

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: April 20, 2020

TO: Chairperson, 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	6
March	6	3	3	4	2
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	12

Of the youth that were ordered to the DJC in March 2020, both are on regular DJC court orders and none on Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) orders. Both youth are 15-year-old African American males.

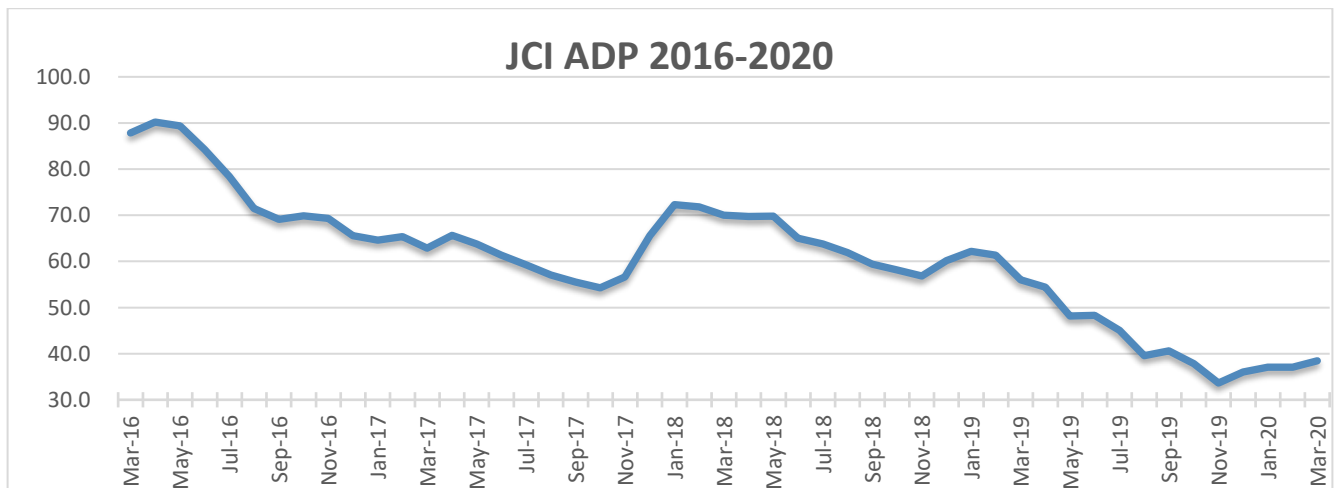
Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

As of April 16, 2020, there were a total of 46 boys at Lincoln Hills (19 on SJO orders and 27 on regular DOC commitments). There were two girls at Copper Lake (two on regular DOC commitments). There were ten youth at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (five 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 April 15, 2020, there were 15 youth on Aftercare in the community. Of those youth, eight were placed in-home and three in Secure Detention. As of the time of this report, four 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 steadily from 2016 to the current reporting period. The ADP for March is 38.5. Please see the chart below:



Recommendation

This report is informational, and no action is required.

Note for Virtual Meeting Invites: This report will be presented at the Health & Human Needs Committee. Please send agenda-setting and HHN meeting invitations to: Mary Jo Meyers and Mark Mertens. Thank you.



Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

- cc: Hon. Maxine A. White, Chief Judge
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller’s Office
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst – DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller’s Office