

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 12, 2021

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

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

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute 2022 contracts for the Aging and Disabilities Services Division

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to execute contracts with vendors supporting people with disabilities.

**POLICY**

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute these purchase of service contracts.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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**BACKGROUND**

As part of the 2022 DHHS Adopted Budget, the Disabilities Services Division (DSD) and Aging Division were renamed to the Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS) Division. This new division will serve individuals with disabilities and older adults, ages 18 through the end of their life span. Our primary goal is to serve people across the lifespan with care that promotes the dignity of individuals regardless of race, gender, age, socio-economic status, etc.

Older adults and people with disabilities were previously supported by the Aging Division, Disabilities Services Division, and Office for Persons with Disabilities. Programs are now operated under one umbrella and primarily include Adult Protective Services, recreation for persons with disabilities, a combined Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), caregiver support, transportation services, senior center operations, case management, respite, and employment services. These services enable people to live in the community as independently as possible and avoid expensive institutional placements.

Contracts administered for older adults were submitted under a separate report to the Milwaukee Commission on Aging for review as required by Milwaukee County Ordinance Ch. 53. These contracts have been submitted under File 21-1029 to the County Board for the December cycle.

**Recreational Programming**

DHHS is requesting authorization to execute a contract with Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin for the provision of recreational programs for individuals with disabilities. On October 8, 2021, the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities issued a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to solicit proposals for inclusive, integrated, and accessible recreational programming for individuals with disabilities. Easterseals of Southeast Wisconsin responded to the RFP and, meeting all terms and conditions of the process, was awarded the opportunity.

Easterseals of Southeast Wisconsin will work with DHHS in designing and implementing a six-week summer day camp for youth ages 7 to 21 at Milwaukee County Wil-O-Way facilities, along with year-round center and community-based programming for teens and adults ages 16 and up. The term of the Agreement is three years with up to two optional one-year extensions. The County will pay \$266,937 annually to Easterseals of Southeast Wisconsin in 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Service	Provider	2021 Contract	2022 Proposed	2021/2022 Variance
Recreational Programming	Easterseals of Southeast Wisconsin	\$266,937	\$266,937	\$0

**Interim Disability Assistance Program (IDAP)**

IDAP provides financial assistance to individuals with disabilities while their Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application is pending with the Social Security Administration. For 2022, ADS is recommending a contract with Community Advocates to assist individuals applying for or currently receiving IDAP. A separate allocation of \$205,000 is budgeted for financial payments to eligible individuals. As of October 2021, there were 140 active cases of individuals receiving assistance through IDAP.

Service	Provider	2021 Contract	2022 Proposed	2021/2022 Variance
IDAP	Community Advocates, Inc.	\$91,120	\$91,120	\$0

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

These contracts align with the Milwaukee County Strategic Plan by providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities to maximize independence as well as foster an inclusive and diverse community.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute contracts with Easterseals of Southeast Wisconsin for \$266,937 and Community Advocates for \$91,120 for the services identified in the accompanying resolution. The effective date of the contracts would be the period of January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

A total of \$358,057 is included in the DHHS 2022 Budget for these contracts. A fiscal note form is attached.

### **TERMS**

These contracts are effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

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**PREPARED BY:**

Marietta Luster, Administrator, Aging and Disabilities Services

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Felesia Martin, 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  
Pam Matthews, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office