

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: July 9, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Division of Youth & Family Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **An informational report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on the Department of 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	0
May	7	4	3	3	1
June	4	5	1	8	4
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	17

Of the youth that were ordered to the DJC in June 2020, three are on regular DJC court orders and one is on a Serious Juvenile Offender (SJO) order. Of the four youth, one youth is a 15-year-old African American male, one youth is a 16-year-old African American male, and the other two youth are 17-year-old African American males.

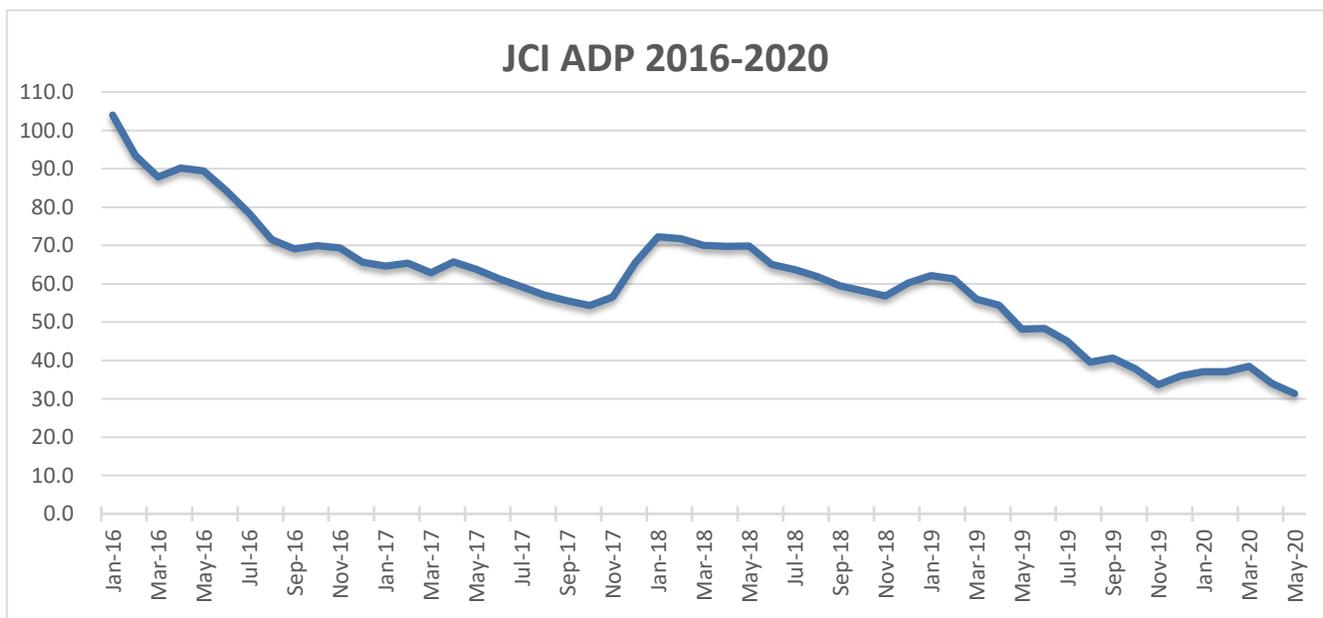
Type of placement with the Division of Juvenile Corrections

As of July 6, 2020, there were a total of 38 boys at Lincoln Hills (17 on SJO orders and 21 on regular DOC commitments). There were two girls at Copper Lake (two on regular DOC commitments). There were eight youth at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (five on SJO orders 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-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 July 2, 2020, there were 14 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, three 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 May is 31. Please see the chart below:



Proposed Project Manager for the Zero Youth Corrections Initiative

DYFS is in the process of securing private foundation funding for a Project Manager position to oversee all of the Division strategies aimed at reducing the Milwaukee County committed (non-SJO) youth population at Lincoln Hills School, Copper Lake School, and the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center to zero by July 1, 2021. The Project Manager will report directly to the Division Administrator and will have the following responsibilities:

- Manage and facilitate the division's efforts in achieving racial equity and eliminating racial disparities within the youth justice system.
- Work with department and division staff, justice system stakeholders, youth and their families, community members, and providers to develop and produce a Zero Youth Corrections Road Map for Milwaukee County.
- Manage and direct the efforts of the "Zero In" and "All Out" work teams.
- Collaborate with other division leaders on efforts to implement the five current strategies to reduce correctional placements:
 - Expansion of community-based programming alternatives
 - Develop a continuum of care between the Bakari Residential Care Center and the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP)
 - Develop alternatives to revocation
 - Exercise the policy levers developed in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey Foundation
 - Re-invest cost savings into community-based alternatives
- Lead community outreach efforts for the Division, including the establishment of participatory budgeting.
- Serve as a liaison and resource for smaller community-based youth advocacy agencies, especially those that are minority led, with the aim of expanding their influence and capacity.
- Design and manage a Zero Youth Corrections dashboard that's accessible to the public.
- Manage and direct the division's efforts to develop supportive adult programming for youth:
 - Oversee the recruitment of mentors and Credible Messengers
 - Oversee family finding efforts
 - Oversee efforts to achieve the goal of establishing or identifying at least one durable, positive, pro-social adult relationship for every youth who enters our system
 - Establish and monitor outcomes for supportive adult programming

In September, the board of directors of the private foundation will consider a recommendation to fund this position for two years. Given the urgency of the work, DHHS has also submitted a request to the County Board for consideration in the September cycle to create this position.

Recommendation

This report is informational, and no action is required.

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Interim Director

Department of Health and Human Services & Department on Aging

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Mary E. Triggiano, Chief Judge
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