

County of Milwaukee

INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 27, 2012

TO: Sup. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwomen, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Sup. Peggy Romo West, Chairperson, Committee on Health and Human Needs

FROM: Stephanie Sue Stein, Director, Department on Aging

RE: Request for authorization to increase by \$63,429, from \$21,143 to \$84,572, the Department's 2012 contract with Indian Council of the Elderly, Inc., to provide Services to Native American Elderly [File No. 12-22 (a)(a)], and to extend the term of the contract from January 1, through March 31, 2012 to January 1, through December 31, 2012

I respectfully request that the attached resolution be scheduled for consideration by the Committee on Health and Human Needs at its meeting on May 16, 2012.

The attached resolution authorizes the Director, Department on Aging, to increase by \$63,429, from \$21,143 to \$84,572, the Department's 2012 contract with Indian Council of the Elderly, Inc., to provide Services to Native American Elderly [File No. 12-22 (a) (a)], and to extend the term of the contract from January 1, through March 31, 2012 to January 1, through December 31, 2012. The contract for Services to Native American Elderly is funded through allocations from the federal Older Americans Act.

The contract between the Department on Aging and the Indian Council of the Elderly supports a senior center and nutrition site open on Mondays and Fridays. Space for the center is provided by Redeemer Lutheran Church, 631 North 19<sup>th</sup> Street. When the center is open Indian Council staff prepares congregate meals onsite for center participants. The Indian Council also conducts home visits and related services to homebound elders, primarily on days the center is closed.

Indian Council of the Elderly had been struggling to find an effective program administrator for Services to Native American Elderly. Monthly financial and service reports were often incomplete or inaccurate, requiring revisions and delaying reimbursement to the vendor. In addition to staffing and reporting issues, the Department became concerned about food quality, procurement, preparation, and storage at the nutrition site. The Department and the Commission on Aging recommended awarding a three month contract as an incentive for the Indian Council to resolve staffing, reporting, and service issues as soon as possible. The Milwaukee County Board concurred with that recommendation through adoption of File No. 12-22.

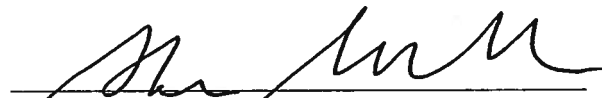
The Department developed a corrective action plan and increased monitoring at the center. While the Indian Council quickly resolved issues relating to the nutrition site, it took longer to find a program administrator capable of managing all aspects of the contract. Because staffing issues were not resolved in time for the March Board cycle, the Department chose not to propose a contract extension at that time. (The County Board Chairman required submission of a report by February 22 for referral to Committee on Health and Human Needs.) Despite no contract with Milwaukee County, the Indian Council continued operating the center under terms of its

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prior contract with Department on Aging. The Council understood there was no guarantee a new or extended contract would be awarded.

Since all programmatic and staffing issues appear resolved, and to continue serving the needs of Native American seniors, the Department recommends that Milwaukee County award a full-year contract with Indian Council of the Elderly, Inc., to administer the Services to Native American Elderly program in 2012. To assure the Department has authority to reimburse the vendor for all allowable costs, it recommends extending the term of the original contract to December 31, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 2-6876.



Stephanie Sue Stein, Director  
Milwaukee County Department on Aging

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
Tia Torhorst  
Jennifer Collins  
Antionette Thomas-Bailey  
Jodi Mapp  
Jonette Arms  
Keith Garland  
Mary Proctor Brown  
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Pat Rogers

Attachments