

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** October 9, 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.

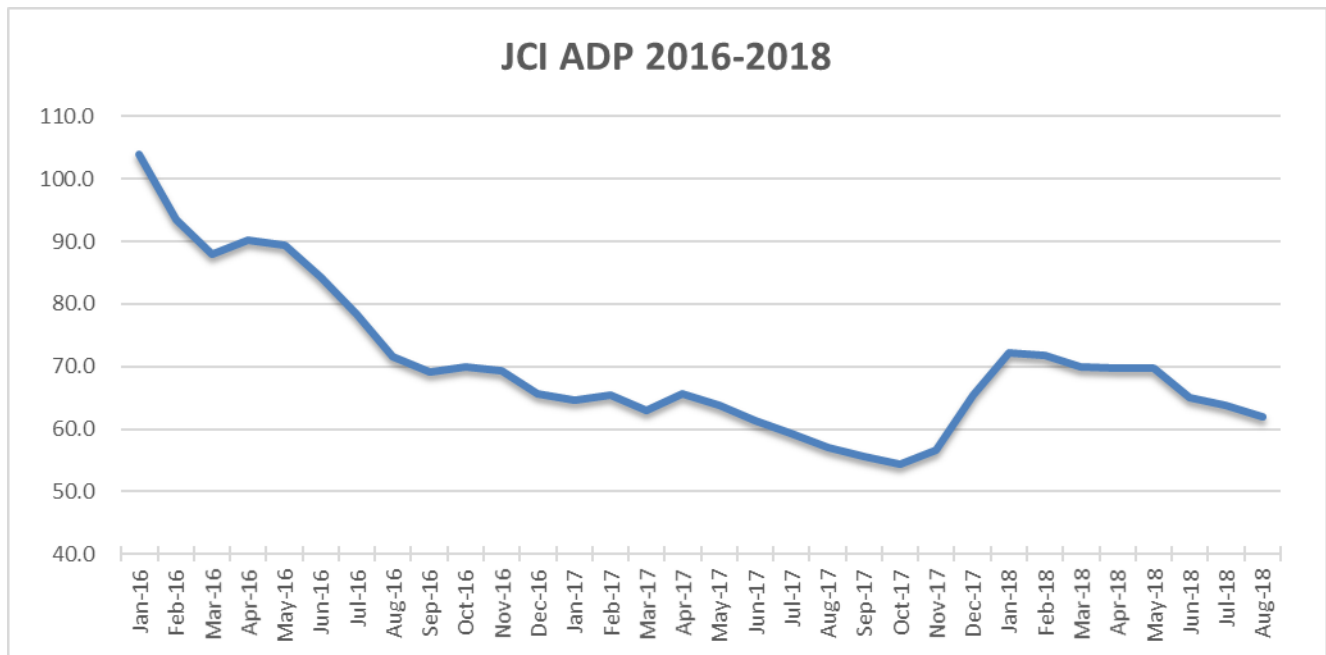
<b>New Commitments</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
January	3	6	3
February	8	5	5
March	6	3	3
April	4	9	3
May	7	4	3
June	4	5	1
July	8	4	3
August	4	6	5
September	9	5	6
October	12	4	
November	5	7	
December	3	13	

**Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections**

As of October 3, 2018, there were a total of 66 boys at Lincoln Hills (16 on Serious Juvenile Offender Orders and 50 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 October 3, 2018, there were 18 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 62 from January 2016 to August 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 that had its initial meeting on June 20, 2018 and since that time, 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 and Grant Application Writing. All workgroups have been created and report directly to the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and is comprised of various county representatives. The four workgroup facilitators, or their representatives, are also being invited to attend the Steering Committee meetings to provide updates on the work being done in each group.

The DYFS has engaged the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) 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. AECF and DYFS continue to engage in conference calls while utilizing Milwaukee County data to guide these discussions. The Steering Committee has decided to take a parallel approach to evaluate the existing location of Vel R. Phillips Youth Justice Center, seek out alternate community-based locations and explore potential third parties to locate and operate a SRCCCY through a Request for Information (RFI) issued October 5, 2018 with an informational session for interested parties scheduled for October 19 from 1-3:00pm.

The statewide Study Committee has met on five occasions with recommendations being made for the emergency administrative rules for the SRCCCYs, due by December 2018, with Milwaukee having two representatives on the committee, Administrator Mark Mertens and Judge Joe Donald. The Facility & Budget Workgroup has continued to meet on a regular basis and has selected a design consultant to evaluate Vel R. Phillips as well as other potential locations.

DHHS also hired a qualified grant writing consultant to engage in the various workgroups and to assist with the writing of the grant, due March 2019. The grant application is in the process of being drafted, utilizing input from all of the four workgroups. The Community Workgroup had its initial meeting on September 18, 2018 in which DOC provided an overview of Act 185 and an opportunity for discussion and feedback related to Act 185 for community stakeholders. The Community Workgroup continues to reach out to community members and is working with other community agencies to host additional

listening sessions. The Programming Workgroup has also held the initial meeting with meetings scheduled for every other week as well.

In September, DHHS submitted a request to create a capital project (File No. 18-633) to provide financing for the initial planning and county portion of the construction costs related to the facility. The County Board laid this item over pending an opinion from Corporation Counsel.

In late October, representatives from each workgroup and Steering Committee are scheduled for a site visit with New Beginnings Youth Development Center and Maya Angelou Academy. New Beginnings is a secure residential treatment facility for males, operated by the Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services in Washington D.C. Maya Angelou Academy is the onsite educational program at New Beginnings. This facility is considered a model for secure residential programs for youth.

### **Recommendation**

This report is informational and no action is required.



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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  
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