

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: March 4, 2020

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

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	2020
January	3	6	3	6	4
February	8	5	5	1	5
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	2	
November	5	7	6	5	
December	3	13	6	4	
Total	73	71	52	47	9

Of the youth that were ordered to the DJC in February 2020, two are on regular DJC court orders and three are on Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) orders. Of the five youth, one youth is a 13-year-old African American male, two youth are 16-year-old African American males, and the other two youth are 17-year-old African American males.

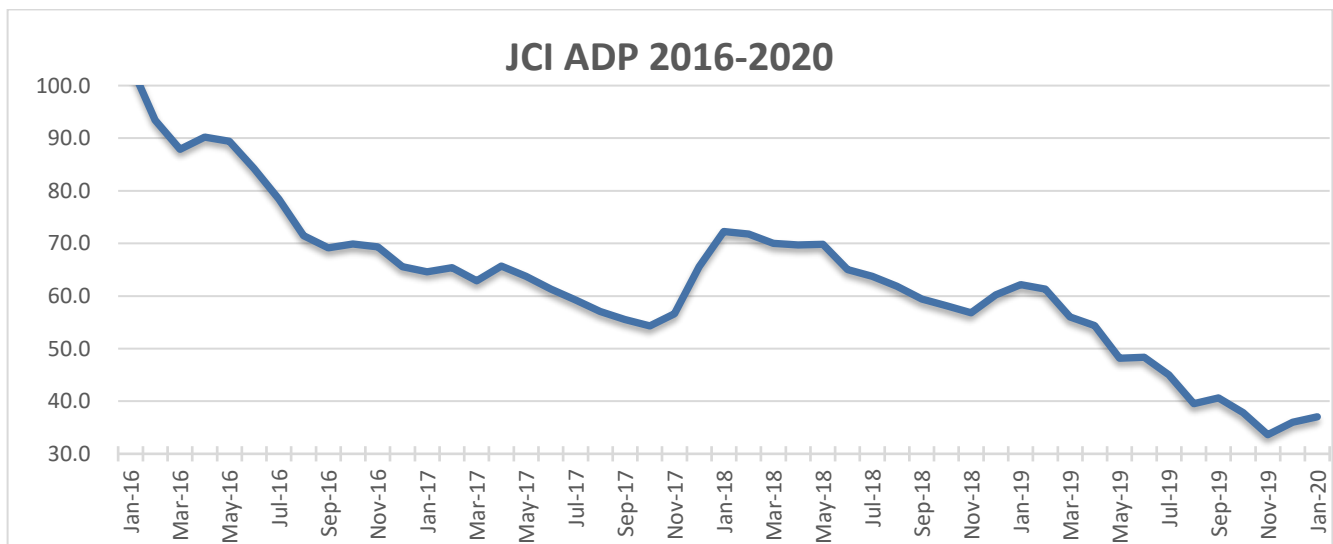
Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

As of March 3, 2020, there were a total of 52 boys at Lincoln Hills (21 on SJO orders and 31 on regular DOC commitments). There were four girls at Copper Lake (one on an SJO order and three on regular DOC commitments). There were nine youth at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (four on SJO orders and five on regular DOC commitments).

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

As of February 28, 2020, there were 14 youth on Aftercare in the community. Of those youth, five were placed in-home, one in Secure Detention, one in the Criminal Justice Facility, and one out-of-home. As of the time of this report, six youth were currently missing, and Capias/apprehension requests had been issued.

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 37 from January 2016 to January 2020. 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
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