

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication



Date : November 26th, 2012
To : The Honorable Marina Dimitrijevic, County Board Chairwoman
From : Donald Natzke, Director, DAS Office for Persons with Disabilities,
Michael Bonk, Disabilities Recreation Manager
Subject : **Accessible Recreation Contract, 2013-2015, Easter Seals Southeastern Wisconsin**

Background:

On January 1, 2002, responsibility to provide accessible Wil-O-Way recreation services were transferred from the Department of Parks to the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD). OPD assumed responsibility for both recreation programming and operation of the facilities located in Grant and Underwood Parks. Recreation services were designed to be coordinated by OPD's Community Recreation Coordinator, and following an RFP process, supplied by a community agency skilled and knowledgeable in providing recreation supports requested by people with disabilities. Through RFP processes completed in 2002, 2004, 2007, and 2009: Easter Seals Southeastern Wisconsin, and its predecessor agency Kindcare, Inc. has served satisfactorily in this capacity.

Under the direction of the Office for Persons with Disabilities, Easter Seals has successfully increased the number of Wil-O-Way Summer Day Camp participants involved in the six-week experience. They have also been able to support the needs of people with more complex and pervasive accommodation needs.

OPD and Easter Seals have also joined to provide summer youth employment through a grant provided by the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, providing supportive employment opportunities to disadvantaged young workers.

Care providers are also benefited and comforted to know that campers are in a safe and stimulating environment. This affords them both respite, and the opportunity to continue employment and other life tasks.

Through support provided by Milwaukee County, camp fees are maintained at an affordable price for all camp costs including provision of transportation.

In addition, the Wil-O-Way Centers have offered additional onsite recreation opportunities based at the Grant and Underwood Centers to the benefit of people with disabilities and their care providers. On other occasions, program participants are supported in community outings such as Lake Michigan sailing at the Milwaukee Community Sailing Center, area restaurants, bowling centers, etc.

With highly satisfactory survey results, this combination of services has maintained successful operations.

Current Status:

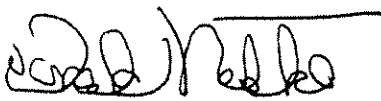
On August 17, OPD released an RFP for a three-year contract to provide accessible programming through the Wil-O-Way Recreation Program. OPD staff conducted an aggressive distribution of materials to researched and known community recreation providers.

A bidder's conference was held on September 6, and October 3 was designated as the R.F.P. proposal return date.

The only proposal received was one created by Easter Seals of Southeastern Wisconsin. Staff reviewed it for its completeness and conformance with requirements.

On October 8, the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities Wil-O-Way Committee reviewed and scored the proposal. The proposal was found to adequately address program requirements and provided evidence that Easter Seals could continue to meet the recreation needs of people with disabilities.

The Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities provided their endorsement on that date. Based on the recommendation of the Milwaukee County Commissioners, bolstered by their past performance, the Office for Persons with Disabilities respectfully submits a Resolution and Fiscal Note endorsing this contemplated three-year contract with Easter Seals of Southeastern Wisconsin for County Board review and adoption.



Donald Natzke, Director
DAS Office for Persons with Disabilities



Michael Bonk, Disabilities Recreation Manager
DAS Office for Persons with Disabilities