

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** October 10, 2014

**TO:** Peggy West, Chairwoman, Health and Human Needs Committee

**FROM:** Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by: Geri Lyday, Disabilities Services Division & James Mathy, Housing Division*

**SUBJECT: Informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on DHHS Innovation Fund projects**

**Issue**

In April 2014, the County Board approved Resolution File No. 14-290 authorizing the implementation of departmental projects recommended by the Innovation Fund Workgroup and the use of the proceeds from the sale of the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UWM) Innovation Park for these projects.

Per the resolution, recipient departments were required to provide an informational report to their policy oversight committee and to the County Executive no later than the October 2014. The report was to include information about the progress towards implementation, improvements in service realized, operating budget impacts, and any other relevant information.

**Background**

The 2014 Adopted Budget for Non-Departmental Revenues created the Milwaukee County Innovation Fund (Innovation Fund) for the purpose of providing resources for “...one-time projects that will enhance operational efficiencies, reduce ongoing operating or debt service costs, and improve service delivery and the County’s long-term fiscal sustainability.” The 2014 Adopted Budget created a workgroup (Innovation Fund Workgroup) to solicit applications for projects under the Innovation Fund, which included representatives from the County Board, the Office of the Comptroller, and the Department of Administrative Services – Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (DAS-PSB).

The Innovation Fund Workgroup approved two projects for DHHS: 1) AODA Housing Development sponsored by the Housing Division for \$500,000 and 2) Core Competency Training sponsored by the Disabilities Services Division (DSD) for \$75,000.

***Housing Division – AODA Housing Construction***

The Housing Division received \$500,000 from the Innovation Fund to construct a new harm reduction housing development. The development will assist individuals who are homeless and are experiencing issues with alcohol abuse. The Housing Division will collaborate with the Milwaukee Police Department and the Behavioral Health Division's (BHD) contracted detoxification program for referrals.

On-site services will include case management, AODA counseling, nursing and other services that will assist individuals with transitioning into the independent housing market. The Division is partnering with Cardinal Capital Management, the largest developer of permanent supportive housing in Milwaukee County.

This "housing first" approach is modeled after the success in other communities such as Minneapolis, MN. Through this approach, research has shown that there has been an 85 percent reduction in detox stays and over a 20 percent reduction in emergency room visits and incarcerations for this population. The cost savings to the community has been \$500,000 annually due to the reduction in the need for other expensive public services.

These seed funds are anticipated to attract additional investment from the City of Milwaukee and other private investors. The total cost is estimated to be about \$2.3 million to build approximately 24 units. The Division plans to partner with the City of Milwaukee and is submitting an application for \$360,000 to the City's Housing Trust Fund. In addition, Housing is requesting at least \$500,000 of City capital HOME funds. The developer has agreed to privately finance the remaining cost.

The development is anticipated to be complete in late summer or early fall of 2015. Once open, the Division will continue to work with the service provider on a weekly basis to ensure the success of the residents.

***DSD Core Competency Training Update***

DSD is utilizing its \$75,000 in funding to develop a core competency training video for direct care staff responsible for caring for individuals with co-occurring intellectual disabilities and mental illness. These individuals are being relocated to the community from Hilltop, BHD's long-term care facility.

Staff serving these individuals requires a high level of skill and knowledge and must identify the necessary supports for a successful transition to community living. The video will cover key training topics as well as include a collection of short clinical "vignettes" to provide a basic set of competencies.

It's anticipated that this video will be helpful to direct care staff in establishing a solid foundation for working with individuals who exhibit challenging behaviors. One of the advantages to developing this type of training video is the ability of service providers to have this information readily available for new staff orientation due to the high rate of turnover in direct care staff.

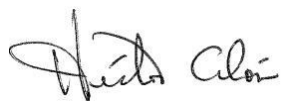
Progress to date includes executing a contract with a media production company, Midland Video. In addition, a partnership with the BHD Community Consultation Team has been established to take advantage of a training curriculum developed by this team. DSD also has a partnership with the Southeast Training Initiative which is sponsoring an event for the community provider that serves individuals relocating from Hilltop. The goal of this event is to develop a better understanding of crisis services options. The material from this event is anticipated to be another topic area and source for the video production effort.

DSD anticipates the production of the video will be completed by the end of 2014.

### **Recommendation**

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Héctor Colón, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
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