

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: October 10, 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: Mark Mertens, Division of Youth & Family Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on the Department of Corrections-Division of Juvenile Corrections**

Background

Since December 2015, key partners, including the County Executive, County Board of Supervisors, Chief Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director, Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) Administrator, Wraparound Milwaukee Director, and other involved parties have been meeting to formulate a plan to address the crisis at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools and ensure the safety of youth. DHHS has been providing regular updates on the status of the State-operated Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls. This report provides a follow up on the number of youth committed to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC)-Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) and the type of placement for the youth.

Discussion

DHHS would like to update the County Board on incidences which occurred at Lincoln Hills at the end of September. DYFS was notified on October 2, 2019 regarding the incidences that occurred earlier that week. On Thursday, October 3, DYFS staff participated in a conference call with Lori McAllister, Deputy Superintendent of Lincoln Hills School, to gather more information.

Ms. McAllister stated that there were a series of fights that occurred over a two-day period (09/27/2019 and 09/28/2019) and one isolated incident on 09/30/2019. All of these fights were unrelated. Assistance from Stanley Correctional was requested because Lincoln Hills staff were injured. The Stanley Correctional staff did not have any physical contact with the youth. As a result of the altercations, there were two youth from Milwaukee that received minor injuries (abrasions to a young man's elbow and inside of a young man's mouth) that were treated on site by the Lincoln Hills medical team. There were 22 youth involved overall and 10 of these were Milwaukee County youth. Up to 10 new charges are still pending.

On October 8, Wraparound sent five clinicians to Lincoln Hills to meet with the youth involved and the youth positively received the Wraparound staff and requested additional visits. Wraparound staff will be visiting the youth again next week. In addition, DYFS contacted each of the young person's parents and guardians to notify them of the incidents and Wraparound is in the process of contacting them to provide an update about the Wraparound visit. Finally, DYFS/Wrap staff is working with the State to obtain the records and reports regarding the incidences.

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	2016	2017	2018	2019
January	3	6	3	6
February	8	5	5	1
March	6	3	3	4
April	4	9	3	2
May	7	4	3	3
June	4	5	1	8
July	8	4	3	2
August	4	6	5	5
September	9	5	6	5
October	12	4	8	
November	5	7	6	
December	3	13	6	

Of the youth that were ordered to the DJC in September 2019, one youth was a 15-year-old white male, two youth were 16-year-old African American males, one was a 15-year-old African American male, and one was a 17-year-old African American male.

Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

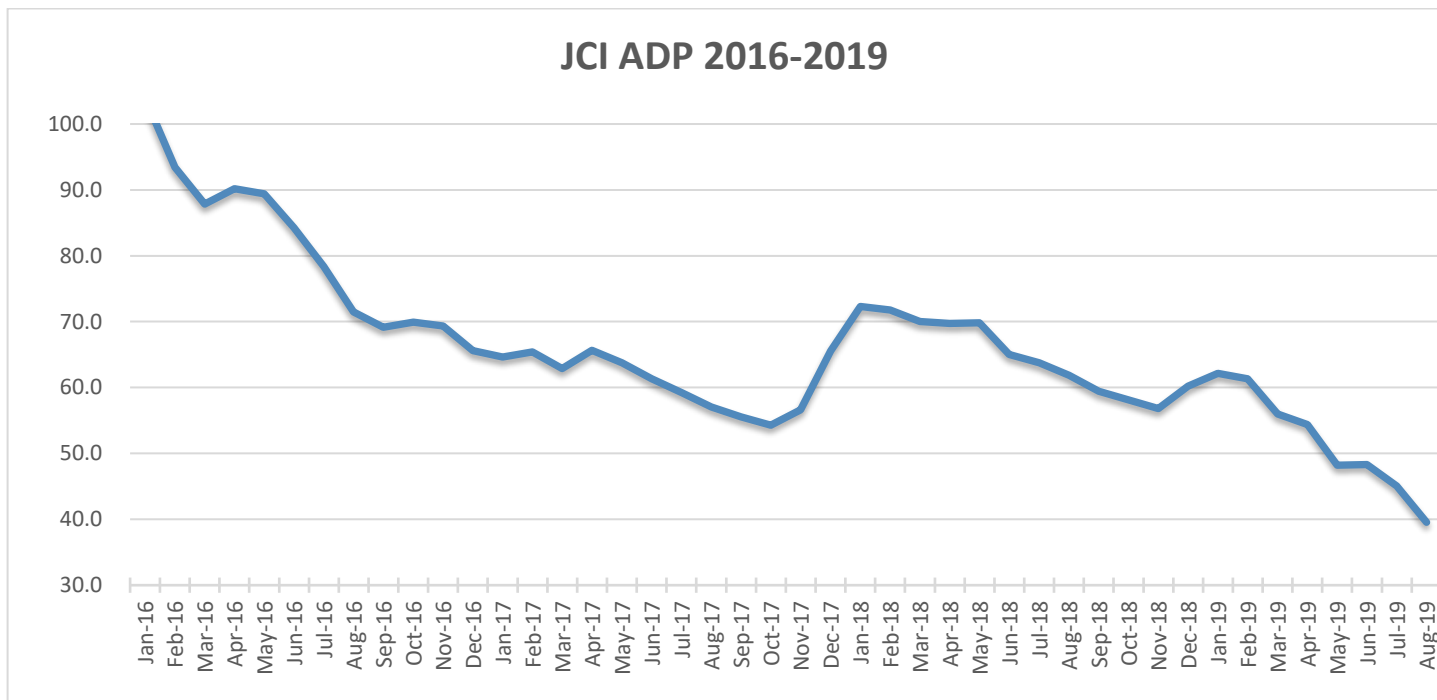
As of October 4, 2019, there were a total of 50 boys at Lincoln Hills (17 on Serious Juvenile Offender Orders and 33 on regular DOC commitments). There were four girls at Copper Lake (one on Serious Juvenile Offender Order and three on regular DOC commitments). There were six youth at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (three on a Serious Juvenile Offender Order and three on regular DOC commitments).

Milwaukee County took over the Aftercare supervision from the State of Wisconsin effective July 1, 2017 for all non-Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) youth. All DOC-DJC youth placed in the community were assigned to a DYFS Human Service Worker who is providing supervision and case management for the kids and their families. The youth are all receiving appropriate services in the community to include, but not limited to, GPS monitoring for the initial 30 days or more in the community, intensive monitoring, clinical services, etc.

As of October 3, 2019, there were 21 youth who were on Aftercare status. Of those youth, 13 were placed in-home, three in secure detention, one in the Lincoln County Jail, and two were placed out-of-

home in a higher level of care. At the time of this report, two youth were currently missing, and Capias/apprehension requests have been issued for both.

The current average daily population (ADP) of Milwaukee County youth in Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools (excluding youth in the SJO Program under a state commitment) has fallen from 104 to 39.5 from January 2016 to August 2019. Please see the chart below:



Recommendation

This report is informational, and no action is required.

Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

- cc: County Executive Chris Abele
- Hon. Maxine A. White, Chief Judge
- Raisa Koltun, County Executive’s Office
- Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller’s Office
- Joshua Scott, Budget Analyst – DAS
- Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller’s Office