

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

**DATE:** February 21, 2020

**TO:** Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Mary Jo Meyers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Division of Youth and Family Services Administrator*

**SUBJECT:** **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into a 2020 purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services for the Education Treatment Program for the Division of Youth and Family Services**

**Issue**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to enter into a 2020 purchase of service contract for the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) for the Education Treatment Program.

**Background**

Since 1970, DHHS has supported a social service delivery system comprised of both directly provided and purchased services using a combination of State, grant and local tax funds. Partnerships with community providers have allowed DHHS to cooperate and collaborate with various community agencies and resources. These partnerships further the opportunities for community participation, leverage resources and utilize community expertise regarding the DYFS community response to youth justice.

**Discussion**

In late 2015, DYFS, in collaboration with the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), created a pilot day treatment program, formerly called the Juvenile Educational Treatment Initiative (JETI). JETI included evidence-based programming and clinical services for youth and worked directly with the schools to meet the multiple needs of youth and their families. In 2018 and 2019, there were a total of 122 youth served in the program and of these, 105 or 86 percent, were youth of color. Of the 105 youth of color served in the program in the last two years, 24 were female youth of color and 81 were male youth of color.

After undertaking a Request for Proposals (RFP) process in 2017, Southwest Key (SWK) was selected as the provider and performed services under 2018 and 2019 contracts. However, due to concerns about SWK's practices in other states, DHHS terminated its contract as of December 31, 2019. In the first quarter of 2020, the program was then competitively bid out under a new name, the Education Treatment Program.

The Education Treatment Program includes a total of 40 slots for youth involved in the youth justice system. DYFS is working with MPS to assign 20 of the slots directly to schools in which there is a high number of young people involved in the youth justice system. The program provides academic support, tutoring, advocacy, school engagement, and other education based support as needed. The program is individualized to meet the unique needs of youth and provides transportation assistance to and from school and programming, as needed.

The Education Treatment Program will utilize restorative justice circles, violence prevention curriculum, financial literacy, mindfulness and community building for both those youth in the school based and community based slots. Another component of this program is a vocational readiness assessment and support through the WCS Community Improvement and Job Training Program. The Education Treatment Program includes clinical services for those youth that have a mental health and/or AODA need identified and will also refer out to other community-based services in collaboration with the assigned Human Service Worker and other team members.

Wisconsin Community Services is recommended for a purchase of service contract for 40 slots for males and females for the period of April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 and in an amount of \$666,491. The total annual budget for this contract is \$733,623.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>January 1-March 31, 2020 Allocation</b>	<b>April 1 - December 31, 2020 Proposed Allocation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Education Treatment Program	Wisconsin Community Services	\$0	\$666,491	\$666,491
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$666,491</b>	<b>\$666,491</b>

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to enter into a purchase of service contract for the period of April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 with the provider listed and, in the amount, specified in the attached resolution. Approval of the recommended contract allocation will allow for the provision of high-priority, community-based services for youth being served by the Division of Youth and Family Services.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The proposed purchase of service contract reflects total expenditures of \$666,491 for a term of April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Sufficient funds have been allocated in the 2020 Budget to

cover these costs. A fiscal note form is attached.



Mary Jo Meyers, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
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