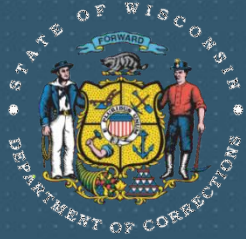


**2026 ANNUAL
CONFERENCE**
WISCONSIN COUNTIES ASSOCIATION

Three stars (blue, red, blue) are positioned below the association name.

Juvenile Corrections: Current Status, Facilities and Funding

8:00 – 9:00 am



Progress Towards Achieving the Vision of Act 185

Lance Horozewski
Division of Juvenile Corrections Administrator
Wisconsin Department of Corrections

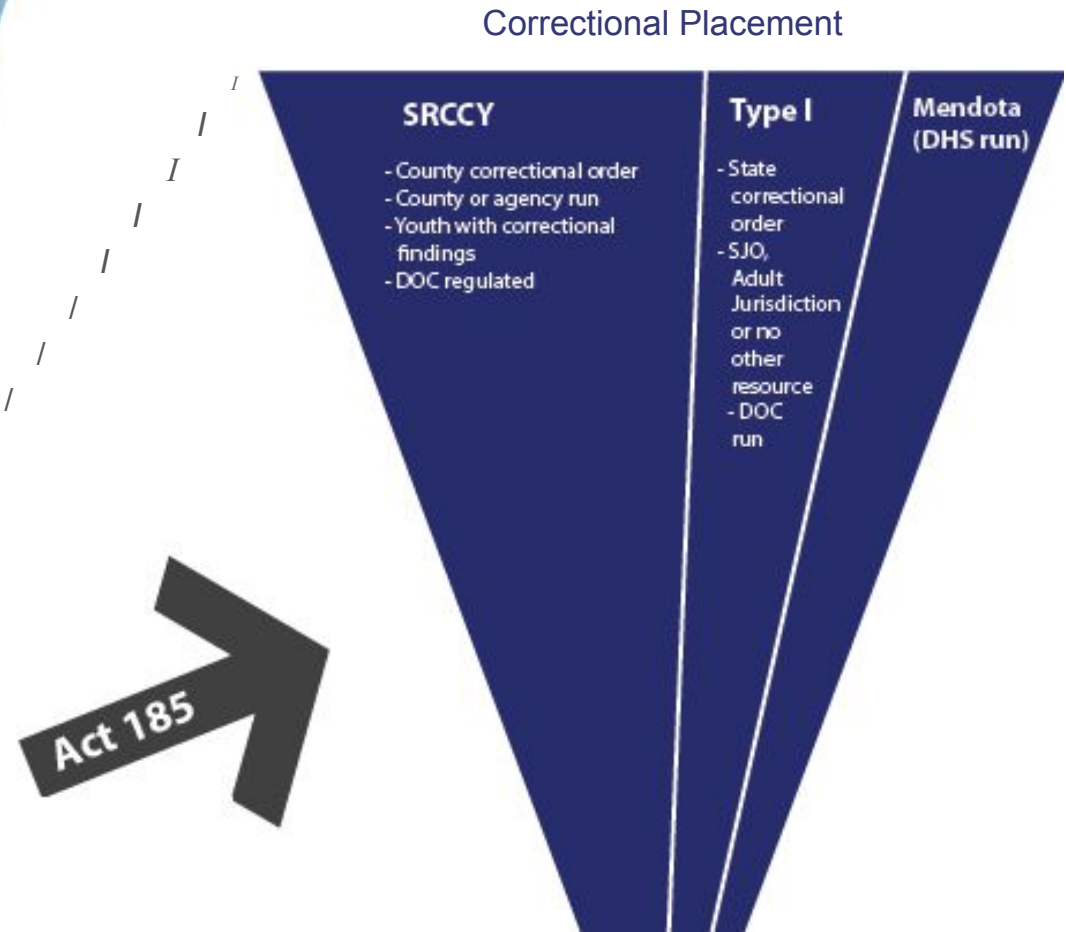
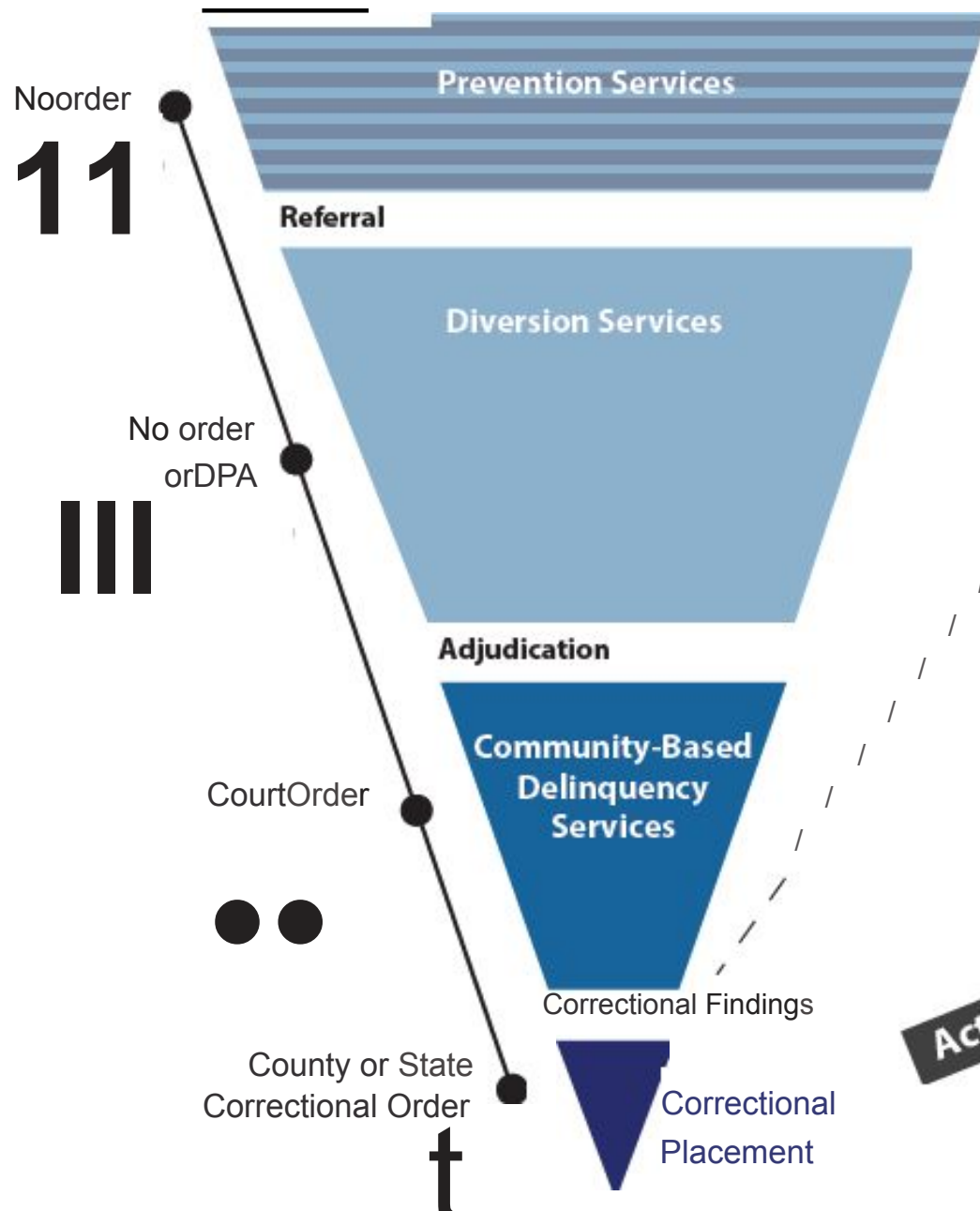


Presentation Overview

1. Act 185 background
2. DJC Facilities
Updates
3. Questions



Wisconsin's Youth Justice and Juvenile Corrections System





Major Provisions of Act 185

- Establish new, small and closer to home secure facilities across the state
- DOC-operated Type 1 facilities for Serious Juvenile Offenders (SJO), Adult convicted minors, and SRCCCY COP
- County or tribal operated Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth for non-SJO correctional placements
- Expand Type 1 Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center



Major Provisions of Act 185

- Limit local detention to 30 days and grandfather existing programs
 - State Leg. provide building funds for SRCCCY
 - State funding for Type 1 facilities
 - Create Admin Code for SRCCCY DOC 347
 - Youth Aids bonus for girls SRCCCY and serving regional youth
 - Expand MJTC
-



Major Provisions of Act 185

Cont.

- For all non-SJO youth the court shall make a correctional placement to an SRCC
 - If no SRCC is available or unable, a change in placement can be made to Type 1
 - A youth at a SRCC can be transferred under a change in placement to MJTC
 - Youth will continue to transfer to MJTC from any DOC Type 1
-

Type 1 Correction Facilities



- Operated by DJC and DHS
 - Administrative Codes: 376,373, 371, 380, 393
 - Current facilities
 - Lincoln Hills
 - Copper Lake
 - MJTC
-

Type 1 Correctional Facility



- Serious Juvenile Offenders
 - Minors Sentenced as adults
 - County Commitment
-

Type 1: DJC Program Overview



- Full array of mental health services
 - Full array of physical health services
 - DPI recognized school
 - AODA
 - SOT
 - DBT
 - Therapeutic Milieu
-

Type 1: DJC Milwaukee



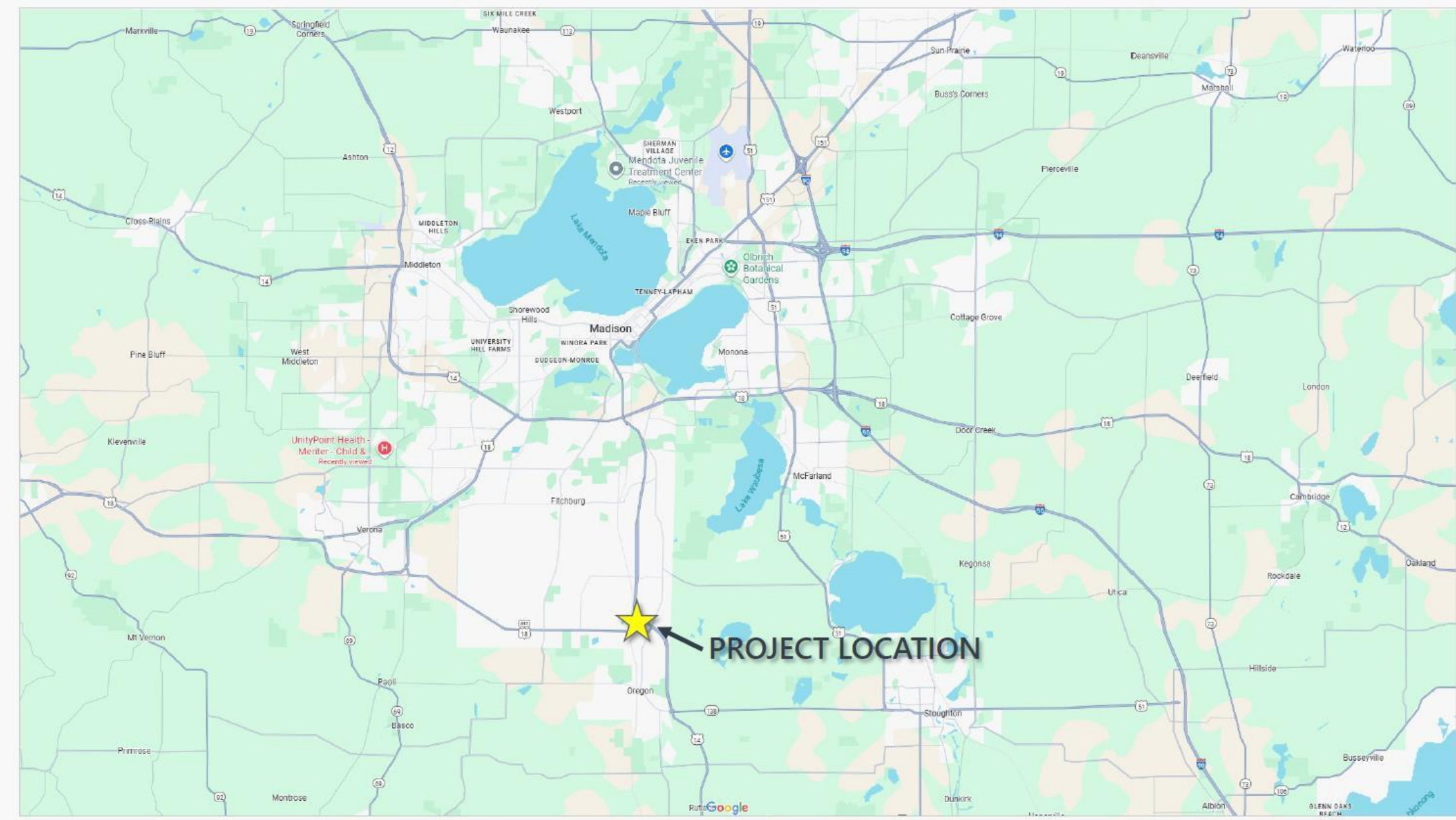
- Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth
 - Located in Milwaukee's north side
 - 32 beds for boys
 - Second location in Oregon
WI
 - 32 beds for boys and 8 for girls
 - Groundbreaking September 2026
 - Once both facilities are operational, LHS will transition to an adult prison
-

Southcentral Care Center for Youth



- 32 beds for boys
 - 8 beds for girls
 - Will serve balance of state once LHS/CLS closes
 - Shared services with GROW Academy and SERC
-

South Central Regional Care Center for Youth



South Central Regional Care Center for Youth







Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth



Southeast Regional Care Center for
Youth



Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth



Southeast Regional Care Center for
Youth



Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth



Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth





Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth



Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth



Southeast Regional Care Center for Youth





Updates



- LHS/CLS continues to serve boys and girls
- Southeast Regional will start accepting youth on November 1st.
- Milwaukee County Care Center for Youth starting service youth
- Southcentral Regional breaks ground this month and is scheduled to open 2028
- GROW Academy expansion design is in progress. Plan to request enumeration in biannual budget, expand to serve 16 male youth

Thank



Lance



Horowitzski



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V





Wisconsin's Regional Juvenile Corrections Model

From Implementation to Long-Term

Lessons from Racine County's experience operating Wisconsin's first
SRCCCY



CONTENT

01 FOUNDATION

Slides 3 - 6

Goal, Regional Model & Wisconsin's Vision

02 IMPLEMENTATION

Slides 7 - 9

Racine County, RISE=UP & Early Impact

03 REGIONAL EXPERIENCE

Slides 10 - 11

Regional Utilization & Lessons Learned

04 SUSTAINABILITY

Slides 12 - 14

Operating Costs, Funding & Policy

05 LOOKING AHEAD

Slides 15 - 16

2027 Priorities & Moving Forward

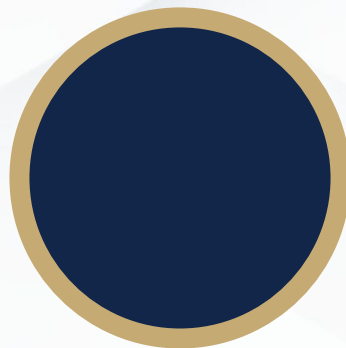


THE GOAL: BETTER OUTCOMES FOR YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES



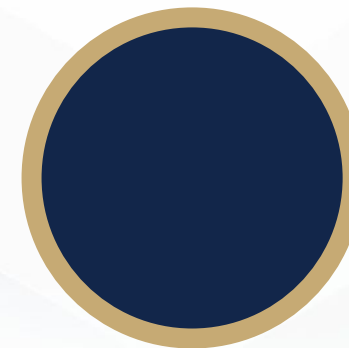
YOUTH

SUPPORTED TODAY,
BRIGHTER TOMORROWS.



FAMILIES

STRONGER CONNECTIONS,
LASTING SUPPORT.



COMMUNITIES

SAFER TODAY, STRONGER
TOMORROW.

OUR VISION

To support and
develop the
unlimited potential
of youth.

OUR MISSION

Provide youth with opportunities for growth,
and change through effective treatment,
education and lifestyles; reduce recidivism,
strengthen families, and protect

UNDERSTANDING THE REGIONAL MODEL

Category

Key Terms & Definitions

System Foundation

Statewide Direction

WISCONSIN ACT 185:

2017 law restructuring juvenile corrections by moving Wisconsin toward smaller, regional secure-care facilities.

SRCCCY

*Secure Residential Care Center
for Children and Youth*

County-operated, secure facility providing treatment-focused care and rehabilitation for youth in correctional placements.

Regulatory Standards

Guiding Operations

DOC 346:

Wisconsin standards governing juvenile detention facility operations, including safety, staffing, health services, programming and youth rights.

DOC 347:

Wisconsin standards governing SRCCCY operations, including safety, staffing, treatment, programming, health services and youth rights.

Programming

Building Brighter Futures

ASPIRE:

JDYDCC's rehabilitative program for female youth focused on skills, accountability, positive behavior and successful reintegration.

RISE=UP:

JDYDCC's rehabilitative program for male youth focused on accountability, skills, emotional regulation and successful reintegration.

WHY WISCONSIN CHANGED THE MODEL

The challenge was not simply where youth were placed, but maintaining the connections, accountability and continuity needed for successful outcomes when they returned home.

TOO FAR FROM HOME

Youth were placed far from their communities, limiting connection with families, schools, attorneys and caseworkers who were critical to their support and successful return home.

COUNTIES LOST OWNERSHIP

Youth were placed away from their communities but ultimately returned home, often with continuing or greater needs.

INSUFFICIENT LASTING OUTCOMES

Removing youth from their communities did not create enough lasting change or sufficiently improve public safety.

WISCONSIN'S VISION: REGIONAL SECURE CARE

Act 185 set a new direction for Wisconsin, creating a regional model designed to keep youth closer to home while strengthening treatment, continuity, and community connections.

CLOSER TO HOME

Keep youth connected to families, schools and local support systems

SHARED REGIONAL CAPACITY

Create regional resources that multiple Wisconsin counties can access when secure placement

THE GOAL

Better outcomes for youth, reduced recidivism, and communities with a youth justice system that can be sustained

TREATMENT-FOCUSED

Provide secure care in smaller settings centered on rehabilitation and individual needs

SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM

Build a model that can maintain quality care, appropriate capacity and long-term

FROM STATE POLICY TO LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

Racine County became the first county to put Wisconsin's regional secure-care model into operation.

FACILITY CAPACITY

48 Beds

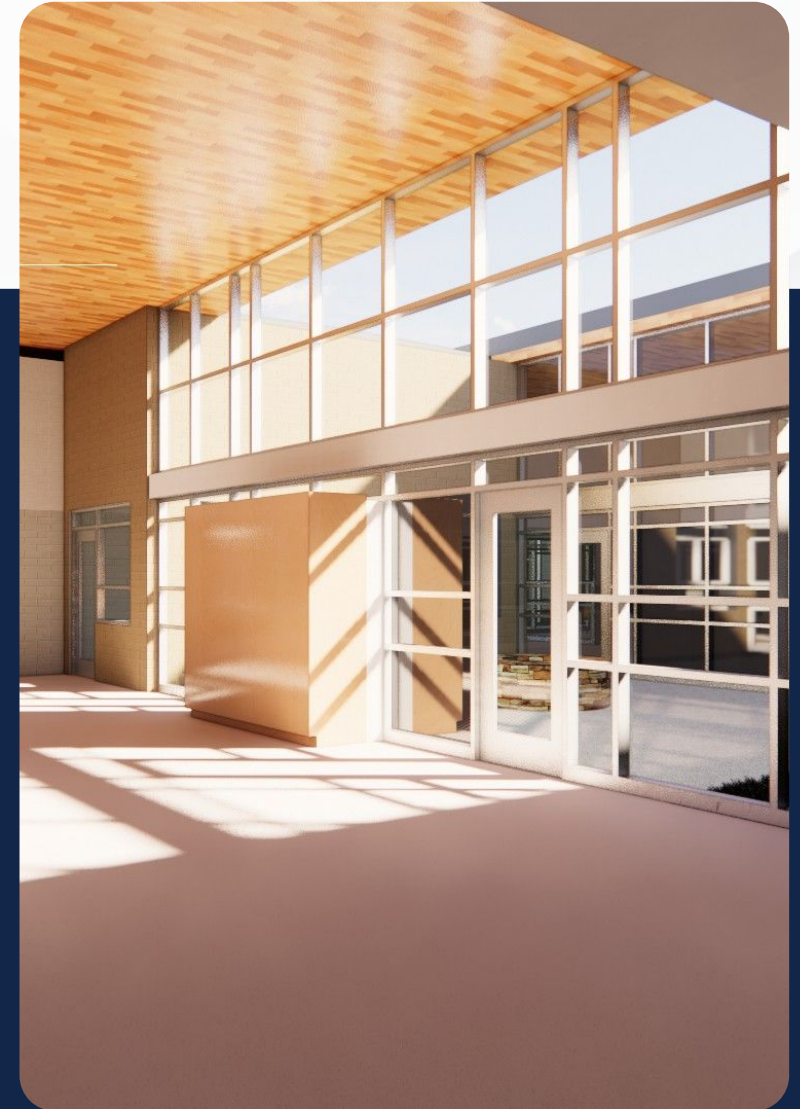
- 16 Secure Detention
- 32 SRCCCY

FIRST IN WISCONSIN

First operational SRCCCY in Wisconsin, opened in May 2025.

REGIONAL ROLE

Designed to serve Racine County and youth referred across Wisconsin.



INITIAL OPERATIONAL & FINANCIAL ASSUMPTIONS



EXPECTED UTILIZATION

First-choice treatment option with dependable female utilization.



STAFFING MODEL

Enhanced existing staffing ratios would be sufficient.



COMPETITIVE RATE

Rates would remain below Lincoln Hills.

REGIONAL CARE IN PRACTICE:

RISE=UP

Respect • Integrity • Service • Excellence = Unlimited

A comprehensive, trauma-informed program for male youth placed in the SRCCCY under a correctional placement.

Potential

ACADEMIC
SUPPORT

COGNITIVE-BEH
AVIORAL
INTERVENTIONS

SOCIAL-EMOTI
ONAL
LEARNING

INDIVIDUALIZED
SKILL
DEVELOPMENT

REGIONAL CARE IN ACTION: RISE=UP EARLY IMPACT



Early implementation demonstrates the model's role in treatment, education and regional capacity.



RISE=UP by the Numbers



48
Youth Entered
RISE=UP

37
Successful
Completions

2
Aged Out of
RISE=UP



Education & Growth

285.5
CREDITS EARNED
2023 - 2026 YTD



Regional Detention

221

**GENERAL POPULATION
ADMISSIONS**

98	123
May - Dec. 2025	Jan. - Aug. 2026

16 detention beds serve Racine County and youth from other counties.

A REGIONAL RESOURCE FOR WISCONSIN COUNTIES

JDYDCC provides counties across Wisconsin with access to secure, treatment-focused placement when youth cannot be served safely in their home communities.

REGIONAL UTILIZATION

- Out-of-County Utilization is Growing
- Regional Demand and Census Fluctuate
- Available Capacity Does Not Always Equal Usable Capacity

OPERATIONAL & FINANCIAL REALITIES

- **Placement of Last Resort** - Youth are often referred after other placement options have been exhausted.
- **Greater Staffing Needs** - Complex youth needs require greater staffing resources.
- **County Affordability** - Placement costs can be challenging for referring counties.
- **Unpredictable Female Referrals** - Female population and



WHAT EARLY IMPLEMENTATION IS TEACHING WISCONSIN

Racine County's early experience demonstrates that operating regional secure care is more complex than maintaining a set number of beds.

YOUTH NEEDS ARE MORE COMPLEX THAN ANTICIPATED

Youth are presenting with significant behavioral, mental health, supervision and treatment needs.

STAFFING HAS TO MATCH THE MODEL

A treatment-focused facility requires more than a traditional detention staffing model, including higher staffing levels, training and mental health support.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS MATTER

Strong partnerships with referring counties are essential, from placement through successful reintegration back to the community.

REGIONAL OPERATIONS REQUIRE FLEXIBILITY

Census and youth needs can change quickly due to admissions, discharges, court decisions, behavioral needs, peer dynamics and programming.

A BED IS NOT ALWAYS A USABLE BED

Physical capacity does not always equal operational capacity. Housing decisions must consider individual needs, peer conflicts, safety, programming, gender and supervision.

WHAT IT TAKES TO MAINTAIN REGIONAL SECURE CARE

Operating a regional, treatment-focused facility requires a significant and ongoing investment to maintain safe, high-quality care for youth from across Wisconsin.

\$12.1M
ANNUAL
OPERATING
COST

24/7 STAFFING & SECURITY

Maintaining safe, secure operations around the clock.

EDUCATION & PROGRAMMING

Treatment, education and rehabilitative programming.

MENTAL & PHYSICAL HEALTH

Clinical, behavioral health and medical supports for youth.

FACILITY OPERATIONS

The infrastructure and day-to-day operations required to maintain secure care.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Training and developing staff to support a treatment-focused model.

THE STATEWIDE SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE

Regional secure care operates with fixed readiness costs and variable occupancy.

FIXED READINESS COSTS

Remain regardless of census.

Staffing & Security	Treatment & Clinical Services	Education & Programming	Facility & Operations
---------------------	-------------------------------	-------------------------	-----------------------

VARIABLE OCCUPANCY

Changes with regional placement needs.

County Referrals	Length of Stay	Youth Needs	Usable Capacity
------------------	----------------	-------------	-----------------



**32 SRCCCY BEDS ≠
32 INTERCHANGEABLE
BEDS**

Beds are specialized to meet treatment, security and programming needs, and are not always interchangeable.



**CAPACITY ≠
OPERATIONAL
CAPACITY**

Physical capacity, usable capacity and operational capacity are not the same.



**REVENUE IS TIED
TO OCCUPIED
BEDS**

When census drops, revenue drops, but many of the costs of maintaining regional capacity remain.

FUNDING & POLICY DECISIONS AHEAD



Implementation has established the model. Long-term sustainability requires decisions about how the system will be supported.



SUSTAINABLE FUNDING

Develop a funding approach that recognizes both:

- Youth actively being served
- Regional capacity that must remain available



REGIONAL CAPACITY & ACCESS

Consider how Wisconsin maintains:

- Appropriate regional secure-care capacity
- Reliable access for counties when placement is needed
- Appropriate access and



COUNTY IMPACT

Consider how placement costs interact with:

- Youth Aids
- Prevention and diversion efforts
- Community-based services
- Other county youth justice

2027 PRIORITIES: STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL MODEL

Early implementation has identified five priorities for strengthening regional secure care in 2027 and beyond.



PEOPLE

Maintain the workforce, training and support needed to operate a treatment-focused model.



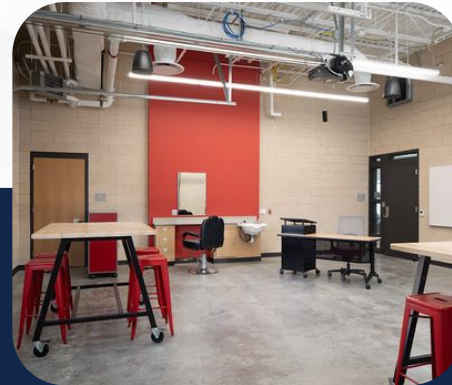
CARE & SAFETY

Continue providing individualized treatment while maintaining safe, secure operations.



REGIONAL ACCESS & CAPACITY

Ensure counties have access to appropriate placements, including reliable options for girls.



REINTEGRATION

Strengthen continuity between placement, families, referring counties and community-based supports.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Develop a long-term approach that supports both youth served and regional capacity maintained.

MOVING FORWARD

***Build on what we've learned,
continue improving the model, and
make sure it is sustainable for the
youth and counties that depend on it.***





Thank you

