

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY**  
**Inter-Office Memorandum**

**DATE:** November 26, 2012

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

**FROM:** Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

**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, 2013 through December 31, 2013 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, 2013 through December 31, 2013, 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. As of November 1, 2012, however, the program achieved entitlement effectively eliminating the waitlist. As a result, the primary focus of the DRC contract will now be to address referrals for publicly-funded long term care on a real time basis. This will permit 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. While the implementation details of these new Medicaid Sustainability measures have not yet been determined, it is anticipated that the DRC will need to provide support to several new activities previously not included in the program requirements. These issues will be part of the 2013 contract with DHS.

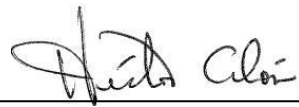
The base award of \$2,074,753 in general purpose revenue is allocated to Milwaukee County to operate the DRC for the period January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. This allocation is the same as calendar year 2012. It should also be noted that DSD has continued to perform very well in earning Medicaid 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, 2013 through December 31, 2013 and to accept any addenda to this contract.

**Fiscal Effect**

The 2013 Budget includes the \$2,074,753 in revenue for the Disability Resource Center. A fiscal note form is attached.



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Héctor Colón, Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
Amber Moreen, County Executive's Office  
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