

Scott Walker
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Jon E. Litscher
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State of Wisconsin
Department of Corrections
Office Of The Secretary

Héctor Colón
Director
Health & Human Services Administration
Milwaukee County
1220 W. Vliet Street
Milwaukee, WI 53205

June 2, 2016

Dear Mr. Colón,

Thank you for sharing with us your recent informational report to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors regarding your proposed vision for partnership on juvenile justice system reform.

As you know, the Department of Corrections (DOC), including the Division of Juvenile Corrections, is committed to advancing evidence-based practices in adult and juvenile corrections. We are familiar with the research referenced in your report and support the concepts of risk-based intervention, providing services in community settings, investing in prevention and front-end services, data-driven approaches, reducing racial and ethnic disparities, and using research to reduce recidivism by guiding the development of programs and services. We are continually working to leverage available research to improve DOC programs and services to high-risk, high-needs youth who have received a disposition in a secure setting to advance public safety. We are currently reviewing and evaluating potential changes to our service delivery models to improve services to the youth in our care.

The Department of Corrections and Milwaukee County have been communicating regarding the possibility of Milwaukee County assuming responsibility for aftercare of youth released from secure juvenile correctional facilities, pursuant to Wis. Stats. 938.57(4). If Milwaukee County formally chooses to assume responsibility for juvenile aftercare, DOC will work to ensure a smooth transition for these youth. We would be happy to provide additional information about the responsibilities and requirements associated with providing aftercare and interstate compact supervision. Please note that DOC must receive formal notification before July 1, 2016 to enable Milwaukee County to assume responsibility for aftercare in calendar year 2017.


We worked closely with the Department of Children and Families to transition community-based juvenile delinquency services from DOC to DCF and we look forward to a fruitful partnership. However, we believe DOC should maintain responsibility for direct services to youth placed on state correctional orders, including operation of state secure juvenile Type 1 correctional facilities and the provision of aftercare for Serious Juvenile Offenders and counties who have not elected to provide aftercare themselves.

DOC expertise in providing juvenile correctional services would be diminished if these functions were relocated to another agency, because DOC is able to provide specialized training, job opportunities, case management

coordination, utilization of evidence-based practices in addressing criminogenic risks and needs, and information sharing that might be lost if juvenile correctional service functions were moved from DOC.

The Department of Corrections looks forward to driving the conversation to reform Wisconsin's juvenile corrections system to provide opportunities for youth while protecting the public. Additionally, we look forward to continued conversations regarding best practices for juvenile justice and juvenile corrections in close partnerships with community stakeholders and local government. We appreciate your continued dialogue with our department as we work toward improving services to youth, families, and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon E. Litscher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jon E. Litscher
Secretary