



To: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
James "Luigi" Schmidt, Chairman, Committee on Finance and Audit
Anthony Staskunas, Chairman, Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services

From: Mandy Potapenko, Director, Milwaukee Community Justice Council

Date: November 5, 2019

RE: Response to Milwaukee County Budget Amendment Citing Milwaukee Community Justice Council Input on Proposed Changes to House of Correction Huber Release and Electronic Monitoring Policies

Background:

Created by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in 2007, the [Milwaukee \(County\) Community Justice Council](#) (CJC) brings together local criminal justice agencies, governments, and community partners to work collaboratively to ensure a fair, efficient and effective justice system that enhances public safety and quality of life in our community. In its 12-year existence, the CJC has been a catalyst for demonstrable improvements within Milwaukee County's criminal justice system and has been nationally recognized for the strength of collaboration and evidence-based systems change accomplished. The formal application of evidence-based policy-formation and decision-making began through a partnership with the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) in 2010. It was through this initiative that Milwaukee County introduced validated risk assessment tools, universal screening, and a robust continuum of alternative prosecution and court supervision programs. Because of this experience, the EBDM Policy Team within the Milwaukee Community Justice Council is well-positioned to thoughtfully examine the House of Correction's proposed transition of Huber-eligible inmates to electronic monitoring.

Request:

The CJC supports a collaborative, data-driven, evidence-informed approach to public safety policy and the utilization of criminal justice resources. Before the closure of any Milwaukee County House of Correction dorms, a collaborative implementation plan is needed to ensure this expansion is completed safely and supported by our CJC partners. The CJC and its subcommittees serve as a space for criminal justice system stakeholders and community partners to meet, discuss, and work through challenges and/or potential policy changes that impact other partners within the system. Upon learning of the House of Correction's proposed policy changes, members of the CJC have assembled a series of discussions to examine the implications of this policy change through an evidence-based lens and in alignment with national best-practices. To date, these discussions have yielded promising progress; however, additional time and data from the House of Correction is needed to reach a definitive implementation plan. I look forward to working with all partners in this matter.

Mandy J. Potapenko

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Director, Milwaukee Community Justice Council

Cc: Milwaukee Community Justice Council Executive Committee Chair – Maxine White
Milwaukee Community Justice Council Vice-Chair – Tom Reed
House of Correction Superintendent – Michael Hafemann
County Executive – Chris Abele
County Executive Chief of Staff – Raisa Koltun