



David A. Clarke, Jr.
Sheriff

County of Milwaukee
Office of the Sheriff

Date: February 19, 2013

To: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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

Subject: **Request to execute a month to month extension of the Telepsych Contract to continue to provide inmate mental health services at the County Correctional Facilities of the Office of the Sheriff.**

Pursuant to Milwaukee County Ordinance Chapter 56, the Sheriff is requesting a referral to the appropriate County Board committee for review and disposition, authorization to execute inmate health services contract for inmates at the County Correctional Facilities of the Office of the Sheriff.

Background

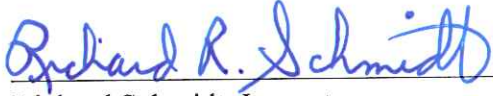
The Office of the Sheriff maintains a medical and mental health unit responsible for providing inmate medical care in the two County Correctional Facilities. The County is currently operating under the Christensen Consent Decree, which dictates the minimum level of inmate care.

The 2013 Budget transfers the responsibility of Inmate Medical and Mental Health for both Correctional Facilities to the New House of Correction effective March 1, 2013. Circumstances and litigation may delay or inhibit implementation. The Telepsych Contract for services expires February 28, 2013.

The Sheriff's Office has had difficulty hiring and retaining Psychiatrists for the Correctional Facilities. County Correctional Facility Central has continued the search for an on-site Psychiatrist since 2011. Telepsych, Inc provides the following functions to the Sheriff's Office:

- Inmate adult psychiatry services and medication management of mental health and additional issues including the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of adult inmates.
- Determines the necessity for an inmate's seclusion and restraint.
- Serves as expert witness in court for Milwaukee County.
- Completion of medical records.
- Participates in quality improvements activities.

The Office of the Sheriff is requesting to continue this contract on a month-to-month basis expiring February 28, 2014. Upon the resolution of all litigation, should Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office continue to be responsible for providing Inmate Medical to both Correctional Facilities, an RFP will be issued for future contract considerations.



Richard Schmidt, Inspector

Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Supervisor Mark Borkowski, Chair, Judiciary, Safety & General Services Committee
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff
Janelle Jensen, Committee Clerk
Jennifer Collins, Research Analyst