

# Youth Justice Reform

## Legislative Agenda

Milwaukee County Department of Health & Human Services

Division of Youth & Family Services

March 2019

# Mission

To reduce racial disparities and improve the overall health and well-being for our youth who touch the youth justice system. We hope to accomplish this by reforming the way we do business. Our primary goal is not to build a facility but rather meet the timelines of Act 185 so that our youth return to their communities as soon as possible.



Does a young person  
have to get into trouble to  
get help?



# Reinforce Front-End By:

- Strengthening Continuum of Services
  - Increased investment in Prevention & Diversion
- Building Communities
  - Requires coordination of services with community agencies
  - Access to mental health & substance abuse services
- Emphasizing support and connectedness, including connectedness to community, family, pro-social peers, and school<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence (July 2014). Centers for Disease Control.

# A NEW APPROACH



Click on Tools, Sign, and Comment to access additional features.



**DHHS** | Department of Health & Human Services

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## MILWAUKEE COUNTY ACT 185 YOUTH CENTER MODEL

### OUR MISSION

To reduce racial disparities and improve the overall health and well-being of our youth who touch the juvenile justice system. **Our primary goal is not to build a facility but rather to safely return our youth to their communities as soon as possible.**

### COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES THAT ADDRESS NEEDS AND REDUCE RISK

#### Diversion Alternatives

Focus on restorative justice

#### Community Supervision

Focus on engagement, positive youth development, family support, credible messengers and pro-social skill building

#### Intensive Community Monitoring

and engagement, when necessary

Focus on prevention to keep young people out of the justice system

- Wraparound Services
- Disability Services
- Mental health/ACDA services
- Coordination with community agencies
- Housing

### PLACEMENT OUT OF THE HOME ONLY WHEN NECESSARY FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY.



**NON-SECURE RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT**  
Bakari House



**SECURE RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENT**  
Secured Residential Care Centers for Children & Youth (SRCCCY)(Future)



**SERIOUS JUVENILE OFFENDER PROGRAM**  
State of Wisconsin DOC Type 1 Facility (Future)



**AT HOME IN THE COMMUNITY**

#### UPON RETURN HOME:

- Aftercare
- Robust transition plans
- Work, school, and family supports



# Why this approach?



# Research

- 70% to 80% of young people in secure facilities are rearrested within 2 to 3 years after release<sup>1</sup>
- 64% of male youth released from a Wisconsin juvenile correction facility committed a new crime within 3 years after release<sup>2</sup>
- Youth with friends exhibiting anti-social behavior at higher risk of harm to others<sup>3</sup>
- Experiencing one form of violence creates higher risk of encountering more violence<sup>3</sup>
- 2012 Philadelphia Urban Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study indicates services needed to address unique urban environmental stressors to prevent trauma
  - Correlation found between ACE & risky health behaviors

<sup>1</sup>Mendel, R.A. (2010). *The Missouri Model: Reinventing the Practice of Rehabilitation Youthful Offenders*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.; <sup>2</sup>State of Wisconsin Dept of Corrections (May 2015). *Division of Juvenile Corrections 2014 Annual Report.*; <sup>3</sup>Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence (July 2014). Centers for Disease Control.

# Prevention Recommendations



- Establishment of Formal Mentoring Network
  - Deploy Credible Messengers – individuals with lived experience who can mentor young people by connecting them to resources
- Empower young people by establishing strategies for community building & leadership development
- Strengthening after care, transition & reintegration





# Milwaukee County Act 185 Youth Center Model



# Qualities of a Successful Model

- Staff to Youth Ratio = 1:5
- Highly trained & experienced staff
  - Background in therapy/mentoring vs corrections
- Education Program
- Integrated Treatment & Positive Youth Development Model
- Safe & Secure Living & Learning Environment

# Estimated Cost

Assumed # of Beds: 40

## Construction Budget

Category	Cost
Non-Construction (planning, real estate acquisition)	\$533,462
Hard Construction	\$23,000,000
Vel Phillips MCAP Renovation	\$6,500,000
FF&E	\$1,760,000
Fees & General Conditions	\$5,390,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,183,462</b>
Estimated Start Up	\$2,000,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$39,183,462</b>



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## Annual Operating Budget

Category	Annual Cost
Personnel	\$6,901,619
Outside Contractual <sup>1</sup>	\$2,968,248
Programming	\$1,537,760
Commodities/Supplies	\$275,204
Admin & Support	\$143,672
Facilities	\$588,263
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,414,766</b>
One-time Start up	\$1,513,907
<b>Grand Total w/Start up</b>	<b>\$13,928,672</b>
2019 Budget for DOC Orders	\$9,998,445
<b>Estimated Gap</b>	<b>\$3,930,227</b>

<sup>1</sup>Reflects medical, mental health, MJTC \$588 daily rate (Gov Budget) & food service.

# Youth Aids



- Act 185 Bonus Funding Capped at \$750,000
- No other funding provided for SRCCCY ongoing operating costs (other than net operating loss for girls-only facility)
- Milwaukee County's estimated operating funding gap = \$2.4 million & one-time start-up of \$1.5 million



# Milwaukee County's Request

- Increase Youth Aids funding to cover \$2.4 million funding gap & \$1.5 million start-up for SRCCCY estimated operating costs
- Cover 100% of design & construction, real estate acquisition & start-up costs
- Seek approval from State and federal governments to allow secure detention facilities & SRCCCY to access Medicaid funding for treatment & services
- Maintain original 1/1/2021 closure date of Lincoln Hills