

ADDENDUM

Eau Claire County
Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement
Thursday, March 3, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.
Courthouse – Room 1273

1. Resolution – Supporting State Legislation Examining Alternative Juvenile Justice Models
File No. 15-16/150 and Fact Sheet to File No. 15-16/150

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3 - SUPPORTING STATE LEGISLATION EXAMINING ALTERNATIVE JUVENILE JUSTICE
4 MODELS-
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6 WHEREAS, the Wisconsin State Juvenile Correctional Institution (JCI), Lincoln Hills
7 School for Boys (Lincoln Hills) was raided by law enforcement on December 5, 2015, in response to
8 allegations of physical abuse of a child, second-degree sexual assault, and victim and witness
9 intimidation; and

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11 WHEREAS, Lincoln Hills is located in North Central Wisconsin, and more than 50% of the
12 juvenile inmate population is from Milwaukee County; and

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14 WHEREAS, on December 17, 2015, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors passed
15 legislation requesting that judges refrain from placing juveniles at Lincoln Hills and urging the
16 Governor of Wisconsin and the County Executive to find alternative secure placements near
17 Milwaukee; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported on January 11, 2016, that 16 state
20 employees were placed on paid leave due to the ongoing investigation at Lincoln Hills and the
21 Department of Corrections refuses to provide details on how much these paid leaves are costing
22 taxpayers; and

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24 WHEREAS, one of the many repercussions of the issues identified at Lincoln Hills may be
25 the increased cost due to the investigation, e.g., paid leave of staff, overtime caused by the loss of 5.6
26 percent of its staff, and legal costs; and

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28 WHEREAS, the investigation of Lincoln Hills illustrates what numerous studies have shown
29 that juvenile delinquency services are more successful and cost efficient when they are provided
30 locally in small, community-based programs; and

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32 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has advocated for community-based, locally-operated,
33 outcome-driven programming to improve outcomes for youth; and

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35 WHEREAS, Eau Claire County has developed a number of alternatives to placement at
36 Lincoln Hills, including the 180 Program, a post-dispositional program at the Northwest Regional
37 Juvenile Detention Center which allows a maximum secure detention option for up to 365 days per
38 Wis. Stat. § 938.34(3)(f); and

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40 WHEREAS, under current law state judges order the placement of juveniles in the state-run
41 JCI's and counties are charged daily rates, set by the state for the care of adjudicated juveniles; and

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43 WHEREAS, the state legislature has pending legislation, (2015 Assembly Bill 746), that
44 advocates the creation of a committee to study a successful model for juvenile corrections in
45 Missouri and directs the committee to develop a plan for implementation here in Wisconsin; and
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1 WHEREAS, the extent of the investigation at Lincoln Hills is evidence of a larger
2 institutional problem making it imperative for the County to ensure the safety of Eau Claire County
3 youth by providing a local, evidence-based alternative or having a regional alternative to Lincoln
4 Hills.
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6 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors
7 supports the legislation (2015 Assembly Bill 746), creating a Juvenile Rehabilitation Study
8 Committee to review the Missouri Model of juvenile rehabilitation and to prepare a plan for
9 development and implementation in Wisconsin and any other model of service delivery that better
10 meets the needs of youthful offenders.; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, any additional costs incurred as a result of this investigation
13 of Lincoln Hills should be assumed by the state and not the counties; and
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15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the county supports the federal and state investigations of
16 civil rights violation involving youth placed at Lincoln Hills; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the
19 county clerk to forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing
20 Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.
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33 Committee on Judiciary and Law Enforcement

34 JM/yk

35 Dated this _____ day of _____, 2016.
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ORDINANC/15-16/150

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 15-16/150

This resolution supports state legislation examining alternative juvenile justice models in the wake of revelations of serious problems at the Lincoln Hills School for Boys. The resolution also addresses alternatives to placement at Lincoln Hills specifically the 180 Program here in the Northwest Regional Juvenile Detention Center.

Fiscal Impact: None
Respectfully Submitted,

Keith R. Zehms
Corporation Counsel

KRZ/yk

Ordinance/15-16.150 Fact