

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: November 21, 2014

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Geri L. Lyday, Administrator, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to retroactively increase 2014 Disabilities Services Division purchase of service contracts for Birth-To-Three agencies

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization for DHHS to retroactively increase 2014 purchase of service (POS) contracts for the Birth-To-Three provider agencies within the Disabilities Services Division (DSD). These allocation recommendations will permit the Division to expend the 2014 budgeted funding for this program to agencies that assumed responsibility for a former agency's caseload and will allow the Division to comply with the state and federal maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements.

Background and Rationale

The Birth-To-Three program is an entitlement in Milwaukee County and provides critical early intervention services to children age 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 that have expertise in working in this area and have been the providers of Birth-To-Three services in this community for some time.

Late in CY 2013, one of the long-standing agencies in the provider network, Next Door Foundation, notified DSD that they would not be continuing to provide services. DSD issued a request for proposals (RFP) to identify a new provider. The successful bidder for the RFP process started providing services August 1, 2014. This resulted in underspending of budgeted funding for the months January through July 2014 in the amount of \$50,966. Services formerly provided by Next Door Foundation were picked up by two existing agencies prior to the new contract starting. The two agencies were Lutheran Social Services and Curative Care Network. These agencies worked with the Division to continue services for families and the referral process until a new agency could be selected through a competitive bid.

In addition, the Birth To Three program has an annual Maintenance of Effort mandate that comes through the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C 34 CFR § 303.225 guidelines that states:

“...the total amount of State and local funds budgeted for expenditures in the current fiscal year for early intervention services for children eligible under this part and their families must be at least equal to the total amount of State and local funds actually expended for early intervention services for these children and their families in the most recent preceding fiscal year for which the information is available.”

Under spending of Birth To Three service funds will result in a decrease in subsequent year Birth To Three allocations to counties from DHS. It is therefore imperative that all funding identified for Birth To Three services is expended each year in full. DSD carefully monitors agency expenditures on a monthly basis throughout the calendar year to ensure early identification of any under spending that may occur and to intervene with the agency and provide technical assistance as needed to correct under spending.

The recommended retroactive 2014 allocations to the Birth To Three agencies are as follows:

Agency	2014 Contract	2014 Recommended Increase	New 2014 Contract Amount
Curative Care Network	\$1,267,368	\$37,215	\$1,304,583
Lutheran Social Services	\$246,532	\$13,751	\$260,283

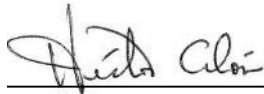
It should be noted that agencies will need to continue to maintain compliance with Federal indicators to keep pace with new referrals and continue to perform well on quality Birth To Three measures including the annual parental survey and family outcomes. Collectively, all of this information folds into our ability to award allocations based on performance.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to retroactively increase 2014 purchase of service contracts with Birth To Three provider agencies per the narrative above and in the amounts specified in the above table and detailed on the attached resolution.

Fiscal Effect

Funding for these POS contract increases is included in DSD’s 2014 Adopted Budget. There is no additional tax levy impact associated with this request. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Don Tyler, Director, DAS
Josh Fudge, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
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