

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 21, 2022

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute 2022 fee-for-service contract amendments for Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS)

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute contracts with vendors supporting individuals with disabilities and older adults, ages 18 through the end of their life span who are in need of a Corporate Guardian as a legal decision maker and/or a WATTS Review to determine if their community placement is the least restrictive living environment.

**POLICY**

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute these fee-for-service contract amendments.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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**BACKGROUND**

As part of the 2022 DHHS Adopted Budget, the Disabilities Services Division (DSD) and Aging Division were renamed to Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS). This new area will serve individuals with disabilities and older adults, ages 18 through the end of their life span. Our primary goal is to serve people across the lifespan with care that promotes the dignity of individuals regardless of race, gender, age, socio-economic status, etc.

Older adults and people with disabilities were previously supported by the Aging Division, Disabilities Services Division, and Office for Persons with Disabilities. Programs are now operated under one umbrella and primarily include Adult Protective Services, recreation for persons with disabilities, a combined Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), caregiver support, transportation services, senior center operations, case management, respite, and employment services. These services enable people to live in the community as independently

as possible and avoid expensive institutional placements.

**Corporate Guardianship**

DHHS is requesting authorization to execute contract amendments with Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin, Life Navigators, and ANS for the provision of Corporate Guardianship Services for individuals with disabilities and older adults ages 18 through the end of their life. On January 1, 2022, DHHS-Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS) entered into fee-for-service contracts for under \$100,000 with the agencies listed below to provide Corporate Guardianship services. DHHS is now requesting amendments to these contracts to cover the full year of services.

Corporate Guardianship Services include making personal decisions regarding health care, housing, nutrition, social needs, etc., on behalf of the ward. In addition, services include ensuring that all benefits due the ward are applied for and provided and that the ward is as integrated into the community as possible.

The proposed amendments total \$303,000 which reflects \$600,000 annually to the following agencies in 2022:

Service	Provider	2022 Contract	2022 Proposed Amendment	2022 Adjusted Contract
Corporate Guardianship	Easterseals of Southeast Wisconsin	\$99,000	\$201,000	\$300,000
Corporate Guardianship	Life Navigators	\$99,000	\$51,000	\$150,000
Corporate Guardianship	ANS	\$99,000	\$51,000	\$150,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$297,000</b>	<b>\$303,000</b>	<b>\$600,000</b>

**WATTS Reviews**

The WATTS review includes assessing an individual’s functional abilities and disabilities as well as the adequacy of supervision and services being received when an individual has a protective placement order. A WATTS review shall include:

- A visit to the individual (as applicable, face to face or virtual visit)
- A written evaluation of the physical, mental and social condition of the individual and the service needs of the individual
- Any submitted comments solicited (invited from) the Guardian

The proposed amendment totals \$26,000 for a total of \$125,000 annually to the following

agency in 2022:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>2022 Contract</b>	<b>2022 Proposed Amendment</b>	<b>2022 Adjusted Contract</b>
WATTS Reviews	LaCausa	\$99,000	\$26,000	\$125,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,000</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

These contracts align with the Milwaukee County Strategic Plan by providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities and individuals over the age of 60 to maximize independence as well as foster an inclusive and diverse community.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or her designee, to amend the 2022 fee-for-service contracts in the amounts specified in the attached resolution. The effective date of the amended contracts would be the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

A total of \$329,000 is included in the DHHS 2022 Budget for the Corporate Guardianship and WATTS Reviews contract amendments. A fiscal note form is attached.

### **TERMS**

These contract amendments are effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

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**PREPARED BY:**

Marietta Luster, Administrator, Aging and Disabilities Services

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Pam Matthews, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office