

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 7, 2022

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

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

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute a 2022 fee-for-service agreement with Racine County for Children, Youth and Family Services

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute a 2022 fee-for-service agreement for the Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS).

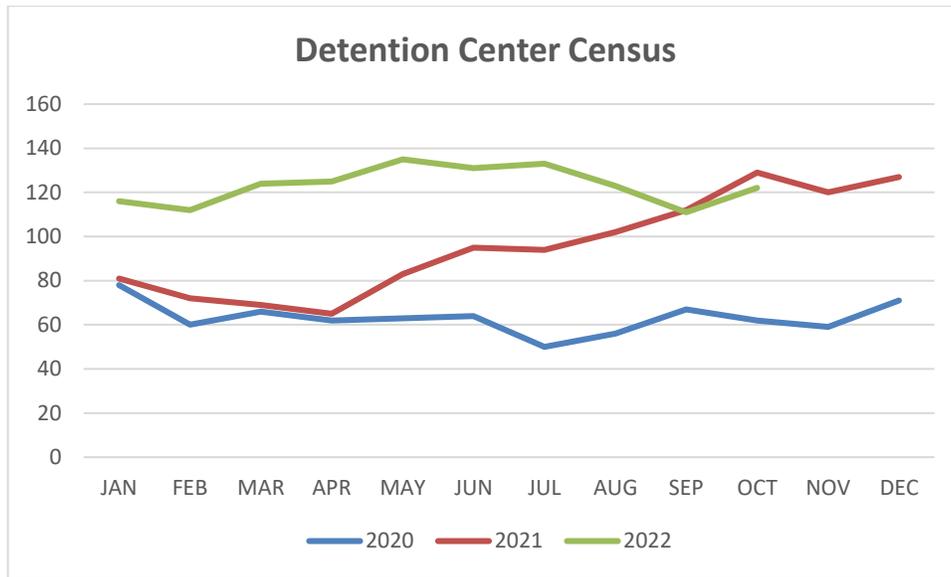
POLICY

Per Wis. Stat. § 59.52(31), the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute a fee-for-service agreement. Chapter 938 of the Wisconsin State Statutes governs the operation of county detention facilities. The State Department of Corrections has statutory authority, in accordance with Wis. Stats. §301.37, for the regulation and oversight of local detention facilities including secure juvenile detention centers.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31), 938, 301.37
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BACKGROUND

The DHHS Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) operates a 127-bed detention center at the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Justice Center. Since mid-2021, the census in the detention center has been gradually rising – please see the graph below.



Due to the high census, youth have been sleeping on bed ‘boats’. These beds are thick mattress holders that include a mattress and space for extra clothing, hygiene items, books, etc.

In response to the high census, DHHS and Racine County executed an initial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed in November of 2021. This MOU outlined responsibilities of both parties and stated that any costs exceeding \$99,000 would require Milwaukee County Board approval.

Given that the census in the detention center continued to be high throughout 2022, CYFS leadership team and the Department of Corrections-Office of Detention Facilities Director and Jail Inspector met on June 14, 2022 to discuss the census of youth in the detention center, the concerns for the safety of youth and staff as well as plans to address the high population. At that time, CYFS was strongly encouraged to utilize other existing detention facilities, specifically Racine County, to place up to 10 youth in their facility as soon as possible.

As an outcome of the meeting, CYFS submitted a plan in writing to the Office of Detention Facilities that outlined CYFS efforts and plans to continue to provide a safe and secure facility for the youth served and CYFS staff, including utilization of the Racine detention center. The CYFS received a letter dated July 18, 2022, from the Office of Detention Facilities Jail Inspector documenting the ongoing concerns around the population of youth in the detention center and acknowledging the ongoing efforts of CYFS to address these concerns.

In September, DHHS submitted File 22-971 seeking approval of a fee-for-service agreement with Racine County. However, this item was not approved by the County Board. Since that time, Corporation Counsel recommended that DHHS bring this contract before the County Board again so that the outstanding invoices for services rendered can be paid.

The daily rate per youth in Racine is \$325 for the general population and \$540 for the Alternatives to Corrections Through Education (ACE) program. There have been between three to eight youth in the Racine Detention Center at a time throughout 2022 and all youth in the general population were returned to Milwaukee in September 2022. As of October 28, there are three youth court ordered to the Racine County ACE program. DHHS did accrue charges for the youth in the Racine facility prior to their return to Milwaukee in September 2022 and for the youth who are there on court orders.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or her designee, to execute a 2022 fee-for-service contract with Racine County in a not-to-exceed amount of \$325,000.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

CYFS has been leveraging its resources toward the ongoing development of community-based programming for justice-involved youth and their families. Unfortunately, the high number of youth placed in the detention center is in direct contradiction with the strategic direction for which DHHS and CYFS have committed themselves.

FISCAL EFFECT

The total requested amount is \$325,000 to support the fee-for-service agreement with Racine County. A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The term of the contract is January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator
Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget & Policy Director

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution and Fiscal Note

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Shawn Rolland, 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
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS