

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** December 29, 2017

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

**FROM:** Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Delinquency and Court Services Administrator*

**SUBJECT:** **Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, on the administration's progress, and timeline for, providing services in a Type II secure residential facility in the community**

**Issue**

At its last meeting in December, the Health and Human Needs Committee requested that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provide an update on the progress and timeline for a residential treatment center.

**Background**

Since December 2015, key partners, including the County Executive, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Chief Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, DHHS Director, Delinquency and Court Services Division (DCSD) 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. As part of this process, the development of a Residential Treatment Center (RTC) for youth is being implemented.

***Development of a Type II Residential Treatment Facility***

Over the past 18 months, DCSD has been exploring alternative residential placements for youth to avoid correctional placement with the State Department of Corrections. In addition, the establishment of an alternative residential facility is expected to reduce the strain on the Detention Center which experienced higher-than-average census during 2016 as a result of the crisis at Lincoln Hills. DCSD's efforts to create an alternative placement have been detailed in monthly reports to the County Board, beginning in 2016 (Resolution File No. 16-292 and 16-602) and are summarized below:

- In early 2016, DCSD pursued plans to establish a locked residential facility at the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center (CATC) on the County Grounds in order to expand the capacity of the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) as part of the 2016 Adopted Budget. The initiative involved moving MCAP into a Type II *secure* residential facility in the community to allow more youth to be served while simultaneously removing youth from detention.

- Following a series of communications with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Corrections (DOC), it was determined that this was not a viable option because a “*secure residential care center*” does not currently exist in Wisconsin as there is no current administrative code detailing the specifications of such a facility.
- In mid-2016, DCSD then began exploring a *staff secure*, “step-down” Residential Treatment Center (RTC) for high-risk youth in jeopardy of placement at the DOC or youth transitioning out of MCAP or DOC placement. Although a location and provider were initially identified in Wauwatosa, the provider ultimately withdrew its proposal.
- Despite this setback, DCSD continued to pursue the RTC as part of the 2017 Adopted Budget which envisioned a 24-bed staff-secure RTC. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released earlier this year to identify a location and another RFP was released this summer for the programming.

### ***Outcome of Facility & Programming RFP & Community Outreach***

Based upon a Request for Proposals (RFP) process, Wisconsin Community Services has been selected to provide the treatment and programming component of the RTC in alignment with the Integrated Treatment Model with Behavioral Affiliates. In addition, through an RFP process, a 24-bed, five-story facility owned by Bishop’s Creek Community Development Corporation was identified. The facility is located at 4769 N. 32nd Street, Milwaukee.

Over the last few months, several community meetings were held to inform residents about the program, answer any questions and gauge community interest or opposition. The first community meeting was held on August 24 with follow up meetings being held September 27, November 3, 2017 and November 28.

Pending County Board approval of the contract, the licensing process will begin and the expectation is that the hiring and training of the program staff will occur starting in January 2018. The lease will be finalized in mid-January with the expectation that the provider will occupy the building by March 2018. Preliminary training is expected to occur with Dr. Henry Schmidt of Behavioral Affiliates starting in February. The licensing is expected to be completed by the end of April 2018 and the targeted date of operation is May 1, 2018. DCSD plans to gradually transition youth into the RTC and hopes to fill all 24 beds by November 1, 2018.

Please see the tentative timetable below for further details on the progress of the RTC.

**Tentative Timetable**

<b>Residential Treatment Center</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<b>Facility Selection Component</b>	
RFP Released	January 23, 2017
Community Outreach Meetings	August to December 2017
Lease Finalization	January 2018
Building Improvements	January 2018 to March 2018
<b>Treatment/Programming Selection Component</b>	
RFP Released	June 19, 2017
Info Session w/ Dr. Schmidt	July 17-18, 2017
RFP Closes	August 18, 2017
Review of Responses	September 12, 2017
Final Vendor Selection	October 2017
County Board Approval	January 2018
Licensing Process Starts	January 2018 through April 2018
Staff Training	Starts in January 2018
Provider Occupancy	March 2018
Licensing Complete	End of April 2018
Facility Opens	May 1, 2018

**Recommendation**

This report is informational and no action is required.



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 Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director  
 Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive, Chris Abele  
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