

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: August 29, 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

Census in the Juvenile Detention Center

Since July 21, the census in the Juvenile Detention Center has remained under the 120-bed capacity. In August, the census averaged 108. The factors contributing to this decline have been the use of alternative programs where appropriate and placements to Racine County's detention center. Placements to Racine County have averaged about eight per day in August.

State Institutes

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 averaged about six per month since the beginning of the year.

Month	Number of New Commitments
January	3
February	8
March	6
April	4
May	7
June	4
July	8
August (as of 8/22)	5

Assessment and Placement Options of Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake/Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center Youth

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.

Children's Court has granted six revisions that were filed seeking removal of the DOC order and allowing placement of youth with DCSD. A total of 42 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.

The total number of Lincoln Hills' placements has gone down by four compared to June 29. Placements at Copper Lake and Mendota have remained the same since June 29. 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 29	110	10	5	125
Change May 31 to June 29	4	3	-1	6
July 19 Regular DOC Order	73	9	5	87
July 19 SJO	33	1	0	34
Total July 29	106	10	5	121
Change June 29 to July 19	-4	0	0	-4

As of July 19, 2016, there are a total of 72 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.

Ongoing discussion with the Annie E. Casey Foundation

DCSD continues to receive support and technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation in regards to our Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has notified DCSD that they are opting to not involve Milwaukee County in the “deep end” initiative at this time.

Detention Center Hiring

As of August 19, there were 69.5 total JCO positions, with 64.5 filled JCO positions and five JCO vacancies. In addition, Human Resources made offers to three more applicants starting September 26.

Of the 64.5 filled positions, five are not working due to worker’s compensation claims or Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

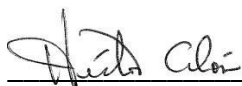
Communication with Department of Corrections

On July 29, a letter was sent to Jon E. Litscher, Secretary of the Department of Corrections, requesting that the DOC lead a statewide effort for juvenile justice reform. In addition, we asked that the DOC work collectively with us in identifying a cost effective model that will improve outcomes for youth as well as public safety. Unfortunately, we have not yet heard back from Secretary Litscher.

Earlier this summer, we submitted another letter to Secretary Litscher indicating our intent to assume responsibility for aftercare services for youth effective July 1, 2017. This request required a year notice per State Statute. We received a response from Secretary Litscher on July 14, 2016 identifying the functions that will be assumed by the county. Prior to July of 2017, the functions pertaining specifically to youth on aftercare will be developed into a policy/procedure and training will be provided to the human service workers responsible for after care.

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