

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: February 15, 2011

TO: Lee Holloway, Chairman – Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Geri Lyday, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO 2011 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACTS WITH PSYCHIATRISTS FOR THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION

Policy Issue

Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires County Board approval for professional service contracts of \$50,000 or greater. Per Section 56.30, the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization for the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) to enter into two professional service contracts with Dr. Upton Thomas III and Dr. Laurens Young for 2011.

Background

Due to on-going staff psychiatry vacancies, BHD is looking to temporarily fill the positions with contract staff. Drs. Thomas and Young, both fully trained psychiatrists, have agreed to provide services on a contract basis. BHD is recommending individual contracts with each of them to provide psychiatry services for the Rehabilitation Center Central and Acute Inpatient units. This includes evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and other consultation services. This critical and immediate patient care need is the result of the high number of psychiatrist vacancies at BHD (presently 5.0 FTEs out of 7.0 on the Rehabilitation and Adult Inpatient Units). BHD is covering these vacancies through redeployment of other psychiatrists within BHD, the use of OT (paid at straight time), and using contract staff when necessary and available. The average time to recruit a full-time psychiatrist in the current market is six to eight months, and BHD plans to use these contracts while actively recruiting for additional staff to fulfill all inpatient psychiatric patient care needs.

BHD is recommending one-year contracts for psychiatry services from Drs. Thomas and Young, from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in not-to-exceed amounts of \$196,560 and \$140,400, respectively. As BHD is able to fill sufficient psychiatry positions, the use of this contract will be decreased or discontinued. A fund transfer may occur later in the year to cover the costs of these contracts.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Interim Director, DHHS, or her designee, to execute the professional service agreements for 2011 with Dr. Thomas and Dr. Young.

Fiscal Effect

The total amount of \$336,960 recommended in these contracts will increase BHD expenditures, but will be offset by a reduction in budgeted salary expenditures due to the aforementioned inpatient psychiatry vacancies. A fiscal note form is attached.



Geri Lyday, Interim Director
Department of Health and Human Services

- cc: Interim County Executive Marvin Pratt
Terrence Cooley, Chief of Staff – County Board
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