



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

## Testimony on Senate Bill 520

Thank you committee members for hearing Senate Bill 520 today. This bill will allow the Department of Corrections (DOC) to build a new Type 1 juvenile correctional facility in Milwaukee County. To provide context on and to stress the importance of this legislation, I will provide a brief overview to refresh everyone's memories on 2017 Act 185.

In light of several allegations and investigations regarding mistreatment of the children housed at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake, the legislature swiftly - and unanimously - approved Act 185 to address the flaws in our juvenile corrections system. Act 185 expanded capacity at Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center, authorized the building of new Type 1 juvenile facilities, established a new system of Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth, and closed Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake.

In addition, Act 185 created a study committee consisting of representatives from both houses of the legislature, of both political parties, numerous state departments, law enforcement, social service organizations, non-profits, and others. The study committee provided recommendations for services, programming, and locations of the Type 1 facilities. Two locations were recommended, however, the Administration decided to ignore the recommendations for the Milwaukee County location, and picked a site that had not been considered and had great opposition from the surrounding community. As a result, JFC rejected the sites.

During the 2021-23 budget discussions, the Department of Corrections (DOC) requested \$45,791,000 to construct a new Juvenile Corrections Facility in Milwaukee County. The 2021-23 budget, 2021 Act 58, provided \$4,000,000 for design.

This bill provides the additional \$41,791,000 for full construction of the new facility.

Approving this bill, will allow DOC to finally build a new Type 1 juvenile correctional facility in Milwaukee County and move Wisconsin one step closer towards closing Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake.

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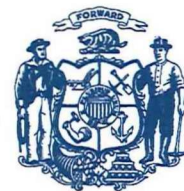
## Testimony on SB 520/AB 524

Chairman Wanggaard and esteemed committee members, thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 520 to fund the Type 1 juvenile correctional facility in Milwaukee County. We have been working on this for a long time. Senator Wanggaard and Senator Taylor, you introduced the original bill in the Senate back in February of 2018. After enactment of Act 185, it was with great optimism that we served together, hammering out details in the Juvenile Corrections Planning Committee. Yet, here we are again, with no visible progress on implementing the "Wisconsin Model" of juvenile justice. It is past time to get this done.

The Type 1 juvenile facility is intended to hold Serious Juvenile Offenders in a secure facility that is conducive to rehabilitation. While DOC has been working to improve the programming at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lakes Schools, the physical facility simply is not designed for its current purpose.

\$4 million in bonding was allocated in the current budget to plan and design the new Type 1 facility for juveniles. The Building Commission is meeting tomorrow to release those funds so that the planning process can move forward. In 2018, the planning committee was presented with some general concepts of a campus that embodied a more enlightened approach to juvenile justice. The images we saw looked more like a school than a prison. The concept drawings had plenty of light, color, and texture, and yet was designed for security. It is high time to move forward with the plans and construction.

It has been exceedingly frustrating to see this project be sidetracked in the early days of the change of administration and ongoing partisan squabbles. Still, it is gratifying that we are finally moving forward to provide our most troubled youth with a suitable facility with the best possibility of rehabilitation.



February 8, 2022

Chairman Wanggaard and Committee Members,

2017 Act 185 began the process of closing Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake juvenile prisons and adopting a new closer-to-home model of juvenile corrections in Wisconsin. That effort, passed unanimously by the Senate and Assembly and signed by former Governor Walker, is unfinished.

To accomplish the statewide transformation of juvenile corrections, a new network of facilities is necessary. I think of it as three legs of a stool – each equally necessary to support the needs of the statewide juvenile system.

Under the framework of 2017 Act 185, juvenile corrections in Wisconsin will be a shared task with three different systems: Secure Residential Care Centers for Youth (SRCCY's) operated by Counties; the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center operated by DHS; and a "Type-1" correctional facility operated by DOC.

The Legislature has appropriated the necessary funding for the County projects and the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center. Senate Bill 520 funds the final leg of the stool, by appropriating the necessary funds to build the DOC "Type-1" facility.

Under Senate Bill 520, the DOC "Type-1" facility is to be located in Milwaukee County. The bill does not specify an exact address within Milwaukee County. Milwaukee County is named on purpose – to ensure the facility is close to the major population centers of the State, those communities that historically send more juveniles into the juvenile correctional system – and the same communities those kids return to following incarceration.

The policy choice to locate the facility closest to the communities most impacted matters. Right-sizing institutions matters. Strengthening the child's transition back into the community matters.

These are policy choices that impact treatment services, re-entry success, and connection to healthy support systems. All of these protective factors are essential for reducing recidivism and increasing public safety once the youth return to their communities.

The end of this effort is in sight. Senate Bill 520 is the final step and the last leg of the stool. It's time to finish what we started.

## Testimony on Senate Bill 520

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety

Senator Mary Felzkowski

12<sup>th</sup> Senate District

February 8, 2022

Good morning Chairman Wanggaard and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to hear testimony on Senate Bill 520, which provides bonding authority for \$41 million for a new Type I juvenile correctional facility in Milwaukee County.

As you just heard from my co-author, Senator Wanggaard, the plans to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools have been in motion for a while now. Two sessions ago, the Legislature unanimously passed 2017 Act 185, mandating the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lakes Schools by July 1, 2021 – sending Serious Juvenile Offenders to a new Type 1 facility, and other youth to regional Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth.

That date has come and gone, and we have yet to break ground on the first state Type 1 building. The biennial budget that was signed into law a couple months ago included \$4 million toward this project, to be used for project planning, development, design, and site selection. **This bill fully funds the new Type 1 correctional facility needed at a cost of \$41,791,000.**

Some background for those of you who were not around at the time of 2017 Act 185: Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools are the state's primary facilities for juvenile offenders. The Legislature decided to act and pass a bill mandating the closures following a series of criminal probes and lawsuits, which clearly revealed that Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake were not being run appropriately, and created an inadequate and perilous environment for the youth in their care.

In addition to these issues, today's evidence-based practices show us that juveniles do best when incarcerated in small groups, close to their home environments, and with programming intended to help them re-integrate effectively into society. The current facilities do not fit these requirements, with Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake situated just south of Tomahawk in the heart of the Northwoods, on a sprawling campus built to serve a population of 500 inmates.

In the four years since the passage of 2017 Act 185, the environment at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake has remained unstable. The pandemic only exacerbated the difficulties there, with programming pauses and staff turnover contributing to an explosion of violent activity in 2020. In a petition of no confidence against facility administrators, union employees expressed that in the last six months of 2020, compared to the first six months of the year: staff injury went up 4700%, youth/staff battery went up 117%, sexual misconduct went up 75%, and use of force incidences went up 58%. You will hear from staff who currently work at the facility shortly, and they can speak to their experiences.

It is far past time for this facility to close. The Legislature *must* do its part and approve the funding for the new Type 1 correctional facility, for the sake of the employees who work there, and the youth that have been placed in the care of the state.

Attached to my testimony, please find the Legislative Fiscal Bureau Memo on the available bonding for a Type 1 Juvenile Correctional Facility, and DOC's project request which includes a breakdown of costs for the budget motion for the new Type I.

I want to thank my group of co-authors: Senator Wanggaard, Senator Taylor, Representative Schraa, Representative Callahan, and Representative Goyke for their support.





## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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June 28, 2021

TO: Senator Mary Felzkowski  
Room 415 South, State Capitol

FROM: Angela Miller, Fiscal Analyst

SUBJECT: Bonding Authorizations Relating to a Type 1 Juvenile Correctional Facility

At your request, I am providing information relating to bonding authorizations for a Type 1 juvenile correctional facility. Under 2017 Act 185, \$25.0 million was enumerated for the facility, although no bonding was authorized for that purpose. As a result of item vetoes of 2019 Act 9 (the 2019-21 budget), \$25.0 million was authorized for "projects", of which \$3.0 million was earmarked for the Tribune building in Wisconsin Rapids. Subsequently, \$7.0 million was allocated for Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth. On May 6, 2021, the Joint Committee on Finance approved a request under s. 13.10 of the statutes to utilize \$7.0 million of the "projects" bonding to expand the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center. Based on bonding status reports prepared by the State Controller, it appears that \$8.0 million of "projects" bonding remains unallocated at this time, and may be available for this purpose.

As part of the 2021-23 budget deliberations, the Governor recommended enumerating \$45.8 million for a Type 1 facility. On June 8, the Committee adopted Motion 84, to instead provide \$4.0 million of general fund supported borrowing for project planning, development, design, site selection, and land and property acquisition associated with the facility enumerated under 2017 Act 185. The attachment shows the amount of associated bonding authorized in the 2019-21 biennium, as well as a comparison of amounts considered as part of the 2021-23 budget deliberations.

I hope that this information is helpful. Please contact me if you have questions.

AM/lb  
Attachment

**ATTACHMENT**

**Project Enumerations and Bonding  
Relating to a Type 1 Juvenile Correctional Facility  
(\$ in Millions)**

**2019-21 Biennium**

<b>Project Enumeration</b>	\$25.0
<b>Bonding Amounts</b>	
"Projects" Bonding	25.0

**2021-23 Biennium**

	<u>Governor</u>	<u>Jt. Finance</u>
<b>Project Enumeration</b>		
Project Total*	\$45.8	\$29.0
<b>Bonding Amounts</b>		
New Bonding	45.8	4.0
Remaining "Projects" Bonding**	<u>0.0</u>	<u>8.0</u>
Total Bonding	\$45.8	\$12.0

\*The Committee increased the 2017 Act 185 enumeration by \$4.0 million, while the Governor's recommendation would have enumerated a new project for juvenile correctional facilities.

\*\* If the remaining "Projects" bonding would be allocated for this purpose.

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY – JUVENILE CORRECTIONS FACILITY

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS  
JUVENILE FACILITY  
MILWAUKEE COUNTY  
AGENCY PRIORITY #4

Request: \$45,791,000  
GFSB  
2021-2023

**Recommendation: \$45,791,000**  
**GFSB**  
**2021-2023**

## PROJECT REQUEST:

The DOC requests enumeration of \$45,791,000 GFSB to construct a new Juvenile Corrections Facility in Milwaukee County.

## GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

**Approve the request.**

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will construct a new Juvenile Corrections Facility in Milwaukee County. Design elements are based on concepts developed as a result of the Division of Juvenile Corrections Prototype Study. The facility will be approximately 59,000 GSF and will provide housing, food services, health services, education, counseling, vocational training, visitation, recreation, administrative services, and other supporting spaces for a population up to 32 juveniles. The facility is estimated to employ approximately 70 DOC employees, including but not limited to: teachers, social workers, youth counselors, etc. The project will also include exterior improvements to provide parking, loading, recreation space, and security fencing.

## PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:

Enacted in 2018, 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 required the Department of Corrections to establish one or more Juvenile Corrections Facilities no later than January 1, 2021, subject to the approval by the Joint Finance Committee. 2019 Wisconsin Act 8 subsequently delayed the establishment date to July 1, 2021. The facility in this request will assist DOC with working towards meeting the requirements of Act 185 and Act 8, which were created with the intent of eventually converting Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools' buildings into adult facilities.

## SBC OPTIONS:

1. Approve the recommendation to enumerate the project.
2. Deny the recommendation (defer the request).



PROPOSED SCHEDULE:

A/E Selection:	Mar 2019
Design Report:	Oct 2021
Bid Date:	Apr 2022
Start Construction:	Jun 2022
Substantial Completion:	Nov 2023
Final Completion:	Feb 2024

CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST:

Construction:	\$34,410,000
Design:	\$2,409,000
DFD Fee:	\$1,514,000
Contingency:	\$3,441,000
Equipment:	\$3,441,000
Land Acquisition:	\$436,000
Other Fees:	\$140,000
TOTAL:	<u>\$45,791,000</u>

OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT: The projected start-up cost of one Juvenile Correctional Facility is \$874,000. The projected annual operating budget of a Juvenile Correctional Facility is \$7,744,000 and 74.00 FTE. The estimated annual cost of Repair and Maintenance is \$30,000. The estimated annual cost of Fuel and Maintenance is \$105,000.

The projected start-up administrative costs for Juvenile Correctional Facilities is \$8,300. The projected annual operating budget for administrative costs is \$2,087,500 with 15.00 FTE. Projected administrative costs will not fluctuate with an increase in the number of facilities.



# Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Governor Tony Evers | Secretary Kevin A. Carr

**Testimony in Support of SB520/AB524 Related to bonding authority for a new Type 1 youth facility**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary & Public Safety**  
**Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 10:00 am**  
**411 South**

Good morning Chairperson Wanggaard and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB520 which approves the critical bonding authority necessary to proceed with the planning, design, and eventual construction of a new Type 1 Facility.

My name is Melissa Roberts and I am the Assistant Deputy Secretary for the Department of Corrections (DOC). Our administration has been committed to complying with the requirements of 2017 Act 185 since we began in 2019. I'd like to provide a brief history of our efforts.

In the 2019-2021 budget, Governor Evers proposed increasing the \$25 million appropriation to \$115 million for the construction of two new Type 1 Facilities. The Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) removed all bonding authority approved through Act 185 and did not approve the additional \$90 million for a second facility. This left \$0 dollars available for the construction of a new Type 1 facility.

In October 2019, the DOC completed the necessary work to finalize the plan for two new Type 1 facilities and requested approval of \$73 million for the construction of two new facilities. In February 2020, the JCF declined to authorize spending on our proposals. These two moves essentially halted our ability to complete any substantial planning and design.

Despite not being able to move forward with constructing a new Type 1, the DOC has continued to comply with the consent decree entered under the previous administration at Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake and make marked improvements in the environment, security practices, and staff well-being.

The Governor once again proposed funding for a new Type 1 in his 2021-2023 budget. In advance of JCF voting on this proposal, we briefed Senate leadership on our plan to convert Felmers Chaney Correctional Center in the city of Milwaukee to a new Type 1 facility. We also did early outreach to key advocacy groups and local, county and state elected officials to outline our plan. JCF voted to remove the funding for a new Type 1. Instead, JCF approved \$4 million in bonding for design and planning of a new Type 1 which is not typically done for projects of this nature. Due to the nature in which this limited funding was approved, the DOC must first seek approval from the State Building Commission (SBC), the traditional authority in capital projects, before we can expend those funds. I am happy to report that SBC will be meeting tomorrow and our proposal for accessing as portion of those funds is up for consideration.

If the SBC approves our request tomorrow and the Legislature authorizes spending for the construction of a new Type 1 facility, the DOC would finally be able to complete the comprehensive tasks of officially siting the proposed location, continue our engagement with the local community, and finalize the design

and planning of the actual building. With that work done, as required by Act 185, we would then submit our site selection to the JCF for approval before proceeding to the SBC for release of the funds.

There is much work to be done and the key to moving forward with the vision that Act 185 defined and the bipartisan support of the legislature hoped for is for the legislature to act on approving SB520. This administration has always been and will continue to be focused on doing the right thing. Both parties agree that the right thing to do is close Lincoln Hills and get our kids closer to home.

Make no mistake, there are still many challenges and decisions ahead. The DOC is prepared and willing to address the expected local issues collaboratively. However, none of this hard work can occur without action from the legislature. We understand and appreciate that there are questions about how utilizing the Felmers Chaney site might impact other DOC operations. The Secretary and his leadership team have been actively engaged in conversations with local community advocates. In fact, DOC requested a meeting with these advocates in January of this year to listen to their concerns and discuss their ideas for an alternate site. Although we are moving forward with our plan based on what we know right now, we will continue to collaborate with advocates on this current location and any prospective locations they may offer that fits our needs. The advocates understand that if there is no other appropriate site to consider that we need to move forward in the best interest of the kids.

For the sake of our kids and doing what's right, we need to move the vision of Act 185 forward. We hope that both the Senate and Assembly will support this bill and move it forward to the Governor's desk for signature.

Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions you have.

FELMERS O. CHANEY

ADVOCACY BOARD

Phone: 414-795-2343



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Affiliated Member

Sherman Park Community  
Association (SPCA)

In Memory Of:

Felmers O. Chaney  
(1918 – 2012)

Barry W Givens  
(1949-2019)

Dr. R.L. McNeely, Esq.  
(1946-2020)

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public  
Safety**

**On Behalf of the Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board (FCAB)  
In opposition to SB 520**

**February 8, 2022**

The state legislature should fully implement 2017 Wisconsin Act 185 (Act 185) without delay including identifying a suitable location for the youth prison. However, members of the Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board (FCAB), are opposed to the current Department of Corrections (DOC) plan to raze the minimum-security pre-release Felmers O. Chaney Center and build the Type 1 juvenile facility on that site. Last year, the Department of Corrections announced their plan to build the Type 1 facility at the current location of the Felmers O. Chaney site without transparency or community input. The site was selected because it is "our land and we can do with it what we want." Since learning of this plan, the Felmers O. Chaney Advocacy Board (FCAB), with the assistance of other individuals and organizations, have collected over 600 signatures from persons who also are opposed to this plan. I am delivering a copy of these signatures to you today with my testimony. The plan to demolish a building that is only 22 years old was done in isolation and with no transparency. If this bill is allowed to move forward without the identification of an alternative appropriate site located for the Type 1 juvenile facility there will be extensive, cascading negative effects, like dominoes falling because of your decision.

Eliminating 100 beds at a pre-release center in Milwaukee would be a tragic mistake. More than 2,600 persons returned to Milwaukee County annually from Wisconsin prisons between 2000 – 2018. In 2018, 29% of all persons released from DOC were released to Milwaukee County. Milwaukee needs more pre-release center beds, not fewer, to give returning citizens an opportunity to get a job in the local economy, to put aside savings for much-needed housing when they are released, engage in treatment and educational opportunities, and to restore their relations with family and community. Currently there are only 269 pre-release beds in Milwaukee. (Only 160 of these are for men). Closing the Chaney Center would reduce that number to only 60 pre-release placement opportunities for men returning to Milwaukee. We already are not meeting the current need for transfer

*"Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are" –  
Benjamin Franklin*

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's  
the only thing that ever has." –Margaret Mead*

to a pre-release center. These pre-release centers are intended to reduce the risk of recidivism. In turn, when we reduce recidivism, we are working to end mass incarceration. Reducing these beds in Milwaukee County will result in cascading negative effects, like dominoes falling because of your decision.

Tom LaBel, an associate professor, and chair of the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology at UW-Milwaukee states that “based on the number of men and women returning to Milwaukee and Southeast Wisconsin there is a great need for more Correctional Center beds to facilitate the successful transition from prison to the community,” continuing that “if the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center is converted from an adult to a youth facility, a significant number of adult pre-release beds needs to be added in the City of Milwaukee.”

The Sherman Park Community Association (SPCA) was instrumental in having the Felmers O. Chaney Center located in their community. According to Dr. Thomas A. Livvendahl, former Vice President of the SPCA, “The current position of the Sherman Park Community Association is to challenge the Department of Corrections to find a more creative way to house juvenile offenders.” He goes to say that “the Chaney Center’s restorative justice mission of reducing adult mass incarceration is a core outcome the Association fully supports! We continue this support. Our advice is to encourage full consideration of alternative youth prison locations.” Dr. Livvendahl states “The SPCA requests the WI-DOC to allow sufficient time so that neighboring communities can join in facilitating a much-needed community meeting” before a decision is made to close the Chaney Center and build a juvenile prison at that site.

Since raising the concern about the limited number of pre-release beds in Milwaukee was raised, DOC now indicates that they will repurpose a couple of floors at the Milwaukee Secure Detention Facility (MSDF) as a minimum facility. I raise this issue today because there is no funding for this project, and there has been no transparency in this proposal either. If the Chaney Center is demolished, there is no guarantee that the re-entry beds will be replaced. For a whole host of reasons, MSDF is not a suitable location for a minimum re-entry facility. A potential continuing cascade of negative effects, like dominoes falling will occur if you vote in favor of SB 520 before an alternative site can be identified.

There has been no official action involving the exploration of an appropriate site for a Type 1 facility since Walker Administration Study Committee commenced its work in 2018. Three years have been wasted and Milwaukee youth continued to be held 215 miles and three hours away from their families. As many of you know, the Walker administration site selection committee put forward just one recommended location for the facility and it was rejected due to political pressure and by community members who were not invited to the table from the beginning. A second location was then offered by the former Milwaukee mayor, and it was rejected by the neighboring mayor of Glendale and the Glendale Common Council. Both sites were rejected due to “not in my backyard or “NIMBYism” sentiments. State and local legislators and DOC officials must engage in community education at the beginning of their site selection process reassuring neighbors that a Type 1 facility does not make a community dangerous. There are many prisons located withing walking distance of residential housing,



schools, hospitals, and entertainment venues including many of these facilities locating in an area that already included a prison. Waupun Correction Facility, a maximum-security prison is in the center of the city of Waupun with residential homes right across the street from "the Walls." Dodge Correctional Institute, John Burke Correctional Center and the Waupun State Prison farm are nearby as well. MSDF and the Milwaukee County Jail are blocks away from a K-12 school, a hospital, newly developed Brewery Point Senior housing and near the Fiserv Forum and the Deer District, along with many other businesses and tourist destinations in Milwaukee. Taycheedah Correctional Facility is just one mile from a private high school, and closer to a hospice facility. Private homes are literally on the other side of the security fencing. We must not allow this nimbyism with the faulty narrative of danger stop us from finding a suitable location for the Type 1 facility. The same Milwaukee youth who would be housed in a Type 1 facility are currently held in the county juvenile detention center in the basement of the Vel R Phillips facility less than two miles from top medical facilities in Wauwatosa. The area surrounding the detention facility continues to see growth in hotels, restaurants, and residential housing even though the detention center is within walking distance of these establishments. The youth facility does not make the neighborhood dangerous. We cannot allow this narrative to be repeated and impede the closure of Lincoln Hills.

FCAB and other groups supporting both the closure of Lincoln Hills and keeping the Chaney Center open in its current location have, without any official charge, engaged in a process to identify an alternative site for the Type 1 facility. We are committed to both saving the Chaney Center and assisting in finding a more appropriate location for the Type 1 facility. We have been working with Anthony Foster, a local Milwaukee realtor with Frost Realty, to identify potential site for the Type 1 facility that meets DOC's requirements: 8-10 acres, access to transportation/bus routes, agreement regarding the location by advocates and elected officials, and community acceptance. We have identified several possible sites that meet the first two criteria and are ready to take the next steps to bring elected officials and community members to the table to talk with them about the facility. However, more time is needed to do this. FCAB encourages the Department of Corrections to engage in a community process much like was done 22 years ago when the Chaney Center was built in the Sherman Park neighborhood. Surely there is room in Milwaukee for both retaining the Chaney Center in its current location as well as the new Type 1 juvenile facility. Further, the Felmers Chaney site does not meet the 8-10-acre requirement activists were given for site identification. In fact, the Chaney Center location is only 3.86676 acres - two and a half times smaller than the size of the site Sec. Carr has asked FCAB and community activists to identify for the new facility.

While the state legislature is out of compliance with the statutorily deadline to close Lincoln Hills youth prison not once, by twice, the motivation to close the youth prison without thoughtfully planning, including community engagement, should not occur simply as an economic development and job creation plan. We should not be building, prisons, opening prisons or imprisoning our fellow brothers and sisters in any capacity as a means to preserve jobs or expand employment in Lincoln County and reopen Lincoln Hills as an adult facility. Our criminal justice policy should be enacted on issues of community safety. The wisdom of expanding our capacity to imprison an additional 500 men in our state, 215 miles and three hours away from Milwaukee County, where

28% of them will be returning, should be examined a bit more closely, but that is a different fight for a different time.

Before any further action is taken to raze the Chaney Center, we ask that DOC provide full transparency and disclosure of plan for building the Type 1 facility at that site and the cost and estimated timeframe for rehabilitating MSDF including the approved funding to do so.

We urge Governor to appoint a committee to work with DOC to explore appropriate sites for Type 1 facility. Milwaukee County, the city of Milwaukee, activists, impacted children and their families, and community members, should be fully engaged and cooperate with DOC to explore and identify an appropriate site for the Type 1 facility. We also ask that DOC explore the former Ethan Allen School as a possible site for the new Type 1 facility and request that DOC be transparent by sharing full reports of this exploration. Similar to the rationale for using the Chaney Center site, DOC owns the land, and they can do with it what they want. Given the prototype developed for the Type 1 facility, it would be one building located on an 8-10 acre site. It would not require utilization or renovation of the entire footprint of the former Ethan Allen School site. In addition, there would be no additional cost to purchase land or rehabilitate MSDF; an opportunity for the legislature to demonstrate good stewardship of taxpayers' money. In the absence of DOC, Milwaukee County and the city of Milwaukee leaders ability to identify an appropriate site in Milwaukee County, other than the Felmers O. Chaney site, activists are in support of locating the Type 1 facility at the former Ethan Allen School location.

The members of the Felmers Chaney Advocacy Board stand firmly against any plan to close the Felmers O. Chaney Center and to reduce the number of pre-release center beds in Milwaukee. In fact, we call for additional pre-release center beds to be provided in Milwaukee. The reduction of mass incarceration and the restoration of returning citizens, families, and communities depend on it. Milwaukee County should not be forced into choosing between an essential pre-release center or a youth prison that will allow children to have more contact with loved ones. FCAB encourages members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety to oppose SB 520 until the Wisconsin Department of Corrections has identified a suitable location for the Type 1 facility that does not raze the Felmers O. Chaney Center. We are here to assist in that effort.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Volz Daniels, MSW, LCSW

Acting Chair, FCAB  
[wvolzdan@gmail.com](mailto:wvolzdan@gmail.com)  
920-948-1855

**List of identified sites that need further exploration for the new Type 1 facility:**

- Revisit - Ethan Allen School, W323S1050 Boys School Road in the Town of Delafield (although mailing address is Wales, WI)



- 6101 W Mill Road, Milwaukee, WI 53218 – (6-acre city owned site - initially considered for the Type 2 secure residential center)
- Revisit - 6600 N Teutonia Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53209 – (6.05+-acre city owned site - considered for the Type 1 facility)
- Former DMV Emissions Testing Site 7930 W. Clinton Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233 (need to investigate size of property – listed as 6.6600 acres)
- 6440 S Howell Avenue (Southeast Quadrant of College & Howell) Oak Creek, WI
- 11000 W. Mill Road, Milwaukee, WI 53225
- Former Fletcher Elementary School 9500 W Allyn Street (9102 N 96<sup>th</sup> Street) (current requirement is that the property is taxable)
- 6900 W Florist Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53218
- 6000 S 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53221
- 3025 W Hopkins Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216 (city may not be interested in this location)
- 7030 W Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53223
- 300 E College Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53207

### **Recent Media Attention**

Group urges DOC to reconsider Milwaukee prison to replace Lincoln Hills

Department of Corrections considering Milwaukee correctional center for Lincoln Hills replacement

OPINION: We don't need to destroy Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center to offer a local alternative for Lincoln Hills

Little progress in finding facility to house Milwaukee youths once Lincoln Hills, Copper Lake prisons close

Lawmakers vote to expand Mendota mental health center, a step toward reducing youth population at troubled Lincoln Hills



370

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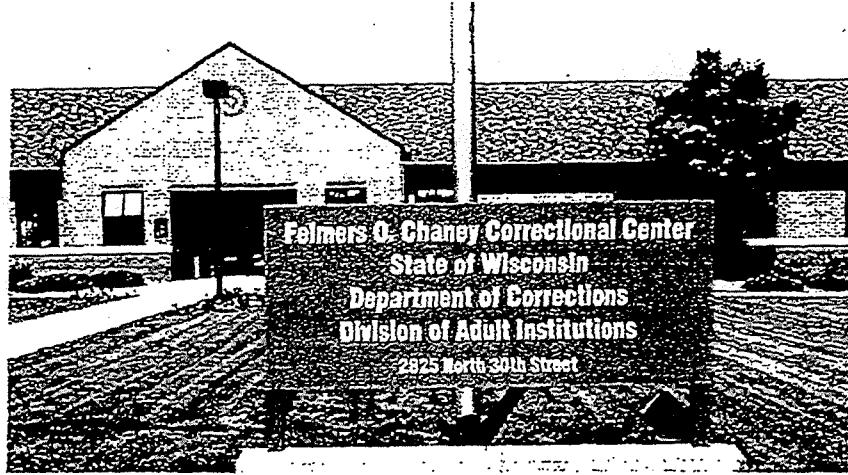
Sherman Park Community Association (SPCA)

**In Memory Of:**

Dr. R. L. McNeely, Esq.  
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**Save the Felmers O. Chaney Center! PETITION. PLEASE SIGN!**  
Return by October 29, 2021



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Signed, \_\_\_\_\_

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Thomas Ertel	7440 Oak Hill	53213	tertel@sbccglobal.net
Stephen M. Downs			stephen.downs@mlsquinet.edu

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SAVE THE CHANEY CENTER PETITION

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Return by October 29, 2021

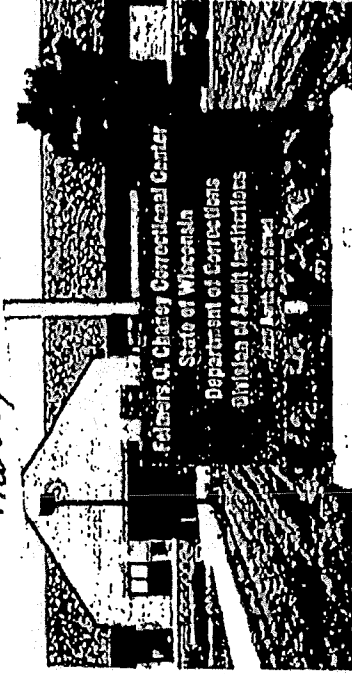
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Carl Engelhardt	2615 A MIRA DR BROOKFIELD	53045	" "
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Yvonne Kops	8022 W. North Ave. Wau. 53213-1628	53213	—
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Sue Jacobson	14125 Thomson Dr #301 Brookfield, WI	53045	sue.jacobson@aicd.com

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Hi, These are  
my friends,  
I'm not invited  
going door-to-  
door as usual  
May Recovery  
win next year  
Merry Christmas

Save the F!

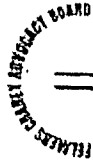
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Andrew Jones	3377 N. 47th St Milwaukee WI	53216	andrewjonesa@gmail.com
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In Memoriam  
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Chairman  
Felmers O. Chaney  
11/15 - 2012







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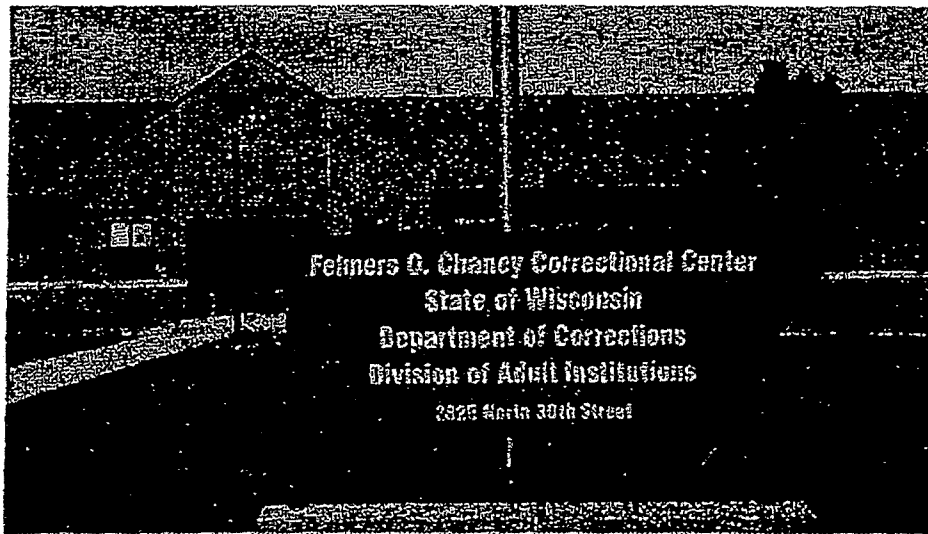
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Signed,

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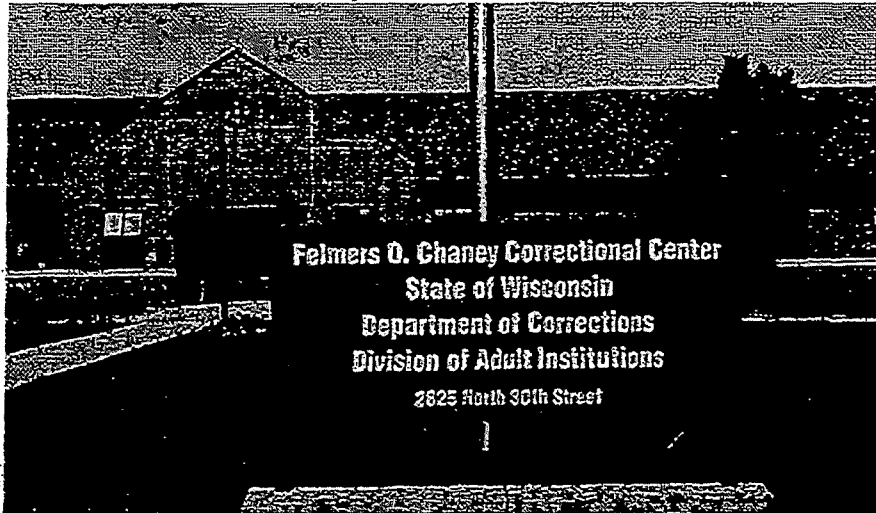
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Signed,

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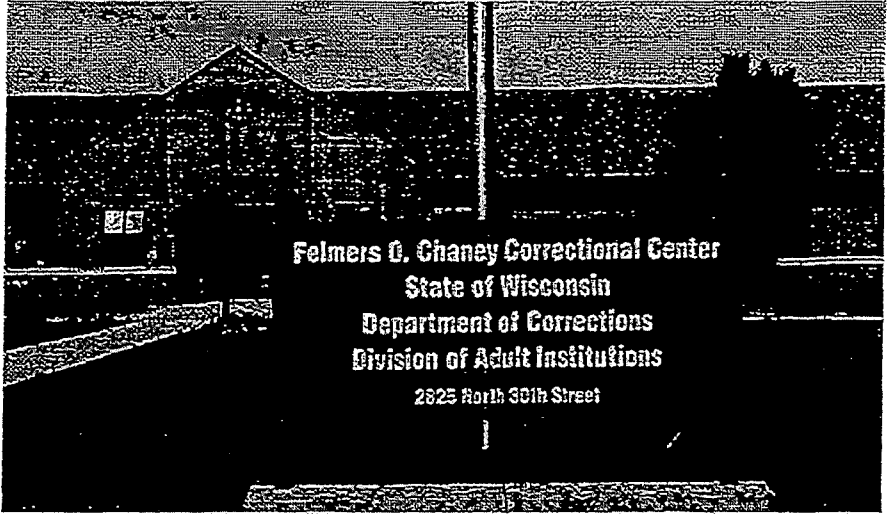
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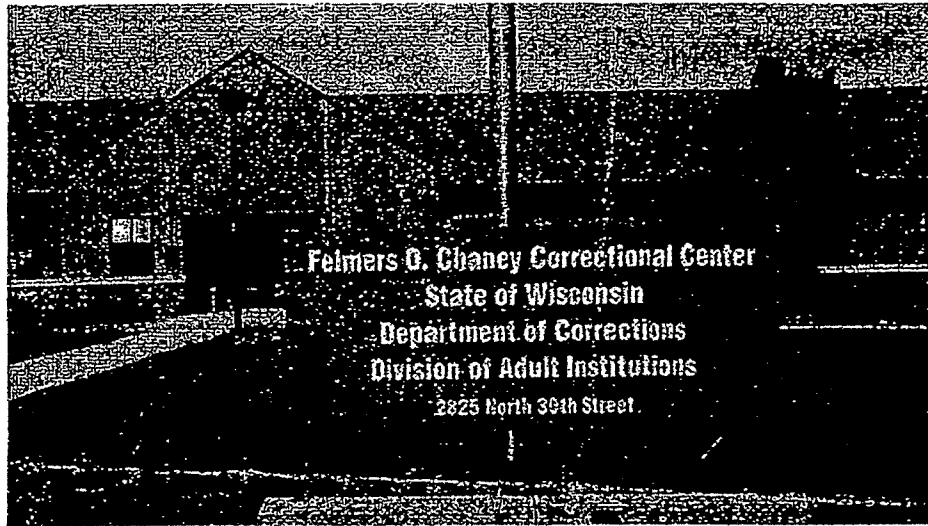
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Roberta Heston	41	2	//
Jim Fenske		2	JimFenske@yahoo.com

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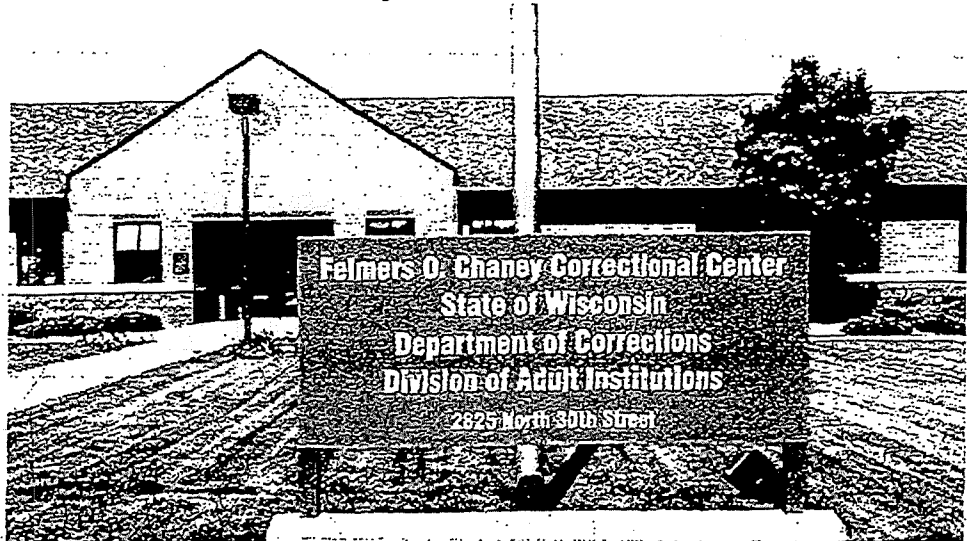
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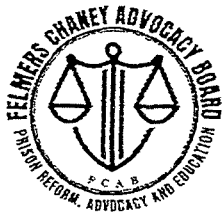
Signed,

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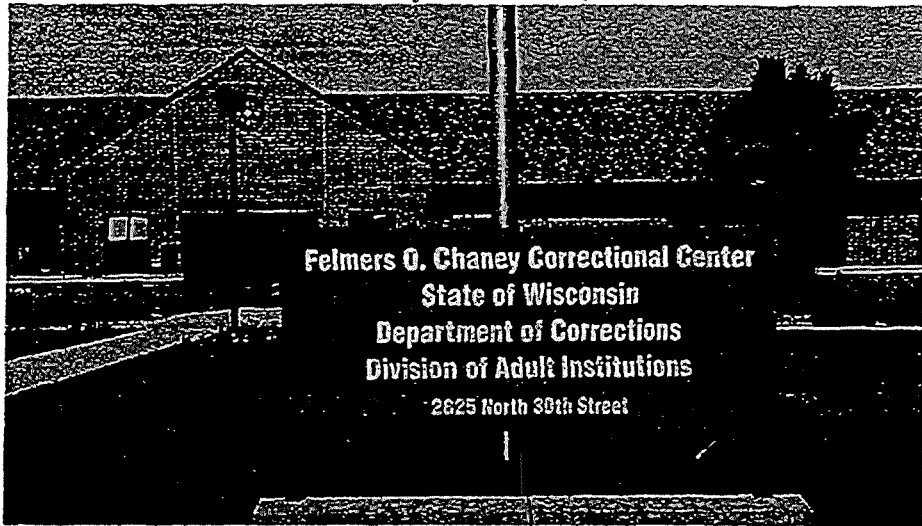
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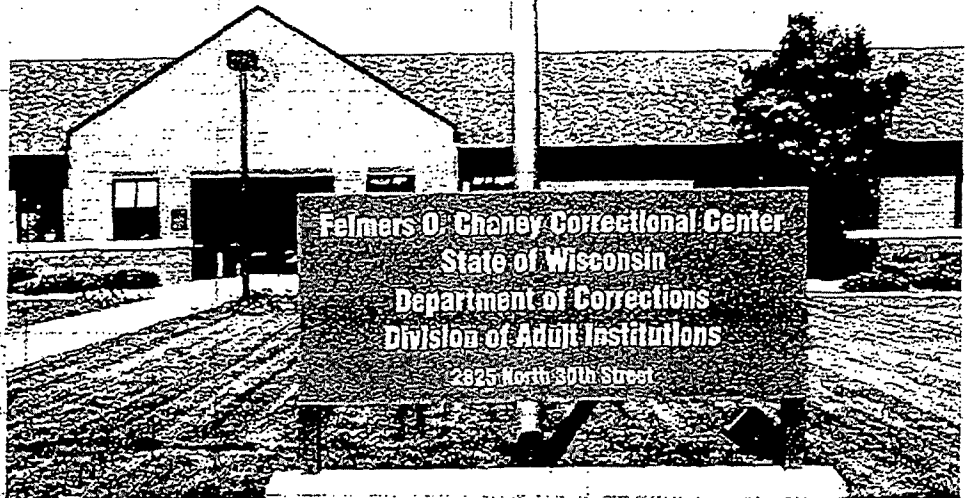
**In Memory Of:**

Dr. R. L. McNeely, Esq.  
Chairman  
Felmers O. Chaney  
(1918 - 2012)



**Save the Felmers O. Chaney Center!**

**PETITION. PLEASE SIGN!**



The Department of Corrections has suggested closing the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center and using that space to open a \_\_\_\_\_ to finally deliver on the legislature's promise to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Youth prisons. The Chaney Center has long been considered by men who resided there to offer the best support for a successful return to Milwaukee. We should not reduce the number of available pre-release beds in our community because we can't agree on a suitable location for a new youth facility. You can read more about this issue in the \_\_\_\_\_ or in the \_\_\_\_\_. We can and must find another suitable location.

Signed,

NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
Dexter Phillips	1877 W. 1526 W. 62nd St	53206	
Borden Bennett	3520 N 22nd	53206	
Julia	2860 N 22	53208	
Tim Alford			

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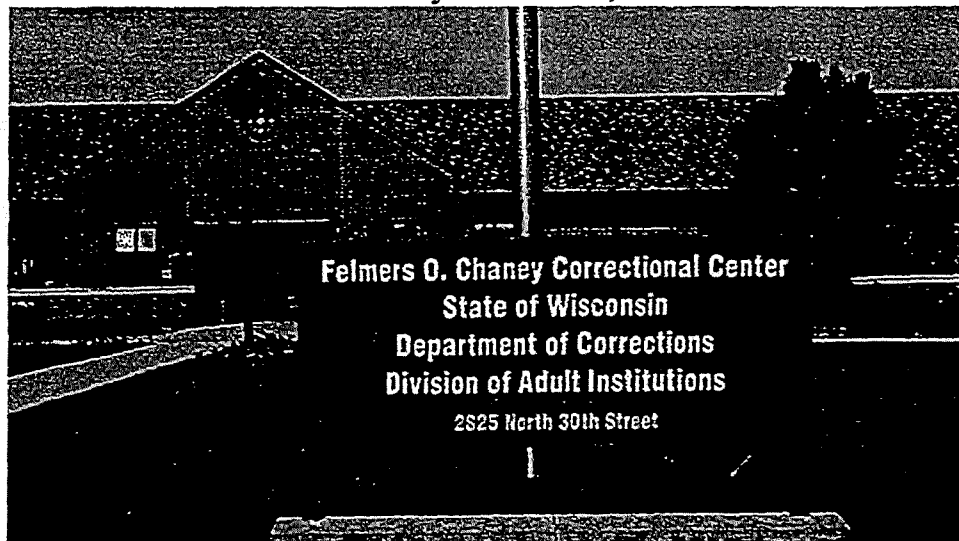
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Return by October 29, 2021**



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NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
Charles Hampton	506 W Walnut Street	53212	hamptoncharles@gmail.com
Ella Hampton	506 W Walnut St	53212	12011820113@gmail.com
JOHN HARWELL	66 CLINTON 78TH ST.	83223	harwelljohn03@gmail.com
Earl Baker	89 11 N. 70 ST	53223	EARL BAKER 84@yahoo.com

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NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
Alycia Johnson	2825 <sup>n</sup> Hiltan St	53212	aliciajohnson929@gmail
Cleon Suggap	6314 N. 104 <sup>th</sup>	53225	TRANSITIONW12@yahoo.com
Helen Strauder	4142 N. 26 St	53209	helenstrauder1@gmail
John Gene Mack	4483 N. 47 <sup>th</sup> St	53218	pl6GENE@AOL.COM
James Reynolds	2509 N. 22nd St	53206	reynoldsjames608@gmail.com
Jenny Warren	2466 N. 6 <sup>th</sup> St	53212	<del>warrenjenny@gmail</del>
<del>Robert Wallace</del>	<del>2002 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St</del>	<del>53210</del>	<del>robwallace@gmail.com</del>
Brian K. Osei	2821 N. 4 <sup>th</sup> St	53212	brianosei84@gmail.com
John Factor	7123 Nxs	53201	
Howard McKel	3357 W 28	53212	
Walter White	1422 S 92 St	53214	litwalt@me.com
Esther Turner	2410 W Penn	53216	
Archie Ann	4862 N 47 <sup>th</sup> St	53209	
Aloni Lu	4047 N 62 <sup>nd</sup>	53208	
Leona Justice Lewis	2245 W Fordville	53206	
Taiwan Edwards	2474 W. N. 47 <sup>th</sup> St	53206	
Michael MONGANU	1525 N 24 <sup>th</sup> ST	53205	M.MONGANU@springfieldcollege, I.E.
Diana Massey	2845 N 15 Lane	53206	
Lyn Sue	3219 - N 19	53206	
Demetrius	2021 W 20	53206	
Marcus Galt	613 W. Galena	53212	marcusgalt@yahoo.com





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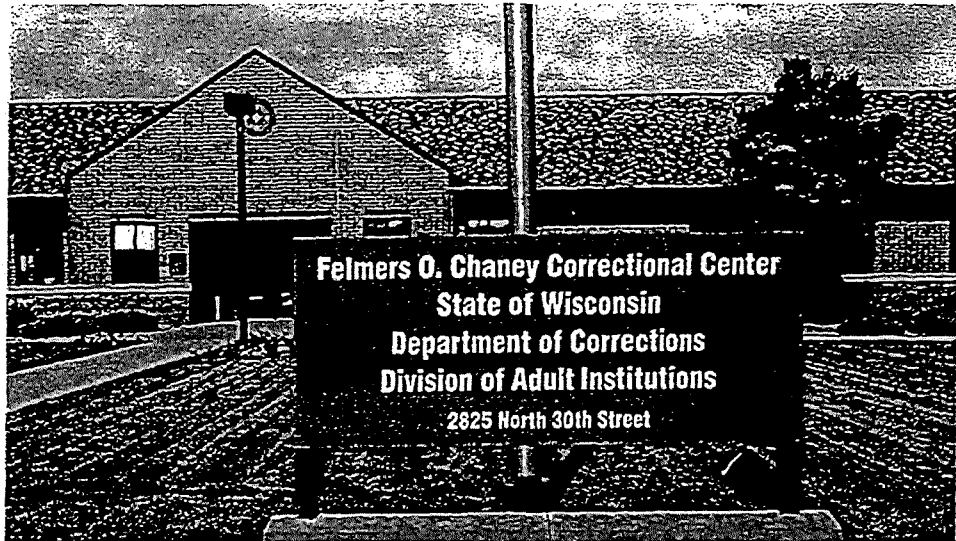
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Signed,

NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
Wendel Hruska	3701 N 58th Blvd.	53216	wendel@projectreturnmilwaukee.org
Kelly Schaefer	3701 N 58th Blvd	53216	kschaefer1020@gmail.com
Steven Hruska	3701 N 58th Blvd	53216	S.hruska01@gmail.com
Eugene Nelson	2603 W. NASH ST	53206	Eugene@projectreturnmilwaukee.org

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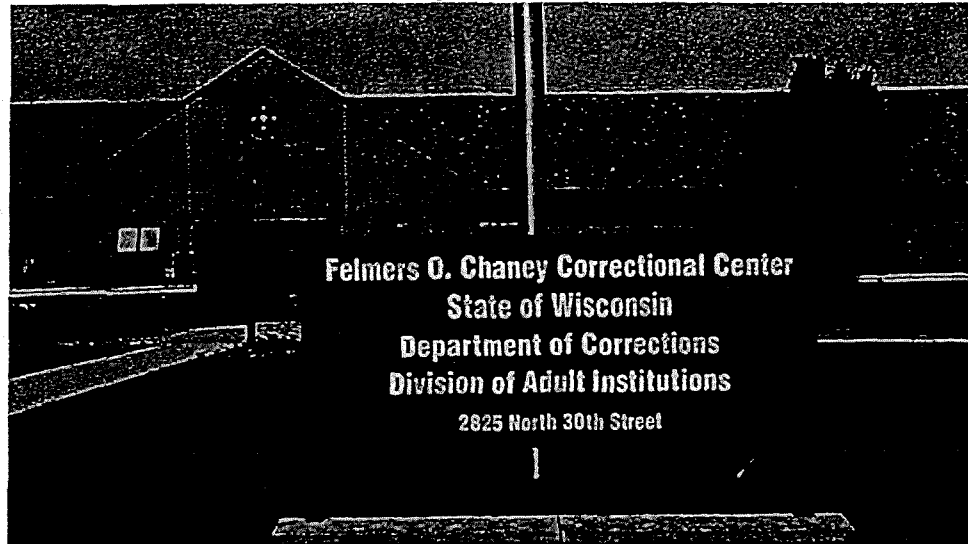
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NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
Bryant Smith	7106 W Dove St	53223	bryant.smith88@ymail.com
Michele Smith	7106 W Dove St	53223	mcsmith6840@ymail.com
Wendell Spivey	6878 N Seville	53209	wcspivey@icloud.com
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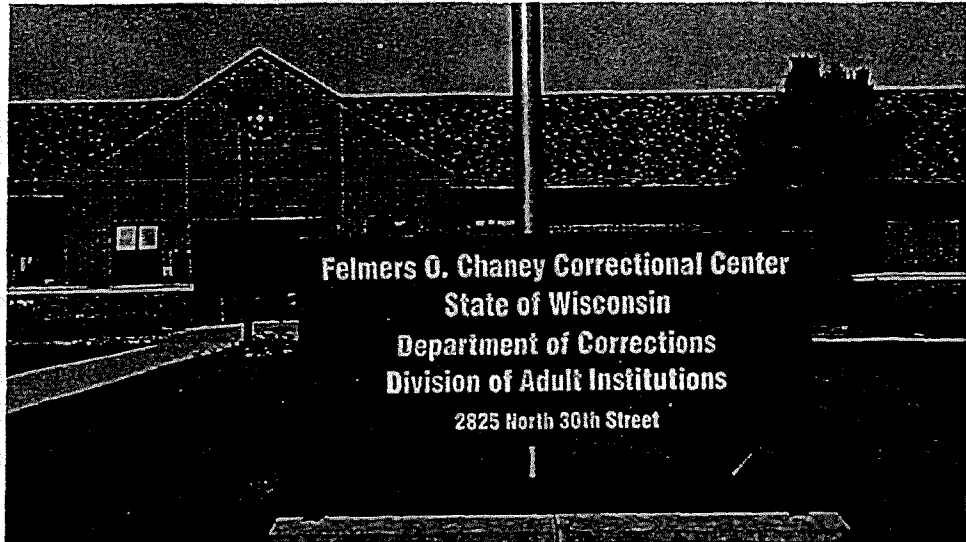
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**Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center**  
State of Wisconsin  
Department of Corrections  
Division of Adult Institutions  
2825 North 30th Street

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NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
J. PUBORD	3765 N88	53222	
C. Washabaugh	2412 E. Linnwood	53211	cathwash707@gmail.com
W. Washabaugh	"	"	washabaugh.washabaugh@gmail.com
W. Kenney	6512 Sunny Point	53217	

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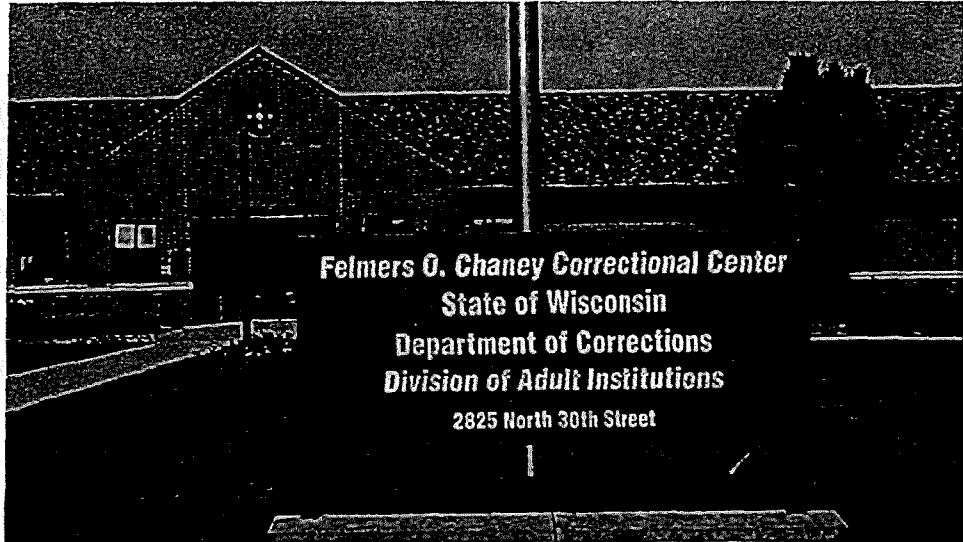
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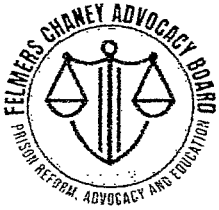
Signed,

NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
KATHLEEN KONEAZNY	1200 N. 62nd St. MKE 5321	53213	konezchs@shglobal.net
Mary Louise Stebbins	3377 N. Cramel St	53211	stebbinm@gmail.com
Claude Gray	9007 W. 53rd Cheyenne Ct	53224	claudejgray2015@gmail.com
John Walsh	3451 N. Dousman	53212	walsh.joj@live.com

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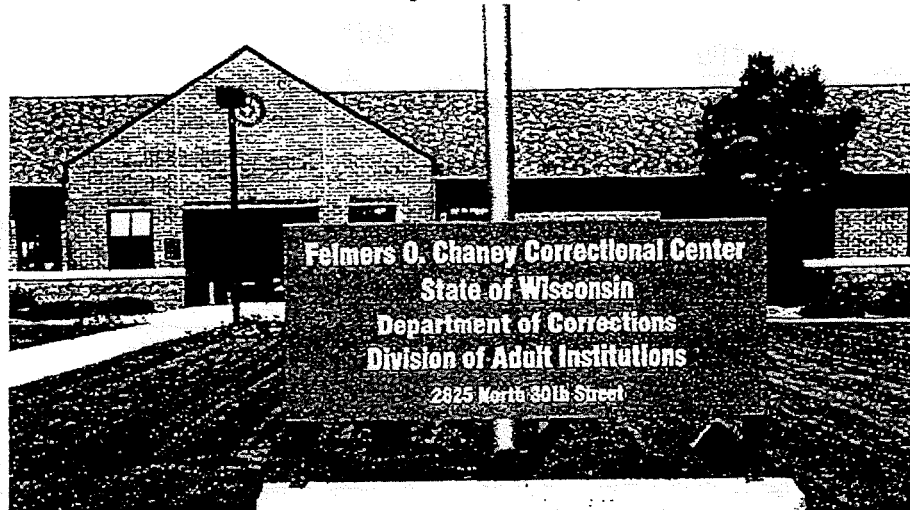
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GAIL Gaillard	1645 N. 17th St	53205	
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Lernita Phillips	2215 N. 23rd St Wauwatosa, WI	53205	
Loreto Thompson	5946 N. 36th	53209	

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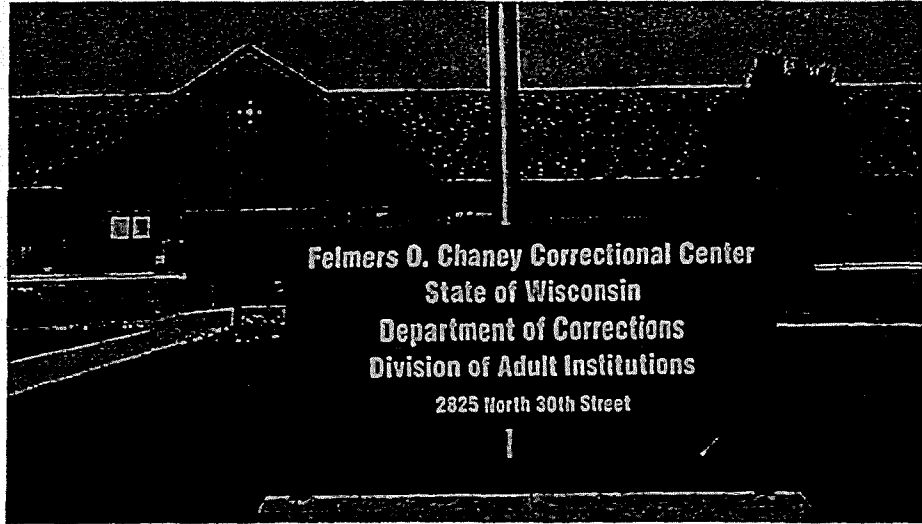
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NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
Barbara Federlin	3466 Noeils St	53212	
Tonem O'Donnor	324 E Deer Pl	53207	tonazem@gmail.com
JILL HUGHES	429 N. 89TH STREET	53226	jhughes621@wi.rr.com
NICK HUGHES	429 N. 89th TOBA	53226	

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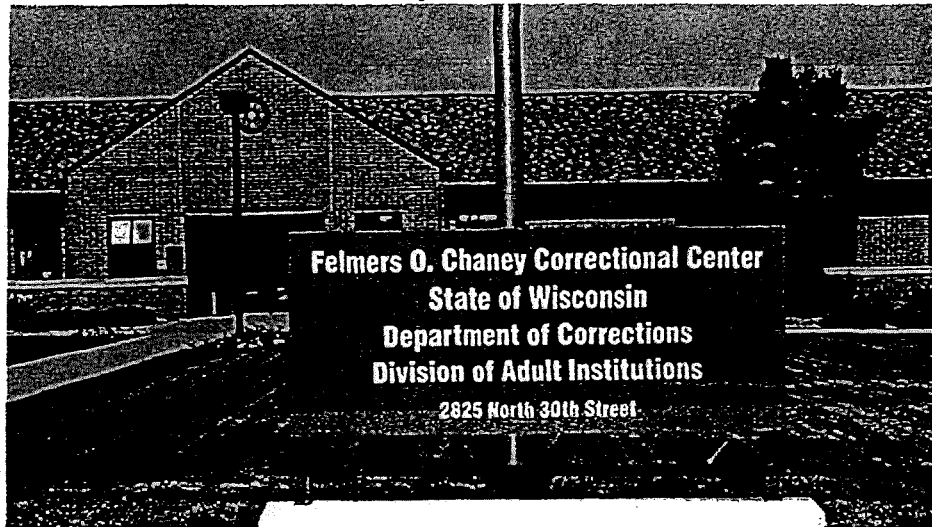
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NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
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Doris Owens	3428 N 14th	53206	
Mistress Sarita Griffin	3002 N. 5th St	53210	griffindsey@gmail.com
Eva Hagenhofer	470 W. Willow Ct	53217	evameredith@att.net

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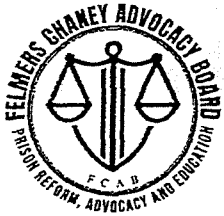
NAME	ADDRESS	ZIP	EMAIL
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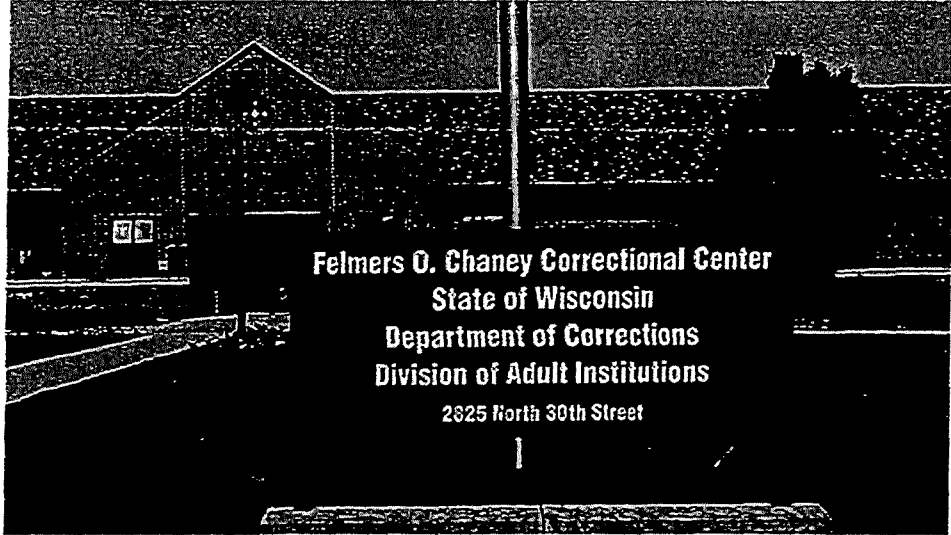
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414-795-2343

**Save the Felmers O. Chaney Center! PETITION. PLEASE SIGN!  
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The Department of Corrections has suggested closing the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center and using that space to open a type 1 youth facility to finally deliver on the legislature's promise to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Youth prisons. The Chaney Center has long been considered by men who resided there to offer the best support for a successful return to Milwaukee. We should not reduce the number of available pre-release beds in our community because we can't agree on a suitable location for a new youth facility. You can read more about this issue in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel or in the Neighborhood News Service. We can and must find another suitable location.

Signed,

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." -Margaret Mead





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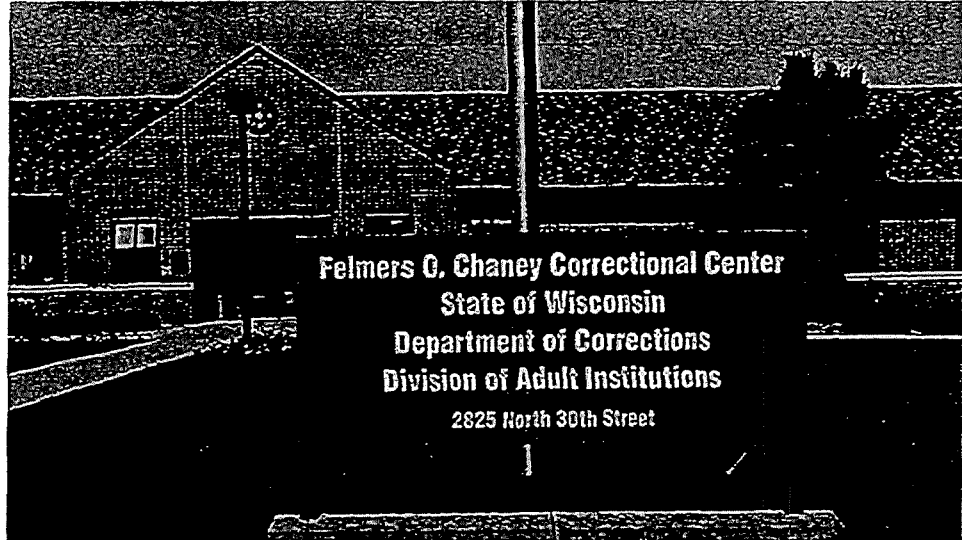
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**Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center  
State of Wisconsin  
Department of Corrections  
Division of Adult Institutions  
2825 North 30th Street**

The Department of Corrections has suggested closing the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center and using that space to open a type 1 youth facility to finally deliver on the legislature's promise to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Youth prisons. The Chaney Center has long been considered by men who resided there to offer the best support for a successful return to Milwaukee. We should not reduce the number of available pre-release beds in our community because we can't agree on a suitable location for a new youth facility. You can read more about this issue in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel or in the Neighborhood News Service. We can and must find another suitable location.

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Mary Ann Durito	3204 N NEWHALL ST	53211	
Lexi Harwick	1414 W. Kilbuck Avenue	53233	
Alex Bambalorta	819 N 15th St	53233	

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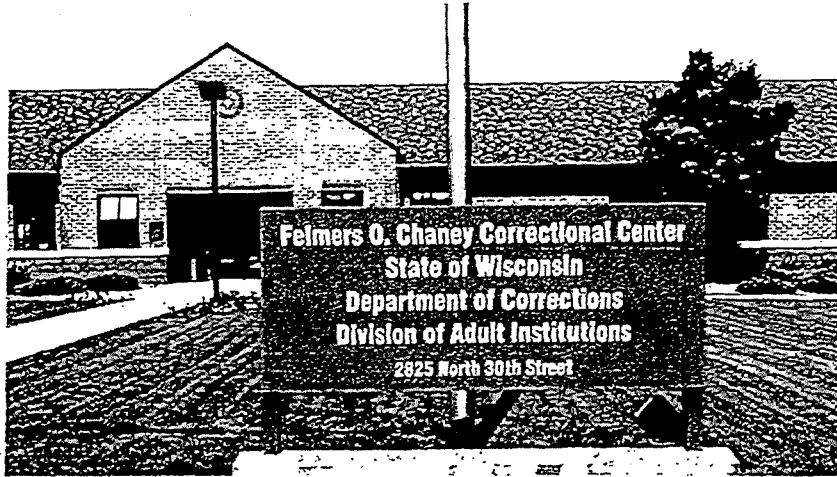
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Mary Mueller	4862 N. Shoreland Ave.	53217	mymueller.uef@gmail.com

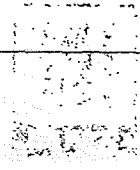
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**Lincoln Hills continues to be a toxic environment both for staff and youth. Staff cannot uphold the treatment-based needs, that youth require or the basic living functions needed for these youth to succeed. They are stretched so thin, tired and battered on a daily basis that they are at their breaking points. We have shortages everywhere. Line Staff are now required to teach when they are not teachers, provide treatment when they are not mental health treatment trained and provide maintenance to units because of insufficient employees. All this working 16-hour shifts, being assaulted physically, mentally and verbally on a daily basis. They cannot uphold what is expected of them and still maintain their own mental health and physical needs to stay healthy.**

**Youth restitution is out of control at LHS/CLS due to damages to institution property. They continue to rack up damages with no recourse for them to pay these fees. There are allowed to be released, they are allowed to refuse employment within institution in order to help compensate for charges. We no longer have control of Institution or our youth they have control of us. They damage, hurt, abuse, demand and refuse and we allow it. Everyday**

**We do not have enough line staff, medical staff, education staff, mental health staff, maintenance staff to properly run an institution with 50 youth why?? Because they no longer have any tools to first maintain a level of control in order for them to provide youth with all of their other needs.**

**What is best for these youth is to be placed back into their counties or a closer facility to their homes in order to provide them with everything they need to succeed in communities after they are released. Lincoln Hills supplies none of this for them now we are all on survivor mode and want to just go home at night safe from them. Most of the time it doesn't happen.**

**Closing and becoming an adult institution helps with these issues. It places youth closer to families and alleviates even more mental health problems with both youth and staff. Staff have been holding on for a long time and cannot hold on any longer.**