

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: November 13, 2017

TO: Sup. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Geri Lyday, Administrator, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to operate the Disability Resource Center for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 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 Interim 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 projected for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018, 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.

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) of Milwaukee County helps people with physical or developmental/intellectual disabilities ages 18-59 secure needed services or benefits, live with dignity and security, and achieve maximum independence and quality of life. The goal of the Disability Resource Center program is to empower individuals to make informed choices and to streamline access to services and supports.

The DRC is a welcoming and accessible place where people with disabilities can obtain information, advice, and help in locating services or applying for benefits. The DRC provides a central source of reliable and objective information about a broad range of programs and services and help people understand and evaluate the various options available to them. By enabling people to find resources in their communities and make informed decisions about long term care, ADRCs help people conserve their personal resources, maintain self-sufficiency and

delay or prevent the need for potentially expensive long term care. ADRCs also serve as the single access point for publicly funded long term care, including Family Care and IRIS.

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. In November 2012, however, the program achieved entitlement effectively eliminating the waitlist. As a result, the primary focus of the DRC contract is managing the referrals for publicly-funded long term care on a real time basis. This permits individuals under age 60 with disabilities to access services immediately versus being placed on a waiting list. Other areas of focus for the DRC include outreach and marketing, prevention initiatives as well as addressing the State of Wisconsin's Medicaid Sustainability measures.

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, 2018 through December 31, 2018. This projected allocation has been the same since 2013. 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 Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Interim Director, DHHS, or her designee, to enter into a contract with DHS to operate the Disability Resource Center in the projected amount of \$2,074,753 for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 and to accept any addenda to this contract.

Fiscal Effect

The 2018 projected budget includes the \$2,074,753 in revenue for the Disability Resource Center. A fiscal note form is attached.



Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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