

Proposed Juvenile Justice Reform Strategies

Strategy	Program Definition
Residential Programming	
Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP)	We are committed to reducing the number of individuals sent to, or currently placed in, Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools. As a result, we are in the process of developing an integrated approach that will utilize the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) and a 44-bed, staff-secure Type II residential treatment program. MCAP has produced promising outcomes in its first three years of implementation. Youth who are court ordered to the program have demonstrated significant academic success and credit recovery as a result of their participation in the full time school program provided by the Wauwatosa School District.
Residential Treatment Center	Upon completion of MCAP, some youth are ready to return home but others may require a “step down” program. Therefore, we are proposing the development of a Type II, staff-secure residential treatment program to serve as a step down for youth enrolled in MCAP who are not ready for a safe transition directly into the community or as a direct placement for moderate to high risk youth who have committed a qualifying offense (Class A Misdemeanor or Felony) but for whom a detention placement is not necessary. The proposed Type II residential treatment program will include robust programs to address criminogenic, behavioral health and educational needs to ensure good outcomes and wellbeing without compromising public safety. Staff-secure residential programs of this type are effectively serving high and moderate risk delinquent youth in lieu of a correctional placement in other parts of the country.
Community-Based Alternatives	
Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP)	YAP provides intensive community-based support, supervision, and monitoring to high-risk youth in 18 states and over 100 communities and has demonstrated favorable outcomes including a rate of 87 percent of youth remaining in the community at discharge, 89 percent of youth remaining arrest-free while in the program, and 80 percent of youth remaining arrest free after discharge. The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania based program is recognized as an effective alternative to detention by the Annie E. Casey Foundation’s Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). We believe that this program would complement and enhance the array of local community supervision services available through Running Rebels, Southwest Key, and St. Charles.
Multisystemic Therapy (MST)	Multisystemic Therapy (MST) is an internationally recognized family therapy program for at-risk youth and their families. For more than 30 years, MST has consistently demonstrated positive outcomes with chronic juvenile offenders. Rigorous randomized trials and almost 100 published, peer-reviewed research articles have upheld the effectiveness of MST, reducing long-term rearrests of serious juvenile offenders by a median of 42 percent and reducing out-of-home placements by a median of 54 percent. Involving MST with some youth as they prepare to transition out of MCAP or the Type II residential program will further improve the chances of their success in the community.
TARGET	TARGET (Trauma Affect Regulation: Guide for Education and Therapy) is an effective evidence-based program as recognized by SAMHSA’s National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Because so many of our youth have had significant traumatic experiences related to family violence, child abuse and neglect, gun violence, physical assaults, and other adverse experiences, it is necessary to assist them in understanding post-traumatic stress disorder and the impacts of traumatic stress on their physiology, social relationships, cognition, and emotions.
Redefining Out-of-Home Placement	Some of the individuals that could be considered for an option other than an out-of-home placement might include: youth with less serious offenses, lower risk youth, youth who commit technical violations while on probation and youth placements for specialized treatment services that could be arranged in the community. We look forward to reaching consensus on defining these parameters over the next three months.
Legislative Intervention	Even with the implementation of new community-based strategies and other interventions, there still may be a need for a facility for higher need individuals considered to be “deep end” placements. In a model juvenile justice system, deep end placements are reserved for the small number of youth who are determined to pose the highest public safety risk. Youth requiring deep end intervention are placed in small, safe, and treatment-oriented facilities that are connected to the communities where youth and their families live. We propose to collectively lobby the Governor and the Legislature to move forward with these smaller treatment-oriented facilities.