

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 2, 2024

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting passive review of a retroactive amendment to a professional services contract that exceeds \$100,000 but is less than \$300,000

File Type: Passive Review Report

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting passive review of a professional services contract amendment with Amergis in the amount of \$38,000, increasing the 2024 contract from \$99,000 to \$137,000.

**POLICY**

Per §59.52(31), the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting passive review authorization to execute an amendment to a professional services contract. In addition, per Chapter DOC 346.23, Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) is mandated to provide for the necessary medical care of all youth while in custody, and all youth in care are court ordered to be there.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stat. §59.52(31)
Department of Corrections	Ch. 346.23

**BACKGROUND**

Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) holds a 2024 professional services agreement with Amergis (formerly Maxim Healthcare Staffing) to provide healthcare related staffing for the Vel R. Phillips youth detention center. The contract allows for one full time Registered Nurse (RN) to provide coverage for Milwaukee County staff temporarily on leave as well as an additional RN that has specialized skills and experience that cannot be addressed with current staffing.

CYFS is experiencing an increase in the number of kids in secure care who have high medical needs, to include injuries sustained from auto-related accidents and gun shots. Currently, there is one youth who is court ordered to detention who has significant medical needs and the Amergis RN provides the needed medical care and oversight required for

the youth. The actual costs will depend on the time in which the youth is in secure care and other youth who may come into secure care with higher level medical needs.

Although the contract was fully expended as of October 2024, Amergis continued to provide medical services to youth in the detention center given the health and safety risk. In addition, medical services are required to be provided under Wisconsin Administrative Code DOC 346.23. Payment to Amergis for services rendered is still pending the passive review approval of this amendment.

The request is for an additional \$38,000 through December 31, 2024, for a total contract amount of \$137,000. These costs can be offset with Youth Aids revenue in 2024.

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

This program is aligned to Milwaukee County's strategic plan and supports Strategy 2A Bridge the Gap by delivering services based on the resolution of health disparities. It will apply a health equity lens by recruiting participants from communities with limited English-speaking proficiency, under- or uninsured communities, communities with transportation limitations, and communities with other inequities in the social determinants of health. This program is also aligned with the DHHS strategy of coordinating care and managing human service needs for individuals by addressing the root causes of those needs.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The cost of this amendment will be offset with Youth Aids revenue.

### **TERMS**

The contract is effective from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

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### **PREPARED BY:**

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

**APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

CC: County Executive David Crowley  
Hon. Karl Ashley, Chief Judge  
Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee  
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller  
Madeline Fruehe, Budget & Management Analyst, SBP