

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
HOUSE OF CORRECTION

DATE: November 12, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson., Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jose Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction

SUBJECT: From the Assistant Superintendent, House of Correction, requesting authorization to execute a five-year contract extension in the amount of \$109,158,136 with Wellpath, LLC for the provision of medical services for the five-year period of March 31, 2021 to March 31, 2026, followed by three, optional one-year extensions.

BACKGROUND

The Milwaukee County House of Correction in coordination with Procurement and the Sheriff's Office conducted RFP 98180020: Correctional Medical Services, which was issued on July 20, 2018. The RFP closed for submissions on September 14, 2018. Following evaluation by an Evaluation Committee comprised medical, correctional operations, legal, risk, and fiscal professionals, the Evaluation Committee recommended award of the RFP to Wellpath, LLC.

The board was presented with three (3) options for award of this contract:

- A 5-year contract with one (1) optional five (5) year renewal (this option tracked to the request made in the RFP);
- A 2-year contract with eight (8) optional one (1) year renewals; and
- A 1-year contract with nine (9) optional one (1) year renewals.

Board Resolution #19-192 approved a Professional Services contract with an initial term of **two years** and eight additional one-year extensions. The initial term is set to expire March 30, 2021.

Wellpath has been providing a comprehensive program of medical, dental, and mental health services, compliant with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care's (NCCHC's) standards and the Christensen Consent Decree. Attachment 1 was prepared by our medical consultants at NRI to highlight some of the improvements to the provision of medical services the County is experiencing with Wellpath. LLC.

Given the improvements to medical services with Wellpath LLC, a longer-term extension is being requested. The Sheriff's Office and the Office of Corporation Counsel supports this longer-term commitment.

RECOMMENDATION

I, as Assistant Superintendent of the House of Correction, respectfully submit this action item to request the authority to enter a five-year contract period with Wellpath LLC. The cost of this longer-term commitment of 5-years is also of financial benefit to the County as follows:

Original Proposed	2-Year Option Adopted			
\$ 19,380,180	\$ 19,573,982			
\$ 19,961,580	\$ 20,161,201	Year	New 5-Year Option	Variance
\$ 20,560,428	\$ 20,766,037	1	\$ 20,560,428	\$ (205,609)
\$ 21,177,252	\$ 21,389,018	2	\$ 21,177,252	\$ (211,766)
\$ 21,812,568	\$ 22,030,689	3	\$ 21,812,568	\$ (218,121)
\$ 22,466,940	\$ 22,691,610	4	\$ 22,466,940	\$ (224,670)
\$ 23,140,948	\$ 23,372,358	5	\$ 23,140,948	\$ (231,410)
\$ 23,835,177	\$ 24,073,529	6	\$ 23,835,177	\$ (238,352)
\$ 24,550,232	\$ 24,795,735	7	\$ 24,550,232	\$ (245,503)
\$ 25,286,739	\$ 25,539,607	8	\$ 25,286,739	\$ (252,868)
			Savings	\$ (1,828,299)

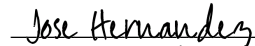
Wellpath's pricing model was reviewed, and we concluded that their original RFP pricing for a longer term is consistent. Therefore, the recommendation is to go back to the longer-term pricing which presents significant savings of \$1,828,299 to the County.

Should this item be referred to committee, presenters from the House of Correction in addition to me or the new Superintendent, will be the HOC's Fiscal Administrator, June Jackson. The jail will be represented by DI Aaron Dobson. Representatives from Wellpath will be Cindy Watson, President of Local Government and Zela Guirola, Group Vice President, Eastern Region. And, it is anticipated that Dr. Brent Gibson will represent our medical consulting team from NRI.

FISCAL NOTE

The HOC's 2021 budget request includes sufficient funds for this contract. A Fiscal Note form was completed with further details.

Respectfully submitted,



Jose Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction

cc: David Crowley, Milwaukee County Executive
 Mary Jo Myers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
 Julie Landry, Director, Department of Administrative Services
 Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
 Earnell Lucas, Sheriff, Sheriff's Office
 Aaron Dobson, MCJ Commander, Sheriff's Office

Attachment 1

Positive trends produced by Wellpath following contract award that have been a result of their commitment in combination with both on-site and remote monitoring conducted monthly by the NRI contract monitoring team: Dr. Richard Clarke, MD; Dr. William Elliott, Psychologist; James Voisard CCHP-A, Team Lead.

- Improved patient access to health care services (medical, mental health & dental)
 - Established a request form process that has resulted in patients being assessed for all clinical issues within 24 hours of request submission
- Chronic care protocols and processes have been improved
 - Chronic care issues are identified during the intake screening process & referred for follow-up in a timely manner
 - Providers assess patients during chronic care clinic visits, provide indicated care and schedule follow-up visits based on patient status and condition
 - The improvements have resulted in better management of chronic care conditions and has contributed to a reduction in emergency room visits
- As a result of NRI monitoring feedback, there has been a significant improvement in the drafting and implementation of individualized treatment plans for patients with chronic care and/or special needs
- The number of emergency room (ER) visits have decreased which has been a direct result of better ongoing patient health care management
- There has been an increase in off-site visits scheduled for specialist care which is a trend that indicates that health care conditions are being identified and managed before they fester into a crisis status and must be sent to the ER for intervention
- There is a very robust continuous quality improvement (CQI) program that has been very effective, along with the NRI monitoring process, in identifying problems in delivery of care, drafting and implementing corrective action, and re-studying the situation to ensure that correction action taken has been effective
- Both the MCJ and HOC have applied for National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) accreditation and are awaiting notification from NCCHC on the scheduling of the on-site accreditation surveys
- Wellpath has researched, established collaborative relationships with community resources to implement some of the critical components of a Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) program
- Wellpath, MCJ and HOC worked very well together to draft and establish policies/procedures and protocols to effectively deal with the COVID pandemic. All entities worked together to make revisions and adjustments in an effective manner in response to the frequently modified screening, quarantine and treatment recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and State/local health care agencies.
- Wellpath has been receptive to the NRI monitoring findings, notifications, and recommendations which has resulted in a health care system that has improved timely access to care, continuity of care throughout incarceration, and mitigation of risk.