

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE 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 Lyday, Administrator, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to operate the Disability Resource Center under the Family Care Program for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 and to accept \$2,074,753 in revenue

Issue

Milwaukee County ordinances require that departments obtain authorization from the County Board in order to execute contracts. The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is therefore requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) enabling the DHHS Disabilities Services Division (DSD) to serve as the Disability Resource Center (DRC) of Milwaukee County under the Family Care program for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, and to accept \$2,074,753 in revenue.

Background and Rationale

The major purpose of Family Care is to provide publicly-funded, long-term care services to eligible persons with disabilities and older persons in order to provide them with a community-based living option, rather than expensive publicly-funded nursing homes or other institutional settings.

One essential component of Family Care enables counties to serve as a DRC for individuals with disabilities ages 18 through 59. In June 2009, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorized DHHS to participate as the DRC of Milwaukee County beginning in August 2009.

The Resource Center is responsible for providing information and assistance and benefits counseling that includes access to Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, and other benefits including Food Share. It also provides access to emergency response services, adult protective services, transitional services for youth, long-term care options counseling, and access to the Family Care benefit or other publicly funded, long-term care options (i.e. partnership PACE and IRIS-Self Directed Supports service models).

Since first transitioning to Family Care in October 2009, DSD maintained a waitlist of in excess of 3,000 individuals. In November 2012, however, the program achieved entitlement

effectively eliminating the waitlist. As a result, the primary focus of the DRC contract is managing the referrals for publicly-funded long term care on a real time basis. This permits individuals under age 60 with disabilities to access services immediately versus being placed on a waiting list. Other areas of focus for the DRC will include outreach and marketing, prevention initiatives as well as addressing the State of Wisconsin's Medicaid Sustainability measures.

The base award of \$2,074,753 in general purpose revenue is allocated to Milwaukee County to operate the DRC for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. This allocation is the same as calendar years 2013 and 2014. It should also be noted that DSD has continued to perform very well in earning Medicaid Administrative revenue through the DRC activity reporting. This revenue has been critical to help fund the DRC activities and will continue to be an essential component of the DRC budget.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to enter into a contract with DHS to operate the Disability Resource Center in the amount of \$2,074,753 for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 and to accept any addenda to this contract.

Fiscal Effect

The 2015 Budget includes the \$2,074,753 in revenue for the Disability Resource Center. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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
Matt Fortman, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS
Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst – Comptroller's Office