

AGENDA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AD HOC COMMITTEE

DATE: March 6, 2018

TIME: 12:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Wood County Human Services Department Room 231A, 2nd Floor, River Block, Wisconsin Rapids

Call meeting to order.

1. Public comments.
2. Approve minutes of the previous meeting.
3. Presentation on Alternative Response by Wood County Family Services Administrator.
4. Task Report from Family Services
5. Discussion of Out of Home Placement in the areas of Ongoing Family Services Unit's use of Group Homes and Residential Treatment Facilities.
6. Assign tasks, if any, to be assigned between meetings.
7. Set date, time, and location of the next meeting.
8. Agenda items for next meeting.
9. Adjourn.

HHS Ad Hoc Committee on Out of Home Care Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 16, 2018

TIME: 1:00pm

PLACE: Wood County River Block, Health Dept EOC

PRESENT: Adam Fischer, Brad Kremer, Lori Slattery-Smith, Dawn Schmutzer, Tim McNaughton, Brandon Vruwink, Tom Buttke.

EXCUSED: Beth Ferdon

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Clendenning, Stephanie Wanserski, Doug Machon, Jodi Liegl

Meeting called to order at 1:01pm by Chairman Fischer.

Public Comment: Chairman Fischer noted that the Governor has announced the closing of Lincoln Hills youth prison. He met with Rep Kulp & Spiros and they noted the date may be moved from 2019 to 2018 for the closure and transition to an adult prison.

Minutes: motion by Buttke to approve minutes, second by Slattery-Smith. All ayes. Note: minutes for the Ad Hoc meetings will not be in the Supervisors dropbox, they will only be available on the County website.

Review data collected: Discussion of survey data presented. Respondents were 26 of the 38 Family Services staff. Discussion around AODA services (cost, waiting list, willingness to use services provided) in regards to youth and parents occurred. Discussion around treatment vs prevention: barriers, mentoring, parental training, therapy, skill building, what workers need to be successful, lack of structure and socialization, peer pressure. Reasons for out of home placement reviewed. Basic overview of Alternative Response Model given by Brandon. Partnering with others within Wood County, such as YMCA, Boys & Girls Club and faith based entities within the community.

Assign tasks: Research what the Alternative Response Model would look like for Wood County. Research how the closing of Lincoln Hills will affect the county; how will regional correction centers be utilized by county. Research what education, coaching and mentoring of youth and parents looks like now and what it could be changed into.

Motion: Kremer made motion for HHSC recommendation, seconded by Buttke: Mentoring of youth and parents is a major concern and needs to be addressed.

Next meeting: February 20, 2018 at 12pm (noon) in the Health Dept EOC room at River Block.

Agenda items: review of all data provided, Alternative Response Model.

Adjourned: meeting was adjourned at 2:53pm.

Recorder: Dawn Schmutzer

HHS Ad Hoc Committee on Out of Home Care Meeting

January 16, 2018

Motion: Kremer made motion for HHSC recommendation, seconded by Buttke: Mentoring of youth and parents is a major concern and needs to be addressed.

4

**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:
CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES ALTERNATIVE RESPONSE
PILOT PROGRAM**

What is Alternative Response?

Alternative Response is an approach to child protective services (CPS) that is family focused and strengths-based in supporting child and family well-being. Key principles to an alternative CPS response approach are:

- Child safety is the first goal of intervention;
- Families are fully informed about the child protective services process and the legal rights of parents and children are protected throughout the case process;
- Parents have primary responsibility and are primary resources for their children;
- Families and communities are responsible for assuring that children are safe and protected;
- Families natural supports are included in the intervention process;
- Interventions are based on family needs rather than service driven;
- Case planning is a collaborative, team process that is based on the strengths and needs of families; and
- Services are community based and culturally responsive.

Nationally, there is increased concern that the traditional investigative response to child maltreatment reports is inflexible and adversarial. While this approach is usually viewed as intrusive intervention, it is used effectively to gather evidence in serious cases of child maltreatment to support a court case. An alternative response approach typically delineates two separate pathways or responses to CPS reports: an investigation and an assessment response. Some states also employ a third pathway that serves cases through the provision of community services when a report is identified as not meeting the state's criteria for abuse or neglect.

Initial pathway assignment depends on an array of factors (e.g., presence of imminent danger, level of risk, the number of previous reports, the source of the report, and/or presenting case characteristics such as type of alleged maltreatment and age of the alleged victim). Initial pathway assignment can change based on new information that alters safety threats or levels of risk. Reports assigned to receive an alternative CPS response are CPS cases and are to receive the same prompt and active attention as a traditional investigative response. These are not low priority cases; rather they can just be served more effectively in a supportive, collaborative approach.

The purpose of the program is to allow the development of improved procedures for the response to reports of child maltreatment. National data for existing alternative response models shows that for lower to moderate risk cases, a non-adversarial, non-threatening family assessment approach enhances parental engagement and increases the likelihood of voluntary participation in services; when parents feel less under CPS surveillance and experience less stigma, they typically engage more positively in the change process.

4

A central tenet of alternative response is that many children and families that come to the attention of CPS are better served using a supportive and collaborative approach that focuses on strengths and needs of a family and is free of the constraints and stigma of an investigation. By redesigning the ways in which CPS responds to screened-in reports of alleged child maltreatment, an alternative response approach may create more flexibility for agencies and their staff in identifying and addressing family needs.

Introduction to an Alternative CPS Response in Wisconsin: Pilot Program

While in Wisconsin all CPS cases require a comprehensive assessment in order to assure that children are safe and protected, not all cases need a maltreatment and maltreater determination for the family to receive services. In fact, these determinations may interfere with service provision by creating an atmosphere that feels adversarial for families.

To develop the most appropriate, most effective, and least intrusive response to reports of child abuse or neglect, the legislature has authorized a pilot of an alternative response approach to child protective services in a limited number of counties. The legislature specifically identified Milwaukee as one of the pilot program sites and has authorized a maximum of four additional county departments to pilot an alternative response child protection services program.

In implementing an alternative response approach, current CPS policy will need to be adapted to fully support the two pathways to child protective services. Most states that have introduced an alternative response approach to their CPS system have historically employed an investigative response only. In Wisconsin, we have combined both types of responses since 1994 to CPS cases. Wisconsin's current approach already requires a comprehensive initial assessment process that focuses on family strengths and needs. Therefore, policy for the pilot will need to carefully define requirements for both tracks from the time a report is received by the agency through case closure. Additionally, guidance will be needed related to interview protocols and documentation requirements. With the exception of maltreatment and maltreater determinations, the "Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards" currently support the basic tenets of an alternative response approach.

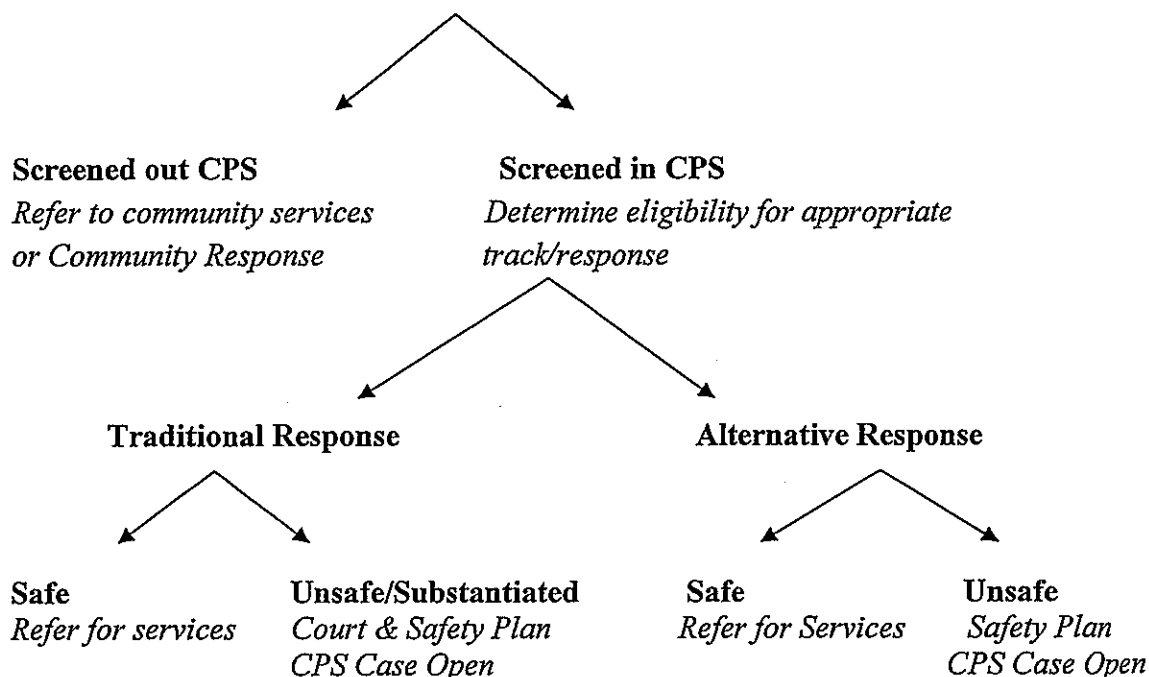
Overview of Wisconsin's Proposed Alternative Response Approach

The pilot program will use three responses/tracks and pilot sites will be expected to implement practice that responds to CPS reports based on the screening decision:

1. Screened out CPS: Referral to Community Services or Community Response Program
2. Screened in CPS: Alternative CPS Response
3. Screened in CPS: Traditional CPS Response

Pilot Site Case Process Flow chart

Report of Alleged Child Maltreatment



Referral to Community Services or Community Response Program

A referral to community services is used when the CPS agency receives a report of possible child maltreatment, but after information is gathered by the Access worker the agency determines that it does not meet state criteria for abuse or neglect or threatened harm. These are situations, however, where the family is experiencing problems or stress that could be addressed by community supports or services. The CPS agency screens-out the report, refers the family to the appropriate community resources, and is no longer involved with the family. For agencies that have a Community Response Program

Alternative CPS Response

This response is used when the CPS agency receives a report of alleged child maltreatment and after information is gathered the report is screened-in because it meets the criteria found in the "Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards" for child maltreatment. The types of allegations, however, are less severe than those in the Traditional CPS Response track and are less likely to warrant court intervention. In addition, CPS does not make a maltreatment or maltreater determination.

An *Alternative CPS response* is a comprehensive assessment of child safety, risk concerns, and parent/caregiver protective capacities resulting in a conclusion of whether a child and family is in need of services. The CPS role in the *Alternative CPS response* is

4

to assess child safety and collaborate with parents and formal and informal supports to assure children are safe by enhancing parent/caregiver protective capacities so that children are protected without further CPS intervention. This type of response interview protocol typically begins with the entire family rather than the child.

Traditional CPS Response

This response is used when the CPS agency receives a report of alleged child maltreatment and after information is gathered the report is screened-in because it meets the criteria found in the "Child Protective Services Access and Initial Assessment Standards" for child maltreatment. The allegations are serious in nature and the investigation will likely result in juvenile or criminal court action. CPS does make a maltreatment determination and may make a maltreater determination when using the Investigation Response.

The *Traditional CPS response* is a fact/evidence gathering process resulting in a determination of whether child maltreatment occurred and child protective services are needed. The CPS role is to conduct forensic interviews as well as collaborate with law enforcement, the district attorney's office, and the medical community. In addition, CPS assesses child safety and collaborates with parents and formal and informal supports to assure children are safe by enhancing parent/caregiver protective capacities so that children are protected without further CPS intervention.

Reassignment of Cases

In an alternative response system, families may be switched to a different response if it is determined the original track assignment is not correct and employing a different approach is warranted to achieve the desired outcome with a family. This decision is made in consultation and approval of the CPS supervisor. This typically involves circumstances where if the family situation had been fully known at the time the agency received and screened the CPS report, a different family response decision would have been made.

Competitive Award Process

The Department will use an RFP type process, similar to that used for the Mental Health Screening Tool pilot, to select the additional pilot sites.

Pilot sites will also be required to participate in evaluation, including but not limited to collecting and providing data related to the impact and effectiveness of the alternative response pilot program. The evaluation will include an assessment of implementation issues encountered, as well as the overall operation of the alternative response program and recommendations for improvement.

Parent and Youth Mentoring at Wood County

Our mentoring/ coaching programs include the services offered by the Family Resource Coordinators and the Case workers for each case. Mentoring and coaching services include assessing each person's individual needs and using educational videos and other material as well as 1:1 meetings to assist parents and youth in interpreting the material and applying it to their lives. This material can involve parenting strategies with certain age groups of children, budgeting, maintaining a home, time management, emotional regulation, problem solving, child development and child discipline. Family Resource Coordinators typically meet with parents and/ or teens and assist them in gaining insights needed to make changes and to apply the information to their life situation. The goal is to build the skills needed to change whatever factors led them to become a recipient of our services, so that the family no longer needs us.

What we have found is that these services are very effective when offered with the 1:1 coaching model, but not nearly as effective if we use just the presenting of educational material. Many of our recipients lack the basic life skills in the above areas which hold them back in developing more effective parenting and in improving their life situations. The skills which we learned from parents, grandparents and extended family were not part of their background, sometimes for many generations. In order to break the cycle of abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency we need to provide some very basic skill building that seems intuitive to those of us with more supportive backgrounds.

We are hoping to provide more of the 1:1 coaching / mentoring services with more Family Resource Coordinator positions so that we can prevent further incidents, reducing recidivism and out of home placement. Research has shown that the determining factor in a person's ability to make changes is not the quality of the educational material, nor is it the credential of the professional. The determining factor has been shown to be the quality of the relationship between the recipient and the provider. Therefore we want to equip our staff to develop high quality supportive relationships with children, youth and families. This will mean educating them in Trauma Focused Care as many recipients have extensive trauma histories and in working to correct errors in thinking (criminal thinking patterns).

By providing this type of service we hope to get "ahead of the curve" and start preventing incidents and out of home placements before they occur or being able to have children remain in the community as their family problems are being addressed.



SCOTT WALKER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 4, 2018

Contact: Tom Evenson, (608) 266-2839

Governor Walker Announces Plan to Provide a Long-Term Solution for Wisconsin's Juvenile Corrections and Treatment Systems

MADISON – Governor Scott Walker today announced a plan to provide a long-term solution for Wisconsin's juvenile corrections and treatment systems following extensive discussions with state and local officials, the judicial system, and stakeholders. The plan significantly reforms juvenile corrections by moving from a system of one facility to five smaller, regional facilities located across the state and expanding Wisconsin's internationally recognized juvenile treatment program for offenders with mental health challenges at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC) in Madison.

"By moving from one facility to several facilities across the state, and placing a focus on mental health and trauma-informed care, we believe this plan will improve long-term outcomes for both juveniles and our staff working at these facilities," Governor Walker said. "Republicans and Democrats alike agree this is the way forward to reform juvenile corrections, and I thank state and local elected officials and interested organizations for partnering with us to develop this plan."

Governor Walker's plan will:

- Reform Wisconsin's juvenile corrections and treatment systems to align with nationally recognized best practices. The plan transforms Wisconsin's juvenile corrections system from one facility to five smaller, regional facilities located across the state. The plan also expands the state's internationally recognized juvenile treatment program for youth with mental health needs at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center.
- Continue Wisconsin's focus on enhancing mental health and treatment outcomes in close collaboration with families, courts, and Wisconsin counties.
- Require the DOC to relocate juveniles at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools (LHS/CLS) to five new Type I juvenile correctional facilities and one new juvenile mental health facility.

- The correctional facilities will each consist of 32 to 36 beds with staffing ratios consistent with requirements in the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and will be sited regionally based on population density.
 - At least one correctional facility will be located north of a line between Manitowoc and La Crosse.
- Transition the existing facility at LHS/CLS to a medium-security adult correctional facility with the cooperation of Lincoln County. This will maintain and potentially even expand the number of jobs in Lincoln County. The addition of this new adult facility will likely reduce DOC's utilization of contract beds to house adult male inmates. The new facility will also increase DOC's treatment capacity for inmates with assessed Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) treatment needs.
- Require DOC to make employment opportunities available for LHS/CLS staff at the new adult facility in Lincoln County or one of the new juvenile facilities.
- Require the Department of Health Services (DHS) to expand treatment services at the MJTC, serving more male juveniles as early as fall 2018, and creating a facility at MJTC to treat female juveniles with mental health needs. MJTC is internationally renowned for its treatment program, which was built from the ground up here in Wisconsin. Data shows significantly improved outcomes for juveniles who participated in treatment at MJTC.
- Require DOC and DHS to include the costs of converting and operating these new facilities in their 2019-21 agency budget requests. Funding will be provided in the Governor's 2019-21 Executive Budget to construct, purchase, and/or rehabilitate existing facilities to house juvenile inmates. Funding will also be provided to convert LHS/CLS to a medium security adult correctional facility. Construction costs for the new facilities would total roughly \$80 million, according to preliminary estimates from the DOC.
- The state will begin working with counties and other stakeholders to immediately site the new facilities and plan any other actions needed to ensure a smooth transition. Any programming adjustments will be administratively implemented by DOC in consultation with other state agencies and relevant stakeholders.

Governor Walker's plan is receiving bipartisan support:

"We applaud Governor Walker's plan to bring together a collaborative team of Wisconsin leaders to create smaller, secure juvenile facilities strategically located in several regions and communities across the state. Under this approach, we will be able to reduce recidivism, improve public safety and better focus our resources on providing evidence-based and trauma-informed interventions for those youth with serious mental health concerns and high-risk behaviors. The Court looks forward to working with Governor Walker and providing substantial support to this effort."

- **First Judicial District Chief Judge Maxine A. White**

"Since 2011, Milwaukee County – under the leadership of County Executive Abele - has spearheaded the transformation of Milwaukee County's approach to youth justice. This work has included increased

collaboration among Milwaukee County and state of Wisconsin leadership. The announcement today will help Milwaukee County accelerate the transformation of the youth justice system into one that leads to better public safety outcomes and improved opportunities for youth to lead productive and successful lives. We look forward to working with the Governor on making this transformation a reality in Milwaukee County."

- **Office of Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele**

"Governor Walker's plan supports continued job opportunities in Lincoln County. We look forward to working with the state to ensure an effective transition of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools from a juvenile facility to a medium-security adult facility."

- **Lincoln County Board of Supervisors Chair Robert Lee**

"We are pleased with Governor Walker's decision to continue to support job growth in our districts, by transitioning Lincoln Hills into a medium security adult facility. We look forward to working with him to provide a smooth and successful transition for everyone involved."

- **Representative Mary Felzkowski (R – Irma) and Senator Tom Tiffany (R – Hazelhurst)**

"The new policy initiatives unveiled today by the Governor demonstrate exciting progress in reforming Wisconsin's juvenile corrections system. Today's announcement also follows on legislation and policies I have introduced during my multiple sessions in the legislature. I am proud to have led the legislature in these efforts. I look forward to working with the Administration, the Department of Corrections, and my colleagues in the legislature on the details of the initiatives and seeing them implemented quickly and effectively. Today Wisconsin is taking its first step in meaningful corrections reform."

- **Representative Evan Goyke (D – Milwaukee)**

"I am glad that Governor Walker is taking from best practices around the country and moving to a regional model of juvenile corrections. This regional approach has seen success in southeastern Wisconsin through the Racine County ACE program. The regional approach is only a partial solution, however. The renewed emphasis on mental health and drug treatment may be the key to addressing the problem of repeat juvenile offenders. I think that emphasis makes this approach somewhat unique and potentially highly successful."

- **Senator Van Wanggaard (R – Racine)**

"Governor Walker and Secretary Litscher have taken the necessary time to craft a plan that is in the best interests of the students, families, communities, and the state. Evidence has shown that this model is more effective and will even be more efficient."

- **Representative Michael Schraa (R – Oshkosh)**

"I believe this change will continue to build on the many reforms put into place by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections over the last two years. Building on our close collaboration with the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators and others, we look forward to working with counties, courts,

families, and others to further our focus on providing education and treatment to youth in a safe and secure setting. Ultimately, I believe it is our responsibility to provide hope for youth in our custody so they can return to the community and lead fulfilling, productive lives."

- **Wisconsin Department of Corrections Secretary Jon Litscher**

"We are excited about the opportunity to expand our mental health treatment program which serves children who need our help the most. The data clearly shows that this program leads to more promising outcomes for kids and the community, and we applaud Governor Walker for making this investment in the future of our youth."

- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary Linda Seemeyer**

"Our interest is in keeping our children safe and reasonably close to their family support network at a reasonable cost."

- **Wisconsin Counties Association Executive Director Mark O'Connell**

###