



Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Jared Hoy

August 28, 2026

Friends and Family Forum attendees,

Over the past 18 months at forums around the state, I've had the opportunity to stand alongside other DOC leaders and hear directly from you – listening and learning about the impacts of DOC policies on families. And I've observed that while we may have different lenses, our goal is essentially the same: to see those in our care learn the skills and receive the treatment needed to succeed during their incarceration and in the community.

Recently, the department shared its [Friends and Family Action Plan](#). The plan groups the feedback we've received at these forums into common themes, shares possible suggestions for improvement, and provides updates about where we are in that process. It's meant to be a living document, with priorities shifting as feedback or opportunities change.

We expect that some of you will have some things to say about the plan and the steps we're working on. And I do want to hear your ideas. Feedback and questions on the action plan or anything else are welcomed via email to DOCGeneral@wisconsin.gov. In fact, I want to share just a few pieces of feedback received at the most recent forum that we'll be evaluating in the coming months:

- It was suggested that DOC allow for separate video visitation lists that would not count toward the 12-person visiting limit at the facility
- DOC has continued to expand the peer specialist program, but it was recommended that peer specialists be utilized more significantly in the reentry process
- While the implementation of tablets has allowed for greater access to calls and programming options, friends and family would like to be involved in determining functionality and future tablet offerings

Since I was appointed DOC Secretary in June 2024, the agency has made some important steps forward and I want to recognize that this group of friends and family has helped us build momentum for positive change.

We've added incentive-based visits at several institutions, including popular family days at New Lisbon Correctional Institution and special events at Stanley and Columbia correctional institutions. A third facility is now offering the popular Camp Reunite to help incarcerated parents connect with their child or children in a positive, supportive camp format.

We've also contracted with national correctional consultants, Falcon, Inc., to implement improvements to operations, health care and mental health care. I'm extremely proud of the work of local DOC leadership to embrace this opportunity to improve practices at our facilities. Learn more about this initiative, [here](#).

Throughout these past months and positive changes, friends and family members of those in our care or under supervision have provided us with far more than just feedback. Many of you have become active partners in our mission of safety and rehabilitation. I'm deeply grateful for your engagement and the experiences you've shared, and I want you to know that your participation has made a difference.

While there is still a lot of work ahead, I am thankful for your feedback, ideas, support and criticism. I look forward to working with you all as we move corrections forward.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jared Hoy', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Jared Hoy, Secretary