Considerations for a Wisconsin model of juvenile justice

2017 WI Act 185, Section 110(4)(e)

“The juvenile corrections grant committee shall develop a statewide plan that recommends which grant applications to approve, based on an overall view toward a Wisconsin model of juvenile justice.”

This Wisconsin model should:

• Be developed in an inclusive manner that incorporates input from youth and families, community stakeholders, mental health and physical health practitioners, experts in juvenile justice and trauma-informed care, and all others who wish to come to contribute to the goal of juvenile justice in Wisconsin.

• Focus on prevention and diversion, and provide accountability and services to youth and families in the system that prepares them to thrive (“DCF Youth Justice Vision and Strategic Plan”).

• Recognize that the post-dispositional secure custody of youth (Type 1, MJTC, SRCCYs) is one component of the broader youth justice system and should only serve youth who require correctional placement.

• Promote a system where the state agencies, county and local providers work together to enhance program effectiveness and minimize duplication of services.

• Prioritize evidence-based practices that serve youth in smaller, regional facilities that are closer to their communities and foster engagement with their families to promote a successful transition home.

• Promote youth and family voice and involvement with a strengths-based, culturally responsive approach.

• Value community engagement and community safety, both in the short term and in the long term.

• Ensure healthy, safe, and fair healthy environments for the youth in secure custody and the staff who serve them, including consideration of racial and ethnic disparities.

• Require that all youth in secure custody receive evidence-based, trauma-informed, and developmentally appropriate programming and services designed to meet their assessed risks and needs.