

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION**

DATE: July 27, 2020

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget,
Department of Administrative Services

SUBJECT: Request to create 1.0 FTE Project Manager position in the Division of Youth and Family Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Request

The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting to create 1.0 FTE Project Manager position.

Background

Milwaukee County has been working to implement programs and policies to reduce the number of youths in correctional settings that has resulted in a 50 percent statewide reduction from 2005 to 2014. Subsequent efforts since 2016 have resulted in a 66 percent reduction in the average daily population (ADP) of Milwaukee County youth at Lincoln Hills (LHS) and Copper Lake Schools (CLS). As of July 17, 2020, 26 county-committed youth from Milwaukee County in the two state-run facilities, and an additional four at the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Facility.

Wisconsin Act 185 called for the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake and for counties to establish Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs) to be operated locally by counties. See the DHHS memo for details on the background and complexities of WI Act 185 and the current funding challenges.

To comply with WI Act 185, and after considering the County's Executive's proclamation that racism is a public health crisis and its ordinance committing the county to pursue racial equity, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) established a goal of attaining a zero ADP in Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools by July 1, 2021. To do so, DYFS indicates that it will be necessary to manage youth in need of secure care within the local capacity of its MCAP program, which has 24 beds for boys currently and will expand to 32 beds in 2021, as outlined in DHHS's Act 185 grant proposal. As of July 17, there were 18 youth in the MCAP program.

According to DHHS, that the most cost effective solution is to take aggressive actions to reduce the youth population below the maximum proposed capacity of 32 as soon as possible and prior to the closing of LHS and CLS in 2021. In addition, it will be necessary to increase its level of engagement and scope of support and influence within the community to address structural racism and disparities.

DHHS's Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) thereby requests 1.0 FTE Project Manager position to implement targeted strategies to drastically reduce the need for correctional placements. The

Project Manager that will report directly to the Division Administrator and will be responsible for managing, facilitating, messaging, and developing effective programs, policies, and practices to drastically reduce the average daily population of Milwaukee County youth placed in secure post-disposition settings. FYFS plans to fill this position in pay period 22.

Recommendation

The Department of Administrative Services – Performance, Strategy, and Budget recommends that 1.0 FTE Project Manager be created in the Division of Youth and Family Services Division of DHHS.

Fiscal Impact

DHHS anticipates the costs of this position to be covered for two years by a contribution from a private foundation. DHHS predicts that this position will result in significant reductions in youth incarceration and will be sustainable within the DYFS budget after the private foundation funds are discontinued. DYFS is awaiting final approval from the foundation’s board of directors in September. DYFS has already received a verbal commitment from the foundation and is extremely optimistic the board of directors will approve the funding.

If private funding is not secured, DYFS would utilize savings realized by the reduction in the ADP which is expected to produce a savings of about \$3.3 million for 2020.

Action	Title	No. of Positions	Title Code	Pay Grade
Create	Project Manager	1.0 FTE	TBD	33M-NR (\$72,862-86,844 annually)

JOSEPH LAMERS

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