

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: April 20, 2018

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

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Darsell Johns, Children's Services Program Manager, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting authorization to increase a 2018 purchase of service contract with Curative Care Network, Inc. for Birth to 3 services**

Issue

In early March, the Disabilities Services Division (DSD) received notice from Lutheran Social Services that it could no longer continue its Birth to 3 contract for screening and evaluation services. Therefore, the Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to increase a 2018 purchase of service (POS) contract with Curative Care Network to ensure continuity in service delivery.

Background

The Birth to 3 Special Education program is federal entitlement and provides critical early intervention services to children ages zero to three years who demonstrate developmental delays. Provided services are critical to the identification of early intervention strategies that can assist children to reach their maximum potential and actively participate in their communities. Services delivered by this program are provided by contracted community-based agencies. Birth to 3 services are invaluable to families who have a child with a developmental delay. Provider agencies support delivery of effective early intervention services in partnership with families and Milwaukee County.

On March 7, 2018, one of the long-standing agencies in the provider network, Lutheran Social Services, notified DSD that it would not continue to provide Birth to 3 Special Education Services due to its inability to continuously accept newly-referred children during 2018. This July DSD will issue a request for proposals (RFP) to identify a new provider for 2019. However, to support uninterrupted service delivery during the remainder of 2018, it is necessary to reallocate Lutheran Social Services contract dollars.

Curative is being recommended to provide these services through the end of 2018 because it's the remaining provider for screening and evaluation services. The other agencies do not have specific contracts for this activity alone. In addition, Curative accepts referrals from all geographical areas of

the county, other providers do not. Finally, Curative assumed additional referrals in the months preceding LSS' contract termination.

Proposed Allocation

The proposed contract amendment with Curative ensures continued compliance with state and federal Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Office of Special Education Program regulations that require full entitlement for eligible children ages zero to two years and 9 months. Children are referred to Birth to 3 Special Education including those children who are placed outside of Milwaukee County by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services and are still considered eligible for Milwaukee County services based on their parent's residency.

The following contract increase is recommended for Curative Care Network for the transition of cases previously served by Lutheran Social Services as well as new referrals:

Agency	2018 Contract	2018 Recommended Increase	Adjusted 2018 Contract Amount
Curative Care Network, Inc.	\$1,425,125	\$160,596	\$1,585,721
Total	\$1,425,125	\$160,596	\$1,585,721

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Acting Director, DHHS, or her designee, to increase the 2018 purchase of service contract with Curative Care Network, Inc., for Birth to 3 services by \$160,596, from \$1,425,125 to \$1,585,721, for a term of June 1 to December 31, 2018.

Fiscal Effect

A fiscal note form is attached.



Mary Jo Meyers, Acting Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board

Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, DAS
Joe Lamers, Budget Director, DAS
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lisa Wozny, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS
Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst – Comptroller's Office