

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Department of Health and Human Services

DATE: August 26, 2016

TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Mark Mertens, Administrator – DCSD

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update to the Residential Treatment Center planning process and requesting authorization to begin negotiations with a potential identified provider

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to pursue negotiations with the Carmelite Home for Boys for the provision of a Type II Residential Treatment Center (RTC) for youth who are eligible for a Department of Juvenile Correctional placement. The intent of DHHS is to execute a contract with Carmelite subject to the approval of the County Board.

Background & Discussion

Since 1970, DHHS has supported a social service delivery system comprised of both directly provided and purchased services. Partnerships with community agencies have allowed DHHS to cooperate and collaborate with various community partners and resources. These partnerships further the opportunities for community participation regarding youth and families as well as the response to delinquency issues.

DCSD has been in the planning phase of locating a facility and identifying the appropriate programming for a Type II Residential Treatment Center located within Milwaukee County. The targeted population for the RTC are youth (males) who are: 1) at risk of being placed in the State of Wisconsin Department of Juvenile Corrections (DJC), 2) transitioning out of the DJC or 3) transitioning out of the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) detention phase and who cannot go home right away due to the need for additional support, supervision or family issues.

The development of this step down RTC is in response to the crisis occurring at the Lincoln Hill School for Boys through the DJC as well as a need for local, community-based treatment placements for the highest risk youth. It is important to DCSD that alternatives to DJC placement exist in the community for those youth who are identified as high risk for reoffending, per the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), DCSD's validated risk and needs tool. The goal is to keep as many youth as possible close to their homes and community while being able to provide the appropriate supervision and treatment to the youth while maintaining community safety.

DCSD representatives have reached out to various community-based agencies to gauge whether there is available physical space and interest in programming for this RTC. The original intention was to locate a facility for the RTC and then go through a competitive process through a Request for Proposals (RFP) to find a provider to enter into a purchase of service contract with DCSD to provide the programming component for the RTC. The challenges with this plan include the scarcity of appropriate facilities in the community due to their location, square footage and condition and design as well as zoning concerns, etc. Further, it would require considerable time to rehabilitate a building to meet the needs of the program.

Representatives from DHHS, DCSD and the judiciary have visited two locations to determine the feasibility to provide the level of programming, supervision and clinical services needed for these youth. One location is the Carmelite Home for Boys located at 1214 Kavanaugh Pl. in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Carmelite is currently licensed as a Type II RTC for up to 40 boys and is currently operating as an RTC through an existing contract with Wraparound Milwaukee and the Department of Juvenile Corrections.

The layout and condition of the Carmelite facility are conducive to the development of a staff secure residential program. Carmelite has expressed an interest in collaborating with DCSD to provide the facility and the programming for this RTC and has the space available to do so with little modifications needed. If the county were to move forward with this option, DCSD would work very closely with Carmelite and an internationally-recognized clinician, Henry Schmidt III, Ph.D., to develop the treatment programming. Dr. Schmidt is a respected clinician, researcher and trainer who has developed the Integrated Treatment Model in Seattle, Washington.

Since Carmelite is located within the City of Wauwatosa, DCSD could continue its collaboration with Wauwatosa Public Schools in providing the educational component of the programming in conjunction with Carmelite. Wauwatosa Public Schools is also responsible for teaching youth in MCAP. Therefore, this enhanced relationship would offer continuity of educational programming. Wauwatosa Public Schools also currently collaborates with Carmelite providing educational support for the youth placed there and this collaboration could continue, along with the ability to add additional staffing and supportive measures to be implemented.

The RTC features would include being staff secure, meaning a high ratio of highly-trained staff to youth, and the facility would be unlocked. Treatment and educational services would be provided on site by Carmelite and Wauwatosa Public Schools. The treatment planning would include an evidence-based family therapeutic component called Family Integrated Transitions (FIT), an approved adaptation of the Multi Systemic Therapy model. A collaboration with Wauwatosa Police Department is also vital to this program to ensure a swift response to any serious incidents that may occur at the facility.

Leveraging the existing relationships with Carmelite and Wauwatosa Public Schools allows DCSD to begin placing youth during the first quarter 2017 and build capacity very quickly. If DCSD does not pursue this option, then the RFP process could cause a significant delay in getting the RTC

operational and ready to accept youth. The RFP could add anywhere between five and 18 months to our anticipated operational date.

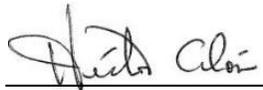
Once negotiated, the contract and total cost will be submitted to the County Board for its approval.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to pursue negotiations for a Level II Residential Treatment Center with the Carmelite Home for Boys as the operator and licensee. Further, once contract terms and conditions are determined, DHHS will bring forward a contract with Carmelite to the County Board for approval.

Fiscal Impact

A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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