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Member, State of Wisconsin Act 185 Grants Committee
April 16, 2019

Items for Consideration during the Grant Application Discussion:

- As aptly noted by Senator Darling, the goal of these facilities is to reduce the number of youth in them. This will require counties that apply for funding for a SRCCY, or that send children from their county to a multi-jurisdiction SRCCY, to demonstrate specific efforts to the grants committee to reduce the need for secure out of home placements through alternative community-based programming for children and families that targets the risk and need factors associated with delinquent acts by children.

- Also as noted by Senator Darling, each young person should have an assessment done of their education, mental health, and family support system. Further, these assessments should be verifiably neutral in regard to race, sex/gender, and financial resources of the family.

- The Department of Corrections should provide a clear and accessible process for counties to apply for a variance as provided in *DOC Emergency Rule 347.05 Variance*, specifically for counties that are working to repurpose existing dwellings, to provide for smaller placements based on need and a review of data over a period of three years. This measure will prevent overbuilding and the resulting higher costs to operate even when the number of children decreases.

- Additionally, I urge the Wisconsin State Legislature to remedy Act 185 as follows:
 - Place a definitive cap (with flexibility based on a formula) of the total number of secure out of home placements of children, in the custody of DOC or a county, that is based on data for secure out of home placements in Wisconsin over the past three years. Currently, there is no cap in the law.

 - Place a definitive cap of no more than 15 children in one dwelling to ensure a non-institutionalized setting.