

### Act 185 Initial Stakeholder Input - Themes

- Counties, judges, and others from throughout the youth justice system express a strong interest in playing a meaningful role in the implementation of Act 185, both in sharing their expertise and in developing or partnering with others to develop local SRCCs.
- Stakeholders are eager to move the changes forward expeditiously, but recognize that there is much work to be done both at the state and local level in order to meet the Act's timelines. Coordination and communication will be important in ensuring the Act's timelines are met.
- All agree on the importance of both the Type 1 facilities and the SRCCs providing evidence-based, trauma-informed, rehabilitative programming and services that engage with youth, families, and communities.
- Many believe that in developing standards and rules, it is important to allow for flexibility to meet local needs while at the same time "setting the bar" high enough to promote high quality, evidence-based facilities.
- There is recognition that a variety of factors will need to be considered in estimating the necessary capacity of the new Type 1 facilities and the SRCCs, including current correctional placements and current long-term post-dispositional detention placements, as well as the potential placement of some youth who are currently in non-secure placements.
- Many point to the trends of decreasing numbers of juvenile correctional populations, in Wisconsin and at the national level, as positive developments that should be considered in informing the long-term capacity of new and renovated facilities.
- Stakeholders consistently underscored the need to avoid "widening the net" of corrections, expressing some concern that the availability of additional secure, local placement resources may lead to increased use of correctional placements. They point to the research showing that youth benefit from placement in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their treatment needs and public safety.
- Regions with less frequent correctional needs identified some unique challenges related to facility locations and capacities as well as planning and budgeting.

- There is a recognized need for further development of guidelines and processes around placement and release of youth from SRCCs, Type 1 facilities, and MJTC.
- Although Act 185 focuses on the correctional placement end of the youth justice system, there is a desire to be conscious of how it fits within the broader youth justice system and other related initiatives.
- Fiscal considerations – such as operational costs, medical expenses, and daily rates – will be important in counties' decisions on operating or contracting for SRCCs.
- There is an interest in further information regarding the role of detention facilities post-Act 185, including the continuation of long-term post-dispositional programs or their conversion to SRCCs.