



LA CROSSE COUNTY

Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

Human Services

Western Regional Adolescent Services

David Steinberg
Superintendent

300 4th Street North

La Crosse, WI 54601-3200

608-785-5542 Phone

608-789-7820 Fax

steinberg.david@co.la-crosse.wi.us

March 27, 2019

To the members of the SRCCCY grants committee,

Please accept this letter as La Crosse County's interest to apply for a grant to build an SRCCCY in the western region of Wisconsin. Although we have an interest, we continue to have questions and concerns that would need to be resolved, as well as additional local approvals necessary, for us proceed further in the process. All estimates provided below are very preliminary and subject to change.


La Crosse County's Western Regional Adolescent Services has provided regionalized short-term detention services to surrounding counties for 29 years. Additionally, with the changes to WI Statute 938, La Crosse County has also provided a long-term secure placement option via its CORE Academy program since 2012. CORE Academy has served a variety of counties in the 7 years since its inception, and understands the importance of providing a secure placement option that brings together a structured environment with therapeutic, cognitive behavioral, and educational services.

Given the therapeutic and trauma-focused needs of the youth served in this level of placement, the opportunity that Act 185 presents enables us to improve upon the philosophical basis we have already created in our CORE program. Through preliminary assessment, La Crosse County has determined that the current facility is not adequate to serve SRCCCY-level youth as outlined in DOC 347, nor is it feasible to remodel, given its age and location.

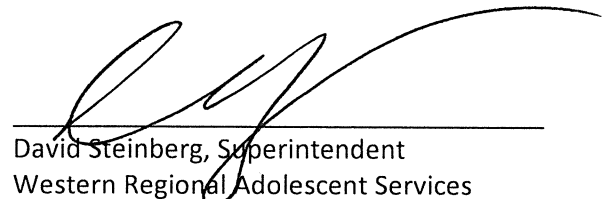
We envision building a co-located SRCCCY / short-term detention facility, with separation between the two units to ensure we are not mixing populations. The estimated capacities at this time for the SRCCCY would be approximately 20 male-only residents, and 15 co-ed for short-term detention. As we have historically provided regional service, we intend to continue with this philosophy moving forward. La Crosse County will operate these facilities and charge fee-for-service for those counties who wish to use space in the facility. County partnerships have already been formed and will continue to be supported through this process.

Current estimates for this facility come in at approximately \$18 - \$20 million.

Sincerely,



Jason Witt, Director
La Crosse County Human Services



David Steinberg, Superintendent
Western Regional Adolescent Services

CC: Steve O'Malley, La Crosse County Administrator