

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Department of Health and Human Services
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: January 15, 2013

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by B. Thomas Wanta, Administrator/Chief Intake Officer – DCSD

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Regarding Use of the Juvenile Detention Facility as a Short-Term Dispositional Placement as Allowed by State Statutes

Issue

In July 2012, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorized the implementation of a short-term secure placement program within the Milwaukee County Secure Detention Center - juvenile facility as a dispositional placement option for the circuit courts. This report provides a status update regarding the implementation of this program, known as the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP).

Background

The 2011 – 2013 State Budget (Act 32) contains statutory language changes that would allow a juvenile court the ability to place a youth in a local secure detention facility for a period of up to 180 days, if authorized by a county board of supervisors. In July 2012, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution (File No. 12-564) approving the use of the Secure Detention Center as a post-dispositional placement for a period not to exceed 180 days pursuant to Wisconsin State statute 938.06(5).

The Department of Health and Human Services, Delinquency and Court Services Division, has since proceeded with implementation of the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) as an alternative to State Juvenile Corrections. MCAP provides an opportunity for certain youth to remain close to home instead of being sent to a Juvenile Correctional Institution located in Irma, WI, a 4-hour drive from Milwaukee. This initiative has the potential to save funds in the future by avoiding costly State Corrections placements. The division anticipates a reduction in the cost of Juvenile Correctional Institution placements by \$180,000 in 2013 compared to 2011.

Discussion

In preparation for the implementation of MCAP, the Delinquency and Court Services Division Administrator met with representatives from key stakeholder groups in August 2012, including the Public Defender's office, District Attorney's office, and the judiciary, to educate them about the availability of the MCAP and to discuss the program and referral process. Furthermore,

Presiding Judge, M. Joseph Donald issued a directive (Children's 12-05) on October 2, 2012, ordering that the Children's Court judiciary can order juveniles into the MCAP program on a one year order which uses the Detention Center as a post-dispositional placement option and that the participating juveniles shall have a court review set on the assigned Branch's calendar every 60 days post disposition for the first six months of the order.

The target group is youth (males) who are at risk for State Juvenile Corrections placement. This includes youth currently on court ordered supervision that are at risk for State Juvenile Corrections placement due to violating the conditions of court-ordered supervision or because of a new offense. Youth not currently under supervision who are at risk for State Juvenile Corrections placement for a pending offense may also be considered.

Twelve youth, which is the capacity of the secure placement phase are currently in the MCAP program. The first youth is scheduled for release in mid-March (passes to begin in mid-February).

Youth are initially placed in the Secure Detention Center in a MCAP dedicated pod for up to 5 months followed by a period of aftercare in the community under probation supervision. The youth and his parent/guardian are asked to sign a MCAP agreement consenting to the program requirements.

A Human Service Worker Supervisor has been assigned to oversee the smooth operation of this program. Staffing will take place two times a month to discuss youth's progress in the program.

The key components of the MCAP program are as follows:

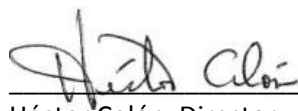
- Education – Wauwatosa Public Schools provides classes in reading & English, math, social studies, science, physical education/health and art. Credit recovery will be available to certain participants through completing virtual courses on the computer. These courses, if not completed, may be continued upon release at Running Rebels Community Organization. Credits earned are transferable to the child's local school district. The school provides weekly progress reports to the probation officer.
- Juvenile Cognitive Intervention Programming (JCIP) – Running Rebels Community Organization runs groups each week-day morning for one hour in the secure detention facility. JCIP is continued with the Running Rebels monitors in the community upon the youth's release. These groups are designed to help youth change their thought process in order to make better choices.
- Targeted Monitoring – Participants are assigned to a monitor from Running Rebels Community Organization. The monitor provides weekly reports to the probation officer.

- Family Counseling – All MCAP participants are expected to participate in weekly counseling sessions using providers in Children’s Court Services Network. These sessions include parents/guardians when possible.
- AODA Education & Counseling - Alcohol & drug abuse counseling is provided monthly by La Causa, Inc. to help participants understand the effects of substance abuse.
- Restorative Justice – Groups will be provided to help youth build a sense of community within the program, examine their behavior, and learn new skills. Detention staff and other providers will be trained in the first quarter of 2013 in an established Restorative Justice curriculum.
- Electronic Monitoring – GPS monitoring will be required during home passes (month 4) and upon initial release to the community. The division is in the process of entering into an agreement with JusticePoint to provide these services. Training will be provided in February 2013.
- 72-Hour Hold – Youth on aftercare status will be subject to holds in secure detention for investigation of any alleged violations of the rules of their supervision.

The division continues to monitor implementation of the program and make adjustments as necessary. Additional program components are being explored as needs are identified for future implementation.

Recommendation

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

- cc:
- County Executive Chris Abele
 - Raisa Koltun, County Executive’s Office
 - Kelly Bablich, County Board
 - Patrick Farley, Director, DAS
 - Craig Kammholtz, Fiscal & Budget Administrator, DAS
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