

# Department of Health and Human Services

Presentation on Juvenile Justice to  
the Milwaukee Common Council-  
Public Safety Committee

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# Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

## ► Divisions

- Behavioral Health Division
- Delinquency and Court Services Division
- Disabilities Services Division
- Housing Division
- Management Services Division



## Our Mission

*To enhance the quality of life for people who need support living healthy, safe, and independent lives in our community.*



# Shared Goals

## Improvement:

- Public Safety
- Youth Outcomes
- Community Well-being



# Reforms

- ▶ Risk Assessment
- ▶ Community-Based Alternatives
- ▶ Human Service worker vs Probation officer
- ▶ Evaluation
- ▶ Quality Assurance Unit



# National Expertise/Consultants

- ▶ Annie E. Casey Foundation - Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative
- ▶ Georgetown University - Center for Juvenile Justice Reform
- ▶ Vanderbilt University - Peabody Research Institute
- ▶ W. Haywood Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness & Equity



## Overall Trends 2011-2015

- ▶ Reduced detention admissions: **32% drop**
- ▶ Reduced corrections admissions: **35% drop**
- ▶ Reduced delinquency referrals: **22% drop**
- ▶ Reduced juvenile arrests (Milwaukee County): **57% drop**
- ▶ Reduced juvenile arrests (City of Milwaukee): **62% drop**



# Rothel's Story

## Crimes:

- Driving without owner's consent
- Armed robbery
- Party to a crime

## How he turned his life around:

- MCAP mentors
- Running Rebels
- Virtual Academy
- Power of Harambee

## Current status:

- No reported negative interactions with community or law enforcement
- Still employed at job he obtained through Power of Harambee program
- Continues to attend school
- Remains in contact with his Running Rebels Advocates

*"I'm just happy. I could have been somewhere else, but instead I'm here."*





# Meet Mark Mertens, Administrator of the Delinquency and Court Services Division





# Delinquency and Court Services Division

- ▶ Intake, Disposition, and Detention services to alleged and adjudicated delinquent youth
- ▶ 120 bed Juvenile Detention Center
  - ▶ Includes 24 beds of post-disposition services through MCAP
- ▶ 44 Human Service Workers (HSW's)
- ▶ 7 Juvenile Advocates provide case management and court services for youth in juvenile corrections



## Delinquency and Court Services Division (continued)

- ▶ Providers: Running Rebels, St. Charles, Southwest Key, Wisconsin Community Services, Professional Services Group
- ▶ Wraparound Milwaukee - serves about 40% of DCSD youth
- ▶ 1,362 active cases and 698 youth on juvenile probation
- ▶ 1,819 delinquency referrals from law enforcement in 2015
  - 438 auto-related offenses (190% increase from 2011)
  - 247 total robberies (33% decrease from 2011, though armed robbery up 36% since 2012)



# Challenges

- ▶ Lincoln Hills/Copper Lakes Schools
- ▶ Detention overcrowding
- ▶ Auto Thefts
- ▶ Need for greater local capacity and increased resources to safely and effectively serve high-risk youth



# Current Efforts to Address Lincoln Hills - Related Issues

- ▶ Screening of youth at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake
- ▶ Development of a local staff-secure residential treatment facility
  - Serve as a “step-down” transition from MCAP detention, Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake or as direct placement
- ▶ Milwaukee County to provide aftercare effective 7/1/2017
- ▶ Advocate for DOC to develop smaller, regional Juvenile Correctional Institutions throughout the state



# Current Efforts to Address Detention-Related Issues

- ▶ Closely work with the judiciary and other stakeholders to ensure proper use of detention
- ▶ Contract with Racine County for 10 detention beds
- ▶ Continued work with national experts through Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) - Annie E. Casey Foundation
- ▶ Expansion and improvements of detention alternatives, including GPS monitoring of youth



## Additional Current Efforts

- ▶ Improve collaboration with Milwaukee Police Department
- ▶ Shared data analysis of auto-related offenses through the Milwaukee Community Justice Council partners
- ▶ Enhancements to monitoring and programming for youth referred for auto-related offenses



# Additional Current Efforts

- ▶ Additional Evidence-based Programming
  - Youth Advocate Programs
  - TARGET (trauma)
- ▶ Safe Zone Violence Prevention collaboration
- ▶ Continue quality assurance and matching effective practices and programs to youth needs
- ▶ Continuous improvement efforts related to probation services



## Other Possibilities for Improvement

- ▶ Partner with the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice to conduct a comprehensive probation system review
- ▶ Collect data about recidivism within the first 90 days of supervision. Look for improvements in practices and programs to address this critical period
- ▶ Explore the possibility of working with the City of Milwaukee Municipal Court to screen youth who were cited for misdemeanors in order to achieve quicker access to needed services

THANK YOU!

