



DYFS | Division of Youth & Family Services

A Division of the Department of
Health & Human Services

ACT 185: DYFS Team Update
December 11, 2018

2017 Wisconsin Act 185



Together, creating healthy communities.

Department of Corrections

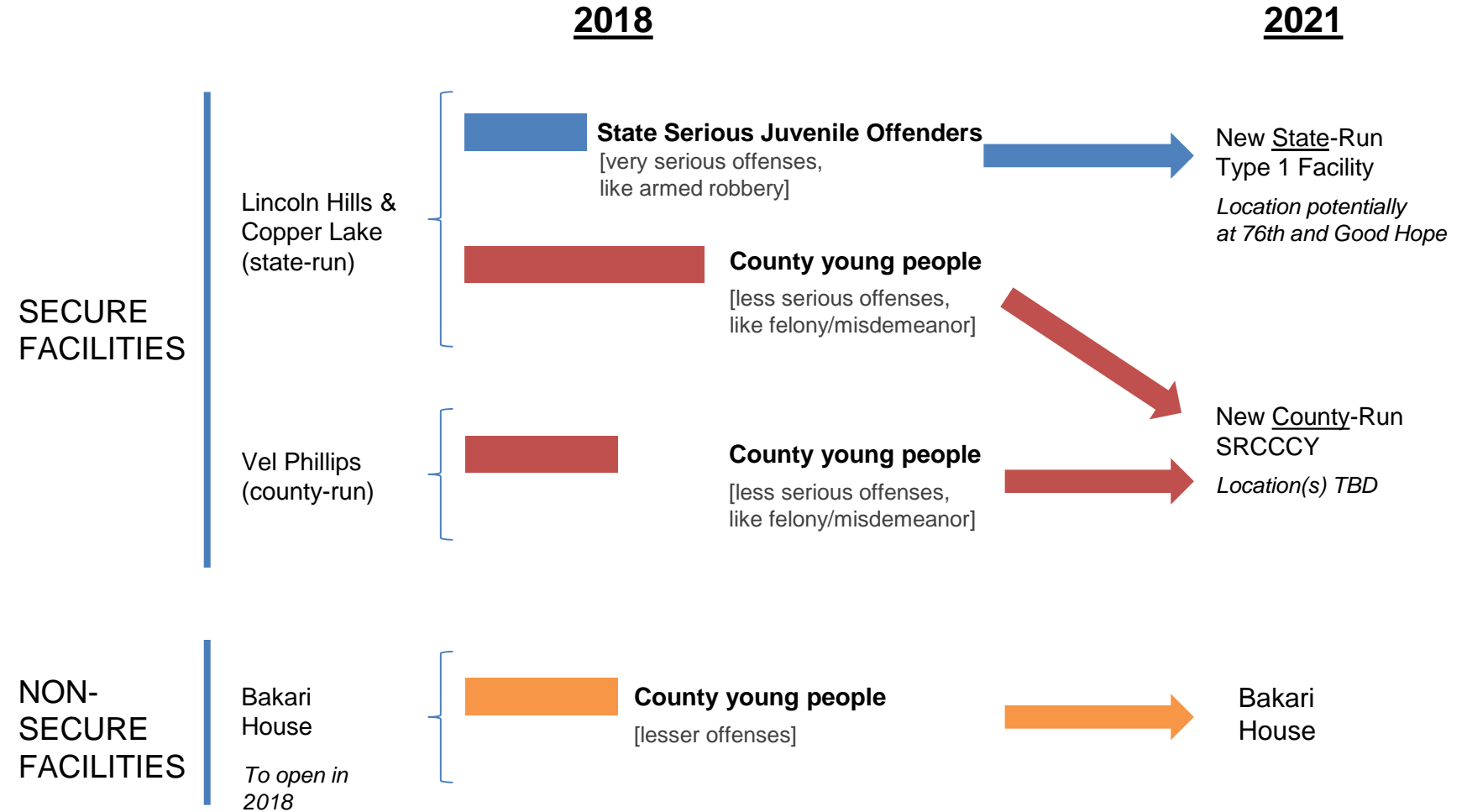
- Establish Type 1 juvenile correctional facilities (\$25M) - Likely in SE WI
- State maintains responsibility for Serious Juvenile Offenders & youth under adult sentences

Counties

- Create SRCCCYs - *Youth in Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake transfer to county supervision and placement*
- Supervision of all other youth not under the supervision of DOC

Department of Health Services

- Expand Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (\$15M) - *No fewer than 29 additional youth*



Juvenile Corrections Grant Program

A number of counties will be competing for limited funds:

- Counties may apply for grants:
 - 95% of the costs of designing and constructing a SRCCCY
 - 95% of the costs of designing and constructing a facility that houses both a SRCCCY and a juvenile detention facility
 - 100% of costs of designing and constructing a SRCCCY or a portion of a SRCCCY for female juveniles
 - Eligible construction costs include costs of renovating an existing structure
 - Successful applicants will also be reimbursed for 95% of design costs incurred in preparing a grant application
- \$40 million in general fund supported borrowing

Act 185 Opportunities / Challenges

OPPORTUNITIES

Act 185 will provide the opportunity to **re-envision our juvenile corrections system:**

- Focused on treatment of youth
- Skilled staff care for youth in a respectful, engaging, trauma-informed manner
- Evidence-based practices are utilized and delivered within the youth's home community
- Local education partners directly involved in treatment and transition/aftercare
- Create more effective/meaningful family engagement
- Addresses the unique needs of system involved girls

CHALLENGES

- “Right-size” facility capacity
- Cost and efficiency considerations: building new, renovating, or retrofitting
- Location and community acceptance
- Matching economies of scale to best practices for unit/facility capacity
- Aggressive timeframe for completion

High Level Overall Timeline

Milestone	Description	Deadline
SRCCCY Requirements Issued	Juvenile Corrections Study Committee is charged with issuing recommendations for SRCCCY programming and services	Fall/Winter 2018
Grant Application Submittal	Counties prepare proposal identifying design & construction costs of a SRCCCY based on State requirements	March 31, 2019
Submittal to State Joint Finance Committee for Approval	State Grant Committee submits a statewide plan of recommended grant approvals	July 1, 2019
Closure of Lincoln Hills	Transfer of youth to a SRCCCY operated by counties must occur no later than this date	January 1, 2021

Benchmarks Studied

- Washington DC’s “New Beginnings” program *(more description in these materials)*
- New York City’s “Close to Home” initiative *(more description in these materials)*
- The Missouri Model of Youth Corrections
- Connecticut’s alternatives to the closed juvenile training school (4/18)
- Philadelphia’s “Close to Home” replication initiative
- The youth treatment continuum in the state of Washington

Case Study: DC “New Beginnings”

Context

DC’s transformation in juvenile justice started with a lawsuit ~13 years ago based on conditions at their secure facility. The DC stakeholders’ response was to build a new facility that fit the number of juveniles, but also refocused the system on maximizing services in the community.

The facility itself was **paired with several DYRS-run Achievement Centers** around the city, where juveniles in DYRS purview and other community members can visit to receive services, training, etc.

The facility was built with 60 beds, in order to **hold the current population** of juveniles in previous facilities. As of the time of our visit, **only 9 juveniles were at the location** – and, given the capacity, the space has been used by 19 young offenders ages 18-24.

Out of roughly 200 young people committed to DYRS, **only about 5% are in New Beginnings on an average day**. A large majority are living in the community with supervision, services, and access to opportunities. Placement in a secure facility is a rarely and sparingly used last resort.

The terms under which youths are committed to DC DYRS custody leave **a lot of discretion for DYRS** to decide what combination of services, supervision, and care is right for each individual youth. They have an ability to modify those arrangements as appropriate **without needing to obtain court’s permission**, as long as those changes don’t apply a more restrictive level of custody or a longer term of custody than was initially authorized.

Similarities / Differences

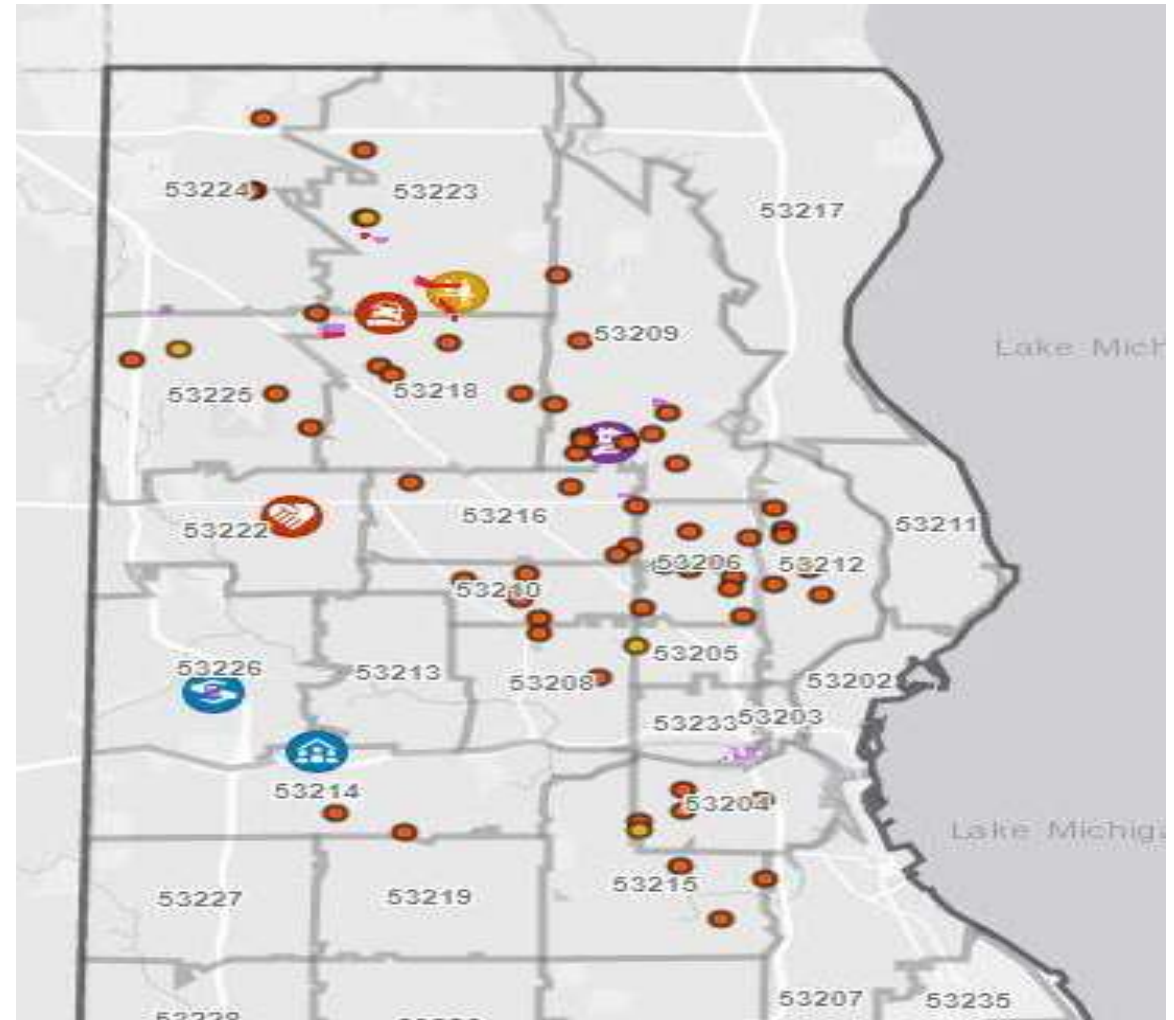
- S: Relatively similar population and size of juvenile justice-involved population
- S/D: New Beginnings placed outside of DC community, meaning a drive is necessary for most families to get there
- D: DC DYRS has a lot more discretion on placement of juveniles, including their movement from secure to non-secure
- D: DC DYRS had much higher levels of funding available in building their facility



Perspective: Milwaukee Youth in Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake

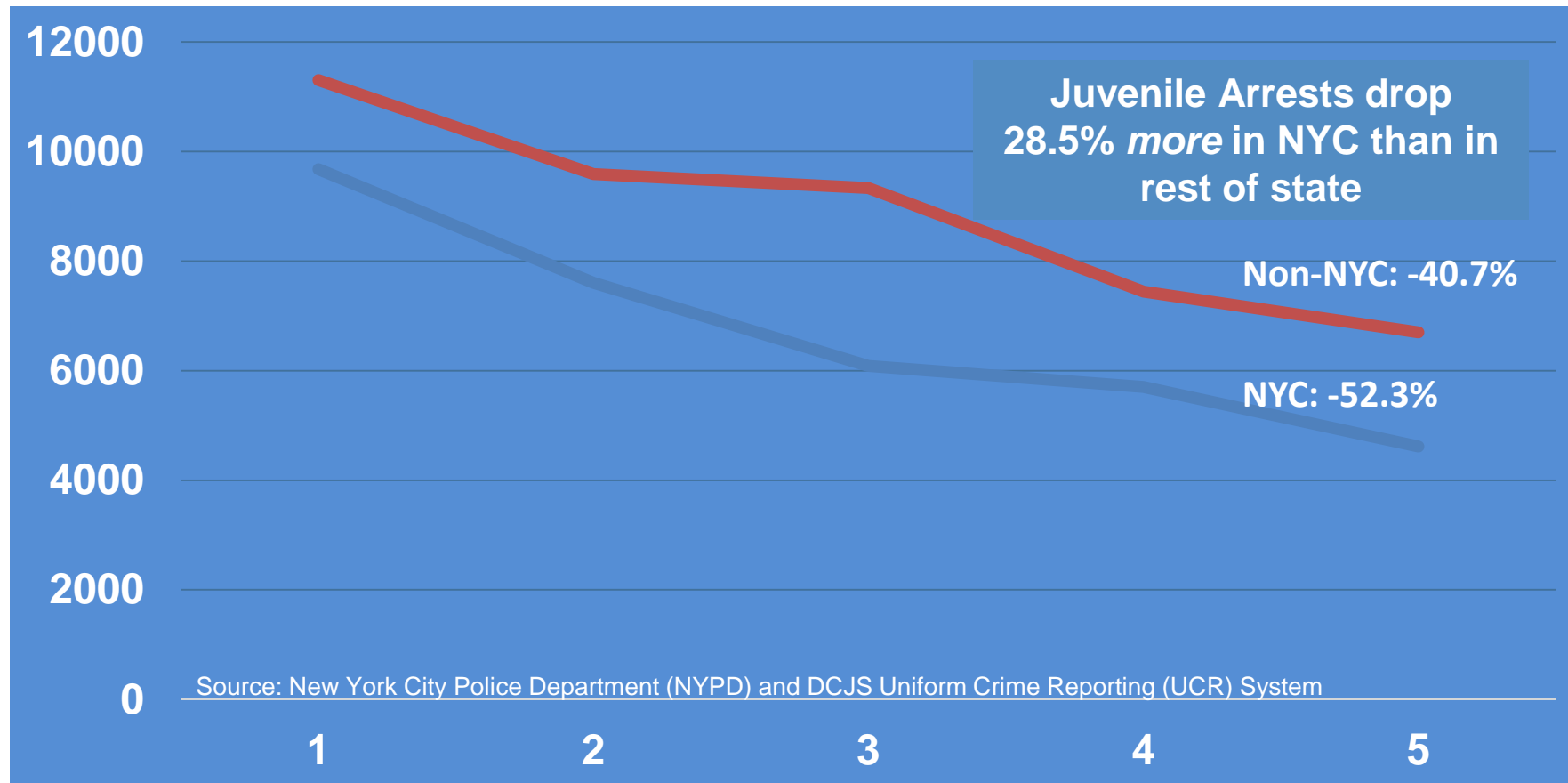
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Zipcode	Count
53206	9
53210	4
53215	3
53216	4
53218	4
53221	1
53223	2
30312	1
53027	1
53204	3
53208	5
53209	11
53212	4
53224	2
53225	3
Grand Total	57



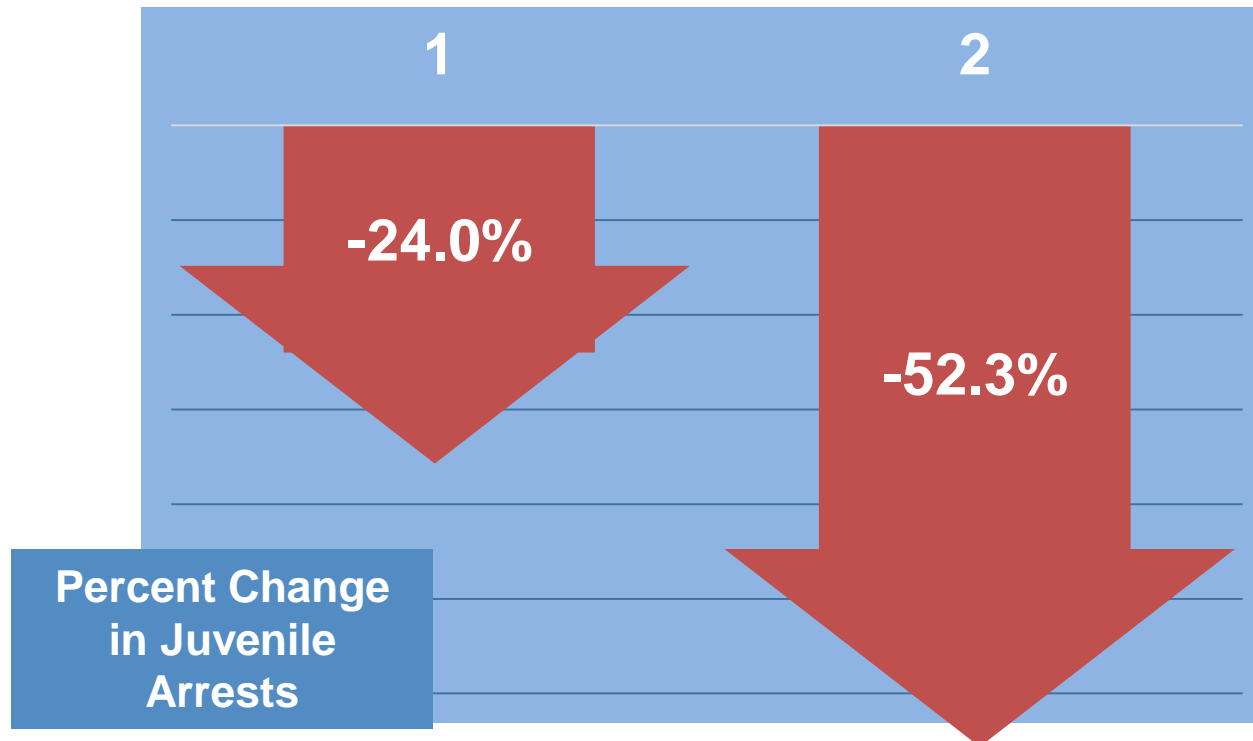
Case Study: NYC “Close to Home”

The Close to Home Era: New York City Leads in Declining Juvenile Arrests



Case Study: NYC “Close to Home”

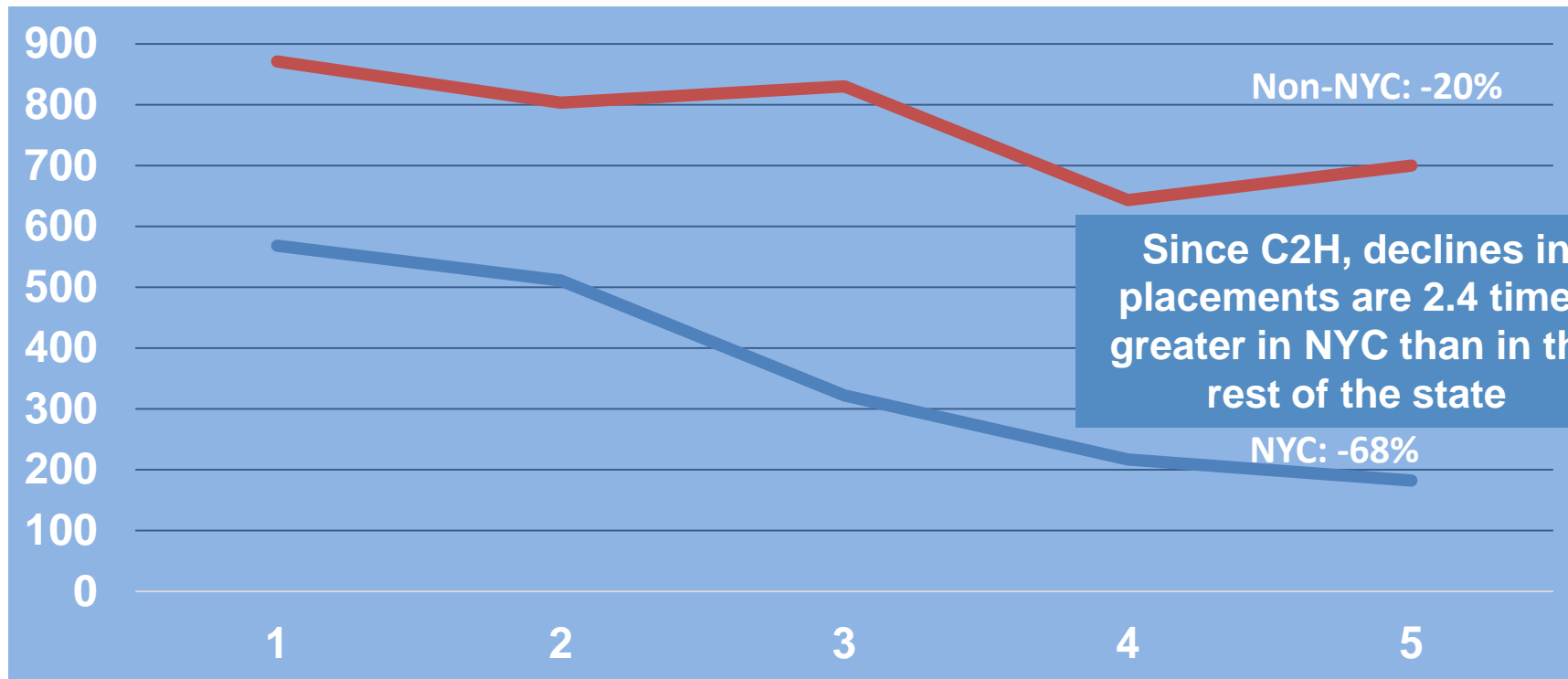
The decline in juvenile arrests double after enactment of Close to Home



Source: New York City Police Department (NYPD) and DCJS Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) System

Case Study: NYC “Close to Home”

Placements decline dramatically in NYC



Work Organization

Work organized around 1 Steering Committee, 4 Working Groups:



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Steering Committee

Description/Scope:

- Making key decisions and asking for key input on project.
- Meeting 1-2 times per month since fall

Roster:

- Raisa Koltun (CEX)
- Judge Mary Triggiano
- Mary Jo Meyers (DHHS)
- Jeanne Dorff (DHHS)
- Mark Mertens (DYFS)
- Kelly Pethke (DYFS)
- Stu Carron (Facilities)
- Sharlen Moore (External, Community WG Chair)
- David Muhammad (DHHS)
- Sumaiyah Clark (DHHS)

Budget / Facilities Working Group

Description/Scope:

- Chair: Stu Carron
- Roster: DHHS team, City representatives, Design consultants
- Meeting weekly since fall
- Develop an Owner's Project Requirements (OPR) document for one or more SRCCCY facilities.
- Engage external professional resources as needed to complete architectural studies, preliminary design, and cost estimations for construction and operation of the facilities.
- Develop the preliminary design for grant application.

Programs Working Group

Description/Scope:

- Chair: Mark Mertens
- Roster: DHHS stakeholders, academics, advocates
- Meeting 1-2 times per month since fall
- Advise in the design/selection a treatment model to program pillars
- Seek content experts/collect and review research for females
- Assist in establishing a network of resources to assure the delivery of aftercare.
- Advise on educational, vocational, and recreational resources for the program
- Engage local school district(s)
- Receive info from and inform other WGs.

Community Working Group

Description/Scope:

- Chair: Sharlen Moore
- Roster: Leaders from other Agencies, Community Members
- Meeting 1-2 times per month for several months
- Participation in the development of the OPR document
- Collaboration on community sites search
- Assist in facilitating community presentations and listening sessions including set up, notifications, or administrative tasks
- Advise and inform other WGs
- Participate in community education efforts related to siting, programming, or general youth corrections reform

Communication Working Group

Description/Scope:

- Chair: Sumaiyah Clark
- Roster: DHHS team, CEX Comms team
- Meeting weekly since early November
- Assessing the groups of stakeholders for the project and determining how, when, and why to reach them.
- Development of content for delivery across channels.
- From legislative authors to neighborhood meetings, audiences will need open and transparent information, requiring input from all WGs.

Principles for Programming

- **Education program** - high quality instruction and experiences based on each youth's strengths, learning style, interests, and special needs
- **Integrated treatment model** - emphasizes emotional regulation, pro-social decision making, enhanced social competencies, and family engagement; addresses adolescent brain development and the impact of trauma on the physical, cognitive, relational, and emotional well-being of youth
- **Safe and secure living and learning environment** - staff engage youth in redirection, crisis intervention and positive reinforcement to maintain a supportive, culturally intelligent, and therapeutic milieu

Update on Site Search and Selection

Description

- The Facilities group studied Vel Phillips expansion
- Steering Committee directed WG to look at community-based locations (i.e. beyond Vel Phillips) in August.
- Search criteria were developed and real estate agent engaged in September
- The real estate agent created long list of potential sites based on criteria below; the list was narrowed further by other criteria

Process + Criteria to Develop Long List

- Focus search on City of Milwaukee and surrounding area (looking closer to families of young people in program)
- Consider all developable sites > 5 acres
- Underutilized or surplus County land
- Near public transportation / MCTS bus line
- No co-location or shared sites
- Availability to meet overall project timeline

Process + Criteria to Down-Select to Shorter List

- Avoid locations that would have obvious opposition (e.g. directly adjoining residential).
- Avoid sites with large demolition costs.
- Evaluate environmental conditions.
- Evaluate availability of utilities.
- Evaluate if on market.