

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: March 22, 2019

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

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by David Muhammad, Deputy Director, DHHS & Clare O'Brien, Sr Budget Analyst

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization of Milwaukee County's youth justice system reform priorities**

Background

Over the past few years, the County Executive and Milwaukee County Board have been working with key stakeholders to address the crisis at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake, juvenile correctional facilities operated by the State of Wisconsin, and have embraced policies surrounding the creation of a local alternative option for Milwaukee County youth to be placed in a safe environment, closer to home.

In March 2018, the Wisconsin State Legislature adopted Act 185 which directs the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake for use as youth correctional facilities by January 1, 2021, with counties assuming responsibility for operating Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs).

While DHHS believes these changes will move the needle closer to achieving reform of the youth justice system, more efforts are needed on the front end so that a young person doesn't have to get into trouble to get help.

Discussion

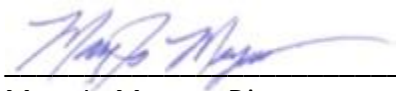
The attached PowerPoint slide deck will be presented to committee members. It describes the legislative agenda being proposed by DHHS in seeking youth justice reform.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize its Legislative Liaison for the Office of Government Affairs to communicate Milwaukee County's youth justice reform priorities contained in the accompanying resolution to State policymakers, agency staff, and others to help effectuate these policy directives.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of the resolution has no fiscal impact. A fiscal note is attached.



Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment (1)

- cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Hon. Maxine A. White, Chief Judge
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
County Supervisor Sequanna Taylor
County Supervisor Supreme Moore-Omokunde
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lisa Wozny, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office