

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 14, 2025

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 Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute **2026** fee-for-service contracts for Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS)

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute **2026** fee-for-service contracts with vendors supporting individuals with disabilities and older adults, ages 18 through the end of their life span as part of the Adult Protective Services (APS) program. APS serves individuals in need of a Corporate Guardian as a legal decision maker and/or a WATTS Review to determine if their community placement is the least restrictive living environment.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute these fee-for-service contracts.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

Corporate Guardianship

DHHS is requesting authorization to execute contracts with Easterseals Southeast Wisconsin, Life Navigators, and ZGM Guardianship Services for the provision of Corporate Guardianship Services for individuals with disabilities and older adults ages 18 through the end of their life.

Corporate Guardianship Services include making personal decisions regarding health care, housing, nutrition, social needs, etc., on behalf of the ward. In addition, services include ensuring that all benefits due the ward are applied for and provided and that the ward is as integrated into the community as possible.

The proposed contracts reflect a total of \$650,000 annually to the following agencies in 2026:

Service	Provider	2026 Contract
Corporate Guardianship	Easterseals of Southeast Wisconsin	\$280,000
Corporate Guardianship	Life Navigators	\$220,000
Corporate Guardianship	ZGM Guardianship Services	\$150,000
	Total	\$650,000

WATTS Reviews

The WATTS review includes assessing an individual's functional abilities and disabilities as well as the adequacy of supervision and services being received when an individual has a protective placement order. A WATTS review shall include:

- A visit to the individual (as applicable, face to face or virtual visit)
- A written evaluation of the physical, mental and social condition of the individual and the service needs of the individual
- Any submitted comments solicited (invited from) the Guardian

The proposed contracts total \$198,000 annually to the following agencies in 2026:

Service	Provider	2026 Contract
WATTS Reviews	LaCausa	\$99,000
WATTS Reviews	ANew	\$99,000
	Total	\$198,000

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

These contracts align 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 Executive Director, DHHS, or her designee, to execute **2026** fee-for-service contracts in the amounts specified in the attached resolution. The effective date of the contracts would be the period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

FISCAL EFFECT

A total of \$848,000 is included in the DHHS 2026 Budget for the Corporate Guardianship and WATTS Reviews contracts. A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

These contracts are effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Taunya Thomas, Director, Adult Protective Services

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Willie Johnson Jr., Chair, Finance 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