

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 28, 2023

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

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

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to operate the Aging and Disability Resource Center for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 and to accept \$7,088,650 in revenue

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to operate the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, and to accept \$7,088,650 in revenue.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute this contract.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

The ADRC, operated by the DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS), helps people with physical or developmental/intellectual disabilities, ages 18-end of life cycle, secure needed services, or benefits, live with dignity and security, achieve maximum independence and quality of life. The goal of the ADRC is to empower individuals to make informed choices and to streamline access to services and supports.

The ADRC is a welcoming and accessible place in which people with different abilities and individuals over the age of 60 can obtain information, advice, and help in locating services or applying for benefits. The ADRC provides a central source of updated, accurate and objective information about a broad range of programs and services to help people evaluate the various

options available. Through the assistance of the ADRC, customers can identify resources in their communities and make informed decisions about long-term care. This allows customers to conserve their personal resources, maintain self-sufficiency and delay or prevent the need for potentially expensive long-term care. The ADRC also serves as the single access point for publicly funded long-term care, including Family Care and IRIS.

The ADRC is responsible for providing information and assistance and benefits counseling which includes access to Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, and other benefits such as 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).

Staff from the ADRC meets with customers to assess their needs and determine eligibility for long-term care programs, including Family Care, Partnership, PACE and IRIS. These programs provide long-term care services to help customers live safely and successfully in the community and prevent admission into nursing homes or other institutional settings. Staff reviews program choices with customers and then enrolls them into one of the programs.

As part of the 2023-2025 Budget, the Wisconsin Legislature approved a permanent increase of \$7.5 million in statewide funding for ADRCs over the biennium. In addition, DHS updated the ADRC allocation formula which now considers factors such as percentage of poverty as well as other health equity factors to ensure a balanced and equitable distribution of funding statewide.

As a result, Milwaukee County's funding has increased by \$1,599,065 compared to the 2023 contract. Milwaukee County along with other counties have been underfunded for many years and the additional funding will allow the ADRC to explore new opportunities such as expanded staffing, the creation of a new youth transition unit as well as increase compensation to ensure the ADRC can recruit and retain staff. This increased investment will result in enhanced services for older adults and people with disabilities in Milwaukee County.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This contract aligns with the Milwaukee County Strategic Plan by providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities and individuals over the age of 60 to maximize independence as well as foster an inclusive and diverse community.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to operate the Aging and Disability Resource Center for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 and to accept \$7,088,650 in revenue.

FISCAL EFFECT

A total of \$7,088,650 is included in the DHHS 2024 Budget for this contract. A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The ADRC contract with DHS is effective January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Marietta Luster, Administrator, Aging and Disabilities Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance