

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 28, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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

Subject: An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on youth ordered to correctional placements and youth pending adult court in secure care

File Type: Information

REQUEST

The State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) – Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) is responsible for the operation of the Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls as well as the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC). DHHS is providing an update to the County Board on the number of youth committed to these facilities and the type of placement for youth, as well as information on a plan to address the needs of kids who are in the adult court system but being held in the youth detention center.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Chapter 301; Chapter 938
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BACKGROUND

Youth in Secure Care

The youth and adult court systems operate under different state statutes in Wisconsin with the youth system under the Juvenile Justice Code 938. Youth who are pending adult court and under the age of 17 years old are in the legal custody of the adult system but are held in the youth detention center until their 17th birthday. This occurs so that youth can be housed with others closer to their age as well as the general practice of maintaining separation between youth and adults in the adult system.

At the time of their 17th birthday, the youth are then transferred to the adult secure care system. These youth are in the adult courts on original adult jurisdiction for criminal proceedings, per Wisconsin State Statute 938.183, or have been waived to the adult court system from the youth justice system, per Wisconsin State Statute 938.18. These youth do not have an open case within the youth justice system and therefore, do not have an assigned Human Service Worker

(HSW) because HSWs work within the youth justice system only.

The number of youth in the detention center meeting this legal status has increased over the years. In the past, there would have been very few, if any, youth in this status. However, as of December 2023, there were 11 youth who are pending adult court and under the age of 17 years old.

These youth receive education through Wauwatosa Public Schools as well as receive medical and dental care while in the detention center. DHHS has been working with the Sheriff's Department and Corporation Council to identify a plan to ensure these kids are being screened, assessed, and provided clinical treatment while in the detention center as well.

DHHS has re-assigned one employee within Behavioral Health Services (BHS) to work specifically with these youth as of December 12, 2023. This staff member will meet directly one on one with each of the youth who do not have an assigned HSW to begin identifying any unmet needs. The staff will develop an action plan which could include clinical screening and assessments to be conducted by a BHS clinician. The CYFS network of providers is also available to the youth as needed. The additional details and protocol are being developed currently, but it is important that all the needs of these youth are addressed while in our care.

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	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
January	11	3	6	3	6	4	1	8	2
February	12	8	5	5	1	6	5	9	5
March	9	6	3	3	4	2	3	5	2
April	14	4	9	3	2	0	3	5	2
May	11	7	4	3	3	3	2	1	3
June	8	4	5	1	8	7	2	8	7
July	7	8	4	3	2	1	4	6	4
August	8	4	6	5	5	2	3	4	2
September	6	9	5	6	5	3	2	2	2
October	8	12	4	8	2	4	2	3	3
November	11	5	7	6	5	4	2	2	2
December	4	3	13	6	4	4	3	4	0*
Total	109	73	71	52	47	40	32	57	34

*As of December 11, 2023

Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

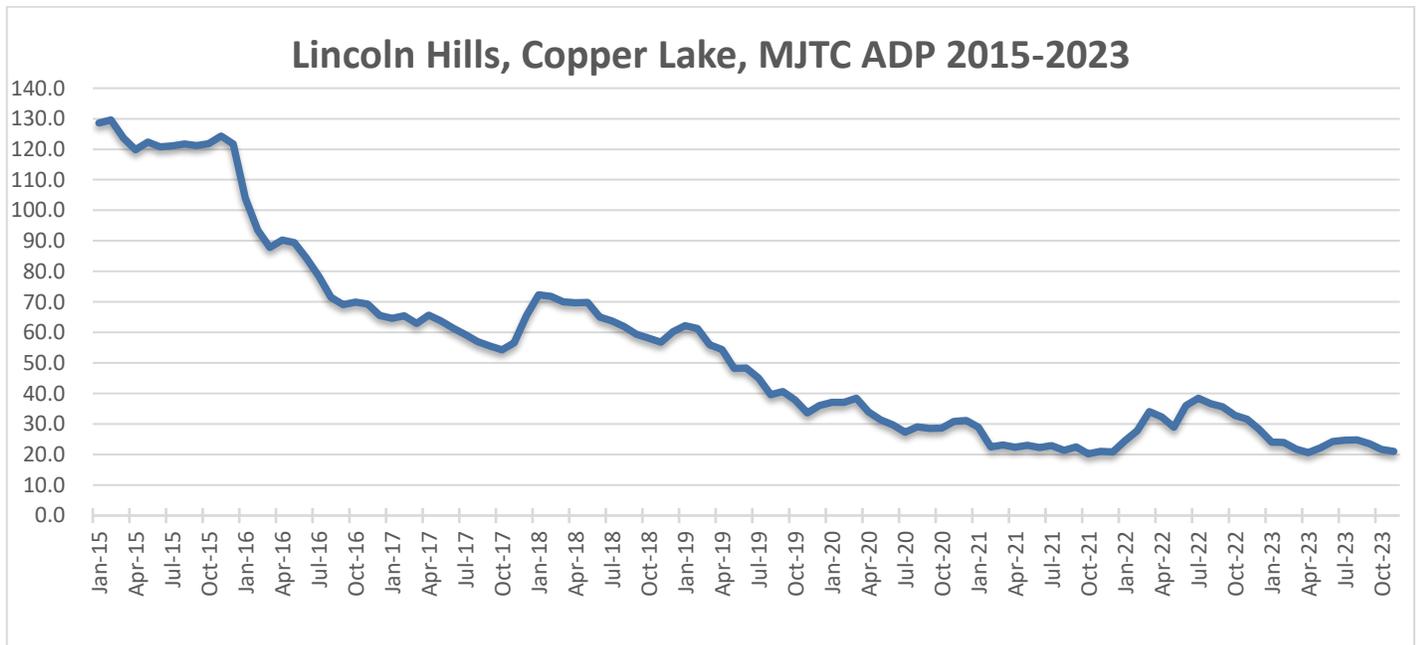
As of December 11, 2023, there were a total of 29 boys at Lincoln Hills School (11 youth who

were placed on SJO orders and 18 youth who were placed on regular DOC commitments) and there were no girls at Copper Lake School. There were seven youth at MJTC (three youth who were on SJO orders and 4 youth who were on regular DOC commitment orders).

Milwaukee County is responsible for the supervision and case management for all youth who are in Aftercare status and released from Corrections. All youth who are released from a correctional setting and placed in the community are assigned to a CYFS 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, restorative programming, clinical services, etc.

As of December 11, 2023, there were nine youth on Aftercare status in the community. Of those youth, four were placed in-home and five youth were placed in out of home care, which includes group homes, residential care centers and adult jail systems. As of the time of this report, there were no youth who were in missing status.

Over the last several years, the average daily population (ADP) of Milwaukee County youth in Lincoln Hills, Copper Lake Schools and MJTC has been steadily declining apart from an uptick in 2022. As of November 2023, the ADP was 21 compared to 32 in the same month the year prior.



ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

DHHS continues to work toward transitioning youth out of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools. CYFS has been leveraging its resources, including Opioid and ARPA funds, toward

the ongoing development of community-based programming for justice-involved youth and their families through innovative initiatives. CYFS is also committed to building out a continuum of care to include targeted preventive and diversion services and initiatives. These initiatives are occurring in the Milwaukee community and are focused not only on the youth but also their families and communities across Milwaukee County. This programming meets the youth where they are in unique ways that are individualized to their needs.

FISCAL EFFECT

This report is informational and there is no fiscal effect.

TERMS

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:


Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Karl Ashley, Chief Judge
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr. Budget and Management Analyst, DAS