

Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Scott Walker | Secretary Jon E. Litscher


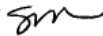
Division of Juvenile Corrections | Administrator's Office

ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMO TO COUNTIES

MEMO # 18-01

DATE: January 17, 2018

TO: County Departments of Human/Social Services Directors

FROM: John D. Paquin, Administrator 
Shelby A.B. McCulley, Assistant Administrator 

SUBJECT: Division of Juvenile Corrections Updates

The purpose of this memo is to provide information on the appointment of the new CLS/LHS Superintendent and the Governor's announcement regarding the establishment of regional juvenile correctional facilities.

Superintendent Position

On January 11, 2018, the Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) announced the appointment of Jason Benzel to the Institution Superintendent position at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake School (LHS/CLS) effective January 22, 2018.

Jason has nearly 24 years of experience working for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. He has held numerous positions related to the classification and well-being of the Department's inmate and youth population, including positions in the Division of Adult Institutions, Division of Juvenile Corrections, and Division of Community Corrections. Jason started his career as a Correctional Officer and later promoted to Correctional Sergeant. He then moved to the Division of Community Corrections as a Probation and Parole Agent in 2005. In addition, Jason has worked as an Offender Classification Specialist, Psychiatric Care Supervisor, Juvenile Review and Release Specialist, Corrections Unit Supervisor, and Corrections Classification Management Supervisor. Most recently, Jason served as Deputy Warden of Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution.

Jason holds a Bachelor's Degree in Administration of Justice and a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Leadership. He has received numerous DOC awards, including the 2013 Secretary's Salute Award for Life Saving and Valor and the 2011 Secretary's Salute Team Award. Jason's

diverse background and extensive experience will be an exceptional addition to LHS/CLS and DJC as the division moves forward.

Plans for Regional Juvenile Correctional Facilities

Earlier this month Governor Walker announced a plan to significantly reform Wisconsin's Juvenile Corrections system to align with nationally recognized best practices by moving from a system of one facility to smaller, regional facilities located across the state. Provisions from the Governor's announcement that directly impact DJC operations will:

- Require the DOC to relocate juveniles at Lincoln Hills School (LHS) to five new Type 1 juvenile correctional facilities.
 - The correctional facilities will each consist of 32 to 36 beds with staffing ratios consistent with requirements in the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) and will be sited regionally based on population density.
 - At least one correctional facility will be located north of a line between Manitowoc and La Crosse.
- Transition the existing facility at LHS/CLS to a medium-security adult correctional facility with the cooperation of Lincoln County.
- Require the Department of Health Services (DHS) to expand treatment services at the MJTC, serving more male juveniles as early as fall 2018, and creating a facility at MJTC to treat female juveniles with mental health needs.

Transition

Over the last two years, DJC's constant focus has been to identify opportunities for further reform that increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the programs and services we provide to the youth under our care. Families and stakeholders should know that throughout the transition process DOC and DJC leadership will remain fully committed to the continuation of these enhancements which have increased youth and staff safety at LHS/CLS and enhanced education, treatment, and mental health services.

The Governor's proposal is the next step in these efforts, representing an opportunity to build on changes enacted in a number of other states that have been successful in increasing positive outcomes for youth. Throughout this process, we will continue to engage and seek input from counties, legislators, judges, law enforcement, and others.

In the coming months, DJC will be working to collaborate with you to continue creating better futures for the youth in our care by promoting evidence-based treatments that encourage youth success and protect communities. Finally, we encourage you to forward this memo on to any county stakeholders, including those listed above, in order to further share this information.

Cc: Jon E. Litscher, Secretary, DOC
Cathy A. Jess, Deputy Secretary, DOC
Eloise Anderson, Secretary, DCF
Lisa Marks, Deputy Secretary, DCF
Brad Wassink, Assistant Deputy Secretary, DCF
Linda Seeymeyer, Secretary, DHS
Tom Engels, Deputy Secretary, DHS
Jenny Malcore, Assistant Deputy Secretary, DHS
Fredie-Ellen Bove, Administrator, DCF/DSP
Ron Hermes, Director, Bureau of Permanence and Out of Home, DCF/DSP
Wendy Henderson, Director, Bureau Youth Services, DCF/DSP
Emily Tofte, Section Manager, Bureau of Youth Services, DCF/DSP
John Tuohy, Director, Bureau of Regional Operations, DCF/DES
Greg Van Rybroek, Director, DHS/MJTC
DHS/DCF Area Administrators
DHS/DCF Human Service Area Coordinators
DOC/DJC Management staff
Court-attached juvenile court intake offices