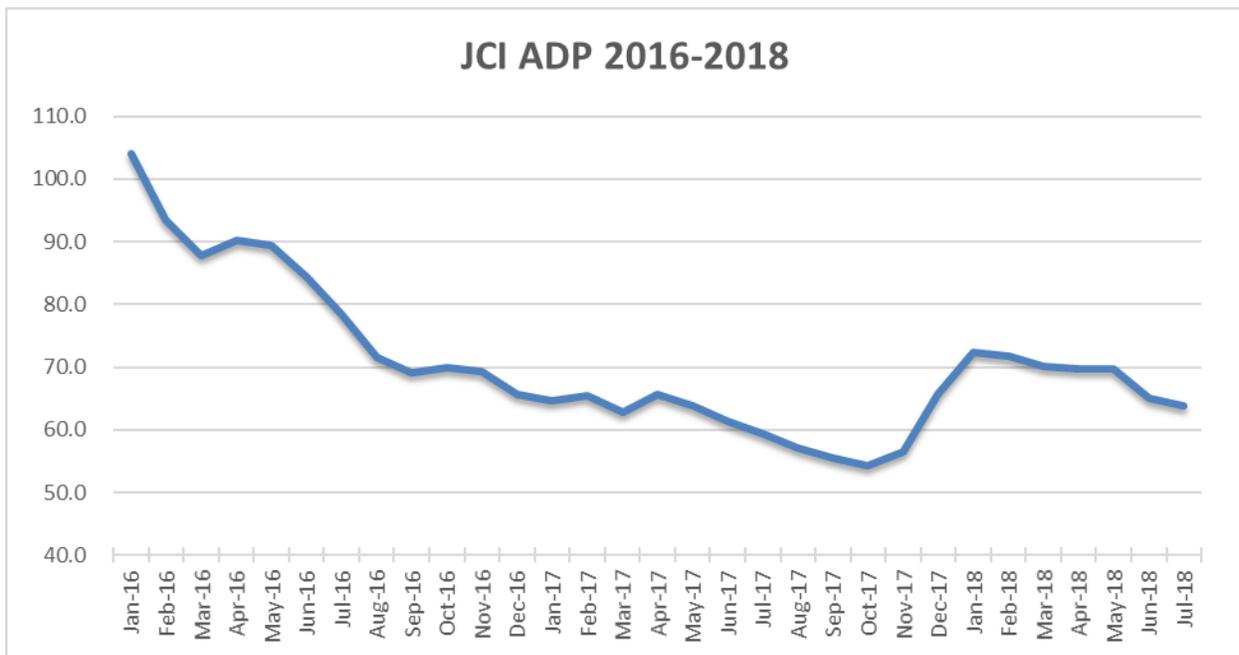
New Commitments	2016	2017	2018
January	3	6	3
February	8	5	5
March	6	3	3
April	4	9	3
May	7	4	3
June	4	5	1
July	8	4	3
August	4	6	4
September	9	5	
October	12	4	
November	5	7	
December	3	13	

Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

As of August 28, 2018, there were a total of 66 boys at Lincoln Hills (14 on Serious Juvenile Offender Orders and 52 on regular DOC commitments). There were seven girls at Copper Lake (two on Serious Juvenile Offender Order and five on regular DOC commitments). There were nine youth at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (0 on Serious Juvenile Offender Orders and nine on regular DOC commitments).

Milwaukee County took over the Aftercare supervision from the State of Wisconsin effective July 1, 2017 for all non-Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) youth. All DOC-Division of Juvenile Corrections youth placed in the community were assigned to a DYFS Human Service Worker who is providing supervision and case management for the kids and their families. The youth are all receiving appropriate services in the community to include, but not limited to, GPS monitoring for the initial 30 days or more in the community, intensive monitoring, clinical services, etc. As of August 28, 2018, there were 12 youth who were on Aftercare in the community.

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 from 104 to 64 from January 2016 to July 2018. Please see the chart below:



2017 Wisconsin Act 185 Update

The 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 relates to the closure of the juvenile correctional facilities Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools, establishes a new Department of Corrections Type I juvenile correctional facility and creates new Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs) with an authorization of \$80 million in state

bonding for construction and expansion of juvenile facilities. Milwaukee County has developed a Steering Committee which held its initial meeting on June 20, 2018. The committee has created a project vision which is to establish a safe, positive, sustainable, and developmentally appropriate treatment environment for youth committed to the county under Wisconsin Statute Section 938.34(4m) that effectively promotes accountability, protects the community, reduces recidivism, and returns youth to our community with the skills needed to become successful and productive citizens. The Steering Committee has also facilitated an initial workgroup meeting on July 20, 2018 to recruit interested parties for the following workgroups: Facility & Budget, Programming, Community, Planning & Scheduling and Grant Application Writing, in which all workgroups have been created and report directly to the Steering Committee.

DYFS has engaged the Annie E. Casey Foundation to help develop a capacity recommendation to forecast the 'right size' for the facility to ensure that the SRCCCY meets the needs of the kids and community without widening the net for kids. The Steering Committee has decided to take a parallel approach to evaluate the existing location of Vel R. Phillips, while also exploring alternate community-based locations and potential third parties to locate and operate a SRCCCY through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) to be issued in September 2018. The Facility & Budget workgroup has continued to meet on a regular basis and has selected a design consultant to evaluate Vel R. Phillips Youth Justice Center as well as other potential locations. The statewide Study Committee has met three times with recommendations being made for the administrative rules for the SRCCCY's with Milwaukee having two representatives on the committee, Mark Mertens and Judge Joe Donald. DHHS has also hired a qualified grant writing consultant to engage in the various workgroups and to assist with the writing of the grant, due in March 2019. A financing mechanism has also been developed and is going before the County Board for approval in September 2018.

Recommendation

This report is informational and no action is required.



Mary Jo Meyers, 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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