

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 13, 2024

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 progress on the implementation of a Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) under Wisconsin Act 185

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 from Milwaukee that have been committed to these facilities via a court order and the type of placement for youth as they transition back home from the correctional facility.

In addition, DHHS is providing an update on the progress on the construction of the Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY). In March 2018, the Wisconsin State Legislature adopted Act 185 paving the way for the development of local alternatives to Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake. Act 185 directs the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake for use as youth correctional facilities by July 1, 2021, and authorizes County-operated SRCCCYs. Under Act 185, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) maintains supervision over youth with adult court sentences and youth in the Serious Juvenile Offender Program (SJOP) within Type 1 facilities, but the supervision of youth under other correctional placements would be transferred to the counties.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Chapter 301; Chapter 938
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BACKGROUND

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	2024
January	11	3	6	3	6	4	1	8	2	1
February	12	8	5	5	1	6	5	9	5	3
March	9	6	3	3	4	2	3	5	2	5
April	14	4	9	3	2	0	3	5	2	5
May	11	7	4	3	3	3	2	1	3	1
June	8	4	5	1	8	7	2	8	7	3
July	7	8	4	3	2	1	4	6	4	1
August	8	4	6	5	5	2	3	4	2	5
September	6	9	5	6	5	3	2	2	2	8
October	8	12	4	8	2	4	2	3	3	3
November	11	5	7	6	5	4	2	2	2	-
December	4	3	13	6	4	4	3	4	4	-
Total	109	73	71	52	47	40	32	57	38	35

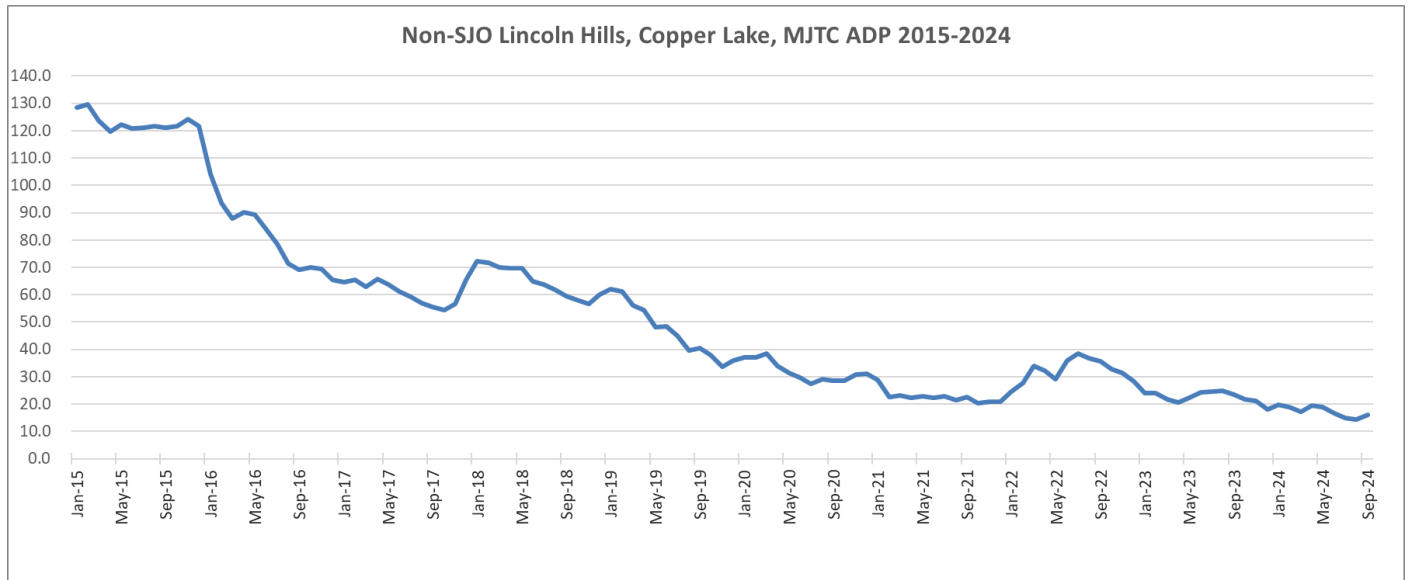
Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

As of November 5, there are a total of 28 boys at Lincoln Hills School (20 youth who are placed on SJO orders and eight youth who are placed on regular DOC commitments), eight youth at Mendota (four youth who are on SJO orders and four youth who are on regular DOC commitment orders) and there are no girls at Copper Lake School.

Milwaukee County is responsible for the supervision and case management for all youth who are in aftercare status and released from corrections that are not in the Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) Program. 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 individualized services in the community including, but not limited to, GPS monitoring for the initial 30 days or more in the community, intensive monitoring and advocacy, restorative programming and clinical services. As of November 5, there were 16 youth on aftercare status back in the community. Of those youth, there are three kids placed in a secure setting (one in the youth detention and two in the Milwaukee County Jail) and there were no kids placed in out of home care treatment programs.

Over the last several years, the average daily population (ADP) of Milwaukee County youth in Lincoln Hills, Copper Lake Schools and MJTC has been falling fairly steadily since 2015 and reflected 16 for September for youth on regular correctional court orders, non-SJO orders.

Please see the chart below:



SRCCCY Development:

This project reflects a 32-bed SRCCCY which provides for a net increase of eight beds from the current Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP). A total of four beds of the 32-bed facility would be dedicated to girls, if needed.

Implementing the SRCCCY here in Milwaukee County will do the following:

- 1) To fulfill the collective goal of creating a local alternative option for Milwaukee County youth to be placed in a safe environment, closer to home.
- 2) To establish a youth justice model that emphasizes emotional regulation, pro-social decision making, enhanced social competencies, and family engagement and creates a safe and secure environment.
- 3) To better control secure placement costs for Milwaukee County youth. Even though the Average Daily Population (ADP) of youth detained in the State facilities has declined dramatically by 87% since 2015, the daily rate has nearly tripled (\$301 to \$1,246) over the last several years with a rate of \$2,305 being proposed by the Department of Corrections in its 2025-2027 State Budget. The ability to control secure placement costs through the establishment of a Milwaukee County SRCCCY will help protect CYFS from the financial impact of these extremely high daily rates.

The project scope includes the following:

- Renovation of the two existing Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) housing units at Vel R. Phillips
- Education – classrooms, teacher support and offices, a computer/learning lab, vocational programming, testing/consultation, and other multi-media activities

- Mental Health, Health, and Dental Care – space in the main building includes space needed to meet all basic physical, mental, and dental health needs, including space if needed for temporary housing of ill youth
- Recreation Space – indoor and outdoor recreation and green space
- Welcome Center, Visitation and Dining - public entry would occur via a welcoming vestibule and include space for family visitation and dining

SRCCCY Progress Update

The construction mobilization for the Milwaukee County Center for Youth began on June 24, 2024, with a groundbreaking ceremony on July 10, 2024. The construction team continues to meet every week for a construction coordination meeting, in which the current construction status is discussed, as well as any concerns or changes and address any questions related to the project. A Construction Monthly Report is also provided to the team, which shows the status update, significant open items, budget status, schedule status and any risk analysis. The project is on track as scheduled with the plan to take owner occupancy by the end of 2025 and accept youth into the program in early 2026.

The SRCCCY programming and transition team also continues to meet on a regular basis to plan for staffing, training, services, and programming transitions and implementation from MCAP to SRCCCY operations. DHHS is also working with Racine County and the DOC to ensure alignment and consistency with DOC 347 and identifying any opportunities to learn and work together across the two counties.

DHHS will continue to update the County Board on any future changes.

Related File No's:	24-60, 24-61, 23-56, 23-57, 22-34, 22-35, 21-28, 21-29, 20-20, 20-21, 19-22, 19-23, 19-236, 18-17, 18-924, 18-545
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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. All 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
Regina Whiyee, Deputy Administrator

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Karl Ashley, Chief Judge
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning 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