



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

County of Milwaukee
Office of the Sheriff

Date: March 12, 2013

To: County Executive Chris Abele
Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Director Don Tyler, Department of Administrative Services

From: Richard Schmidt, Inspector, Office of the Sheriff, Milwaukee County

Subject: **Notification of Emergency Purchase of Psychiatric Services Contract**

Pursuant to Milwaukee County Ordinance Chapter 56, the Sheriff has entered into an emergency one (1) year contract to provide mandated psychiatric services for the inmates at the County Correctional Facilities of the Office of the Sheriff.

Background

The Office of the Sheriff maintains a medical and mental health unit responsible for providing inmate medical care in the two County Correctional Facilities. The County is currently operating under the Christensen Consent Decree, which dictates the minimum level of inmate care. The Christensen lawsuit agreement requires the Sheriff's Office to provide the full time equivalent of 1.7 psychiatric positions in the Medical Unit of Detention Services. The Sheriff has been trying unsuccessfully to hire psychiatrists to fill these positions based on approved rates of compensation (\$125/hr) for the past four to five years. The last psychiatrist on our payroll was part time and left July 2011.

Immediate action is required to preserve and protect the psychiatric health and welfare of our correctional inmates. We have been able to engage the psychiatric services of a full time psychiatrist by contracting with Armor Correctional Health Services, Inc. Armor Correctional Health Services, Inc. is a physician and minority-owned enterprise that provides comprehensive medical, dental and mental health services for approximately 12 correctional systems. Armor will provide the Sheriff a full time onsite certified professional at a contracted rate of \$150/hr plus a one-time recruitment fee of \$12,000.

Program Effect

This contract allows us to provide expanded psychiatric services at the Community Correctional Facility Central and Community Correctional Facility South. The court monitor, Dr. Shansky, is closely following our provision of psychiatric services to inmates and the addition of this contracted service helps us towards fulfilling the mandated services of 1.7 FTE.

Fiscal Effect

The 2013 Budget transfers the responsibility of Inmate Medical and Mental Health for both Correctional Facilities to the New House of Correction effective July 31, 2013. Circumstances and litigation may delay or inhibit implementation. The 2013 Budget prepared for the New House of Correction provided only 1 full-time staff psychiatrist at a salary of \$182,154 (excluding benefits). This one (1) year contract with Armor Correctional Health Services, Inc. fulfills an immediate need for a full-time psychiatrist at a rate of \$150/hr and guarantees daily staffing including holidays.



Richard Schmidt, Inspector
Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

cc: Josh Fudge, Fiscal Management Analyst, Dept of Administrative Services – Fiscal & Strategic
Mark Borkowski, Chairperson, Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee
Janelle Jensen, Chief Committee Clerk, Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee
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