

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: August 26, 2013

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman – Milwaukee County Board

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Jim Kubicek, Interim Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to release funds from the Planning Council for Individual Placement and Support (IPS) supported employment services as part of the Mental Health Redesign at the Behavioral Health Division**

Issue

In October 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Behavioral Health Division (BHD) received authority from the County Board (File 12-709) to enter into a professional services contract with the Planning Council for Health and Human Services starting November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 for \$1,114,290 to provide specific programs related to the Mental Health Redesign Initiative. The programs included the Peer Specialist Pipeline, Step-Down Housing Alternative, Case Management Expansion, Individual Placement and Support (IPS) supported employment and Supportive Housing Units. Over the past year, BHD has received separate County Board approvals for the release of these funds by the Planning Council for each of these services.

Discussion

IPS is an evidence-based practice approach that was developed by Dartmouth University to help promote the recovery of people who have serious mental illness through competitive jobs related to their employment preferences. There have been 16 randomized controlled trials for IPS supported employment. There is strong evidence that IPS services, which emphasize a competitive employment approach, were almost three times more likely to be effective than other types of vocational services.

The following are the IPS Supported Employment Practice Principles:

- Employment specialists help people find regular jobs in the community (competitive employment).
- Every person who is interested in work is eligible for services regardless of symptoms, substance use disorders, treatment decisions or any other issue.
- Employment services are integrated with mental health treatment.

- Personalized benefits planning is provided.
- The job search begins soon after a person expresses interest in working.
- Employment specialists develop relationships with employers by learning about their business needs.
- Individualized job supports are time unlimited.
- Client preferences for jobs and preferences for service delivery are honored.

On July 22, 2013, BHD released a competitive request for proposals (RFP) seeking organizations that could sustain IPS beyond this one-time allocation for development. The RFP anticipates that agencies fully integrate the IPS model into their existing financial and organizational business model and treatment. In addition, agencies are required to develop and execute a business plan that captures and leverages other funding sources to sustain the IPS model such as Medicaid billing through Community Recovery Services (CRS). Further, the available funding of \$175,000 is expected to provide support for organizational/program re-structuring, hiring and/or augmenting staff on the IPS supported employment model.

BHD anticipates identifying the successful proposer(s) in mid-September and will report this information to the Health and Human Needs Committee at its September meeting.

Pending County Board approval for the release of the IPS funds, nearly all of the \$1,114,290 in Mental Health Redesign funding will be committed under contract leaving an available balance of \$34,353. BHD and the Mental Health Redesign Taskforce are discussing options for use of these funds and, if needed, will return to the Board to allocate the remaining funds before the end of 2013.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, or his designee, to release \$175,000 of the \$1.1 million in Planning Council funds for IPS.

Fiscal Effect

There is no tax levy effect associated with this initiative. A fiscal note form is attached.

Respectfully Submitted,



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
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