

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:

1. 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.
2. 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”).
3. Recognize that the post-dispositional secure custody of youth (Type 1, MJTC, SRCCCYs) is one component of the broader youth justice system and should only serve youth who require correctional placement.
4. Promote a collaborative system where the state agencies, county and local providers work together to enhance program effectiveness and minimize duplication of services.
5. Prioritize evidence-based practices that have proven outcomes 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.
6. Promote youth and family voice and involvement with a strengths-based, culturally responsive approach that builds toward self-sufficiency through wraparound services.
7. Value community engagement and community safety, both in the short term and in the long term.
8. Ensure healthy, safe, and fair environments for the youth in secure custody and the staff who serve them, including the elimination of racial and ethnic disparities.

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9. 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.¹
 10. Integrate best practices to collect, maintain, and analyze data to assess performance and improve outcomes for youth and families.
 11. Prioritize the successful and sustained transition for youth from the system immediately upon their reentry to prevent and reduce recidivism based on objective data.
 12. Promote community supervision that is evidence-based, trauma-informed and considers the needs of the youth and their families.
 13. Enable those in care and their families to provide feedback as they exit the system to ensure future data-based decision making.

¹ Refer to Wisconsin Promise (www.promisewi.com) for an example of successful programming and for evaluation data.