

DHHS - Children, Youth & Family

Services Overview

Kelly Pethke, Interim Administrator



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES**



Department of Health & Human Services:

Aging & Disabilities Services

Children, Youth & Family Services

Behavioral Health Services

Housing Services

Management Services

Veterans' Services



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

DHHS Children's Integration

- Integration is a part of DHHS No Wrong Door model, providing easy access to quality care for children, youth & families
- Brings together children's disability services, youth justice and children's mental health & Wraparound
- Centralized intake & screening process for children & youth for mental health and disability services
- The goal is to divert youth from the justice system and set them up for success in their homes and communities
- Assesses children and youth earlier when they are in the youth justice system
 - Multi Disciplinary Staffing & Central Staffing
 - Intake & Functional Assessments for justice involved youth

DHHS Children's Integration

- Increased enrollment in Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) – dual enrollment with CLTS
- Number of children in CLTS has increased over 40% in 2021
- Collaboration with Aging & Disability Services to support the transition of youth into adult services
- Increase awareness of DHHS & intentional efforts to bring resources to the neighborhoods & people

Milwaukee County believes that it is necessary and possible to establish a new paradigm of youth justice that assures our youth receive proper care under conditions that promote growth and affirms, rather than destroys, the social contract between youth and society.

We know that Lincoln Hills & Copper Lake are not the answer. If three kids get sent to LHS/CLS, that's over \$1.2M out of our budget that could have served 100 youth in Milwaukee County. The cost to send a youth to Lincoln Hills is \$429,000 per youth per year with a daily rate of \$1,178. Amount of money spent on youth programs pales in comparison to youth corrections.

Shift the paradigm in youth justice to address the unique needs of youth identified in growth focused case plan & reduce risk.

The safest communities are ones in which everyone's needs are met.

New Paradigm in Youth Justice

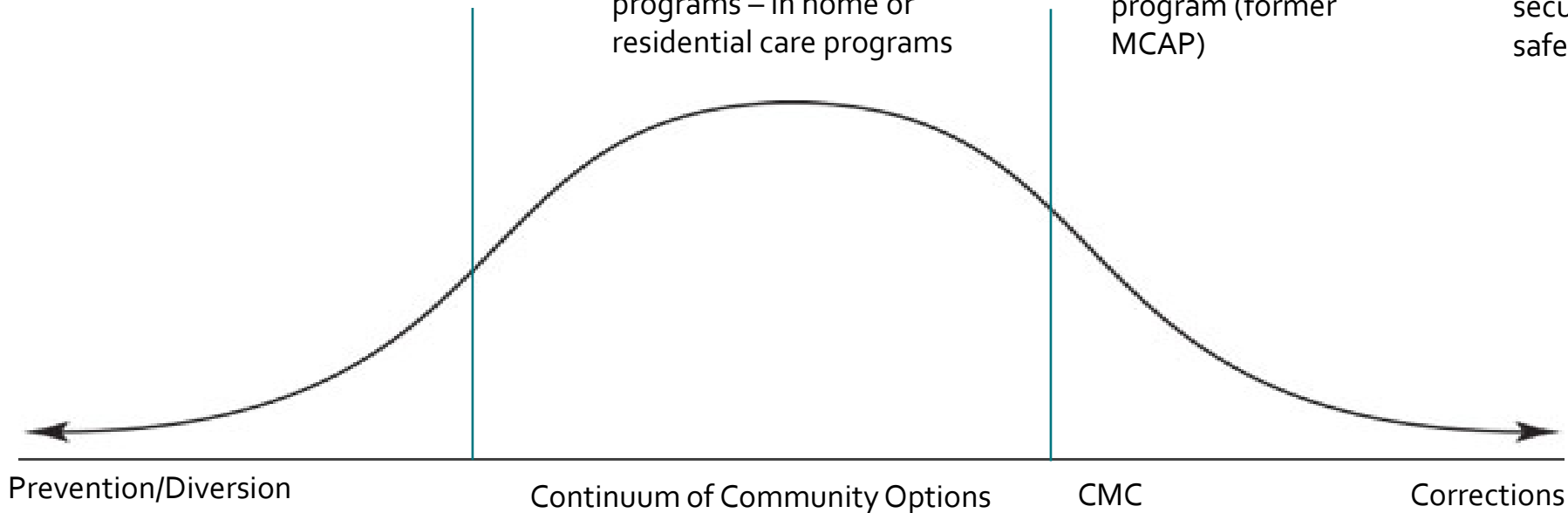
Youth Justice System Continuum of Care

Youth who are diverted from the youth justice system, to include preventative efforts

Youth who should be served through connection to community-based resources and programs – in home or residential care programs

Youth who are served in a secure setting through the Champions Make Change (CMC) program (former MCAP)

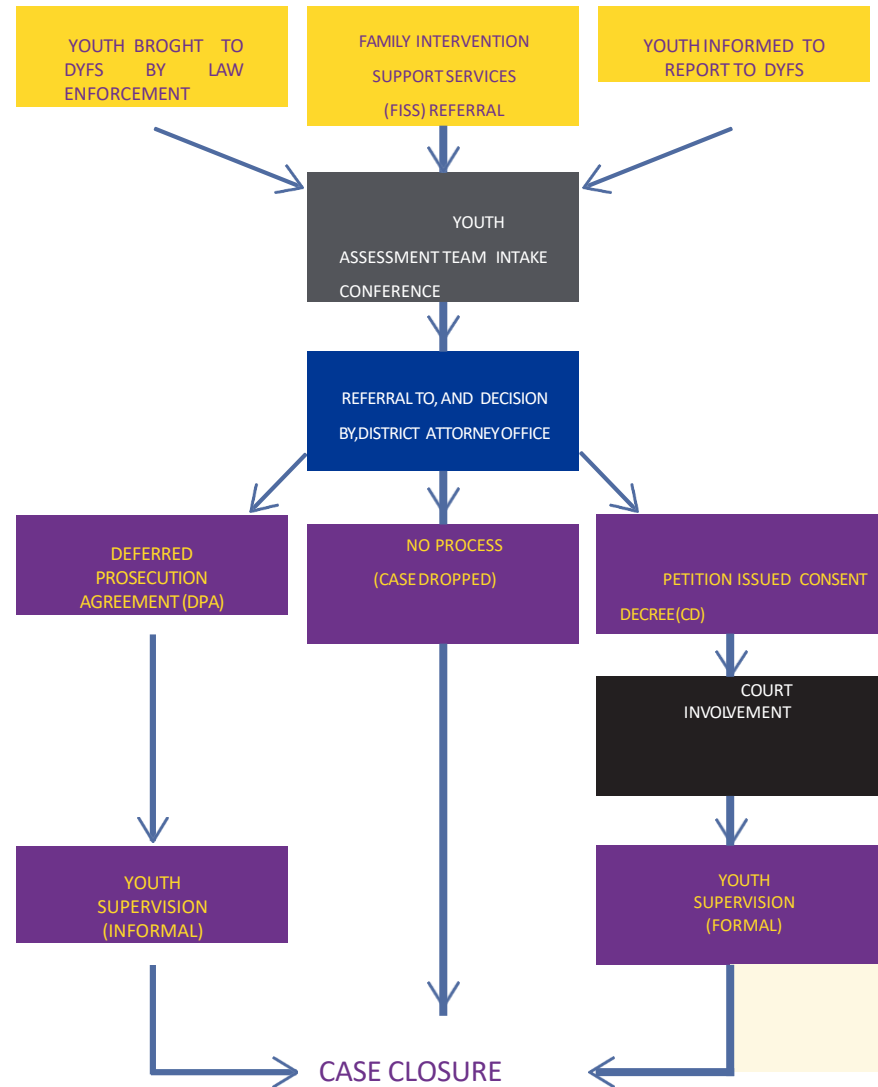
Youth who display violent/assaultive or other dangerous behavior and are placed in a setting with robust internal security features for their safety and the safety of others



CYFS Continuum of Services

- 127 bed youth detention center – includes CMC program
- Cream City Credible Messengers
- Wraparound services
- Mental health services
- Substance abuse services
- Restorative justice
- Community service & restitution
- Education intervention & advocacy
- Monitoring and advocacy programs
- Shelter care
- Children Long Term Support Program & Children's Community Options Program
- Multi-Systemic Therapy
- Youth employment

Youth Justice System Flow Chart



Data on Justice Involved Youth

- Estimated that 60% of justice involved youth have undiagnosed mental health issue
- Greatest needs identified are around substance use and mental health resources
- There were over 215 justice involved youth served in Wraparound services (2021)
- Over 80% of justice involved youth with mental health diagnosis (2021)
- Over 89% of justice involved youth had IEP/special education interventions (2021)

Continued expansion of Comprehensive Community Services & Children's Long-Term Support

Launched initiative to increase screening for disabilities in youth who are justice system involved

Over 150 Youth/Mentor Connections Created via Credible Messengers

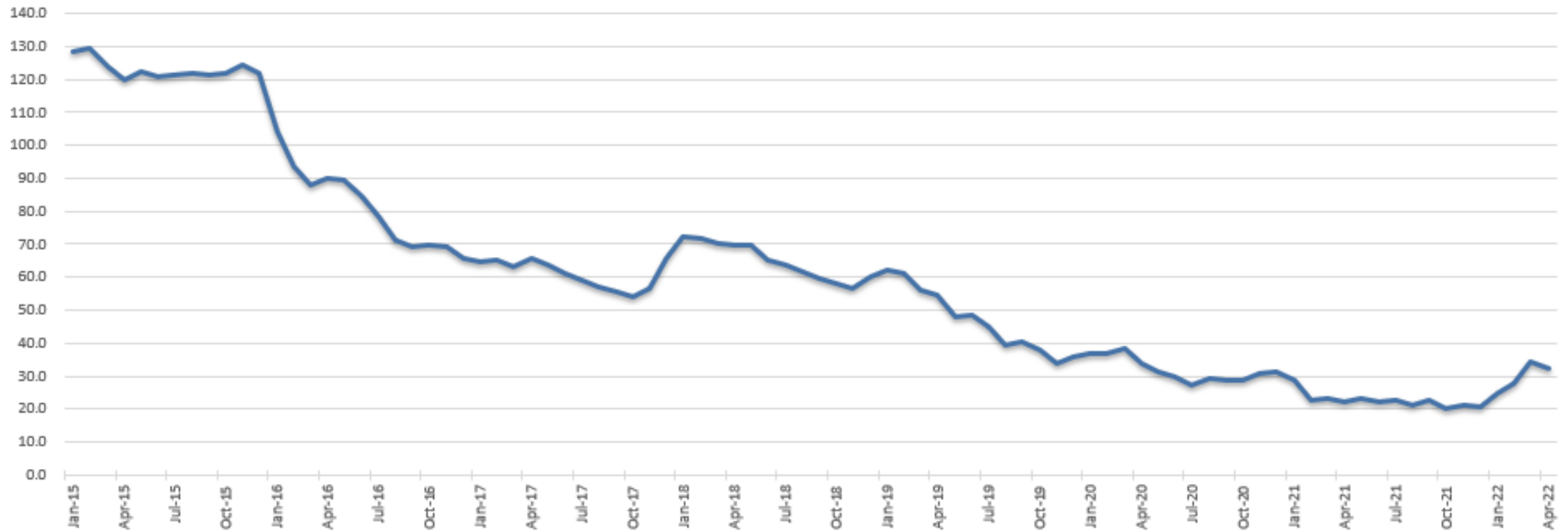
Over 250 young people from our youth justice, disabilities, and behavioral health programs enrolled in Collaborative Employment Programming in 2021 & 2022

Increased coordination and expansion of service provider network; capacity building for providers

Partnership between MKE County Behavioral Health Services and City of MKE Office of Violence Prevention where more than 10,000 gun locks were distributed in 2021

**Expanded
Supports in
Youth Justice**

Lincoln Hills, Copper Lake, MJTC ADP 2015-2022



Here is what
we are doing
to bring youth
home from
DJC...

Expansion of Youth Services

- Children's Joint Intake Process
- Diversion efforts partnership
- CYFS Girls Programming
- CYFS CMC Program implementation
- Credible Messenger Crisis Response Team/Expansion of Credible Messengers
- Reducing the use of secure placements for youth in a safe and equitable manner

ARPA Funding Proposals

- Credible Messenger Expansion
- Level II program expansion
- Girls & special populations of justice involved youth
- Secure detention & community continuum of care expansion, to include the CMC program
- Early childhood & family support project

Questions?

Contact Information: Kelly Pethke

414.257.5725

Kelly.Pethke@milwaukeecountywi.gov

[Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services](#)



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
**DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES**