

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**Behavioral Health Division Administration**  
**INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** July 5, 2011

**TO:** Supervisor Lee Holloway, Chairman – Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Geri Lyday, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by Paula Lucey, Administrator, Behavioral Health Division*

**SUBJECT: Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Requesting Authorization to Use 2010 Behavioral Health Division Capital Budget Project Funding for Patient Furniture**

**BACKGROUND**

On June 3, 2010 BHD received a Statement of Deficiency (SOD) from the State of Wisconsin as a result of a recent State Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) survey. At the July 2010 meetings of the Committees on Health and Human Needs and the Finance and Audit, the Board approved expenditure authority for \$1,825,890 in 2010 BHD Capital Funds to address all SOD related capital conditions by the final deadline of April 1, 2011. A final SOD report was submitted to the Committees on Health and Human Needs and the Finance and Audit for the May cycle. The report indicated that on May 3, 2011, BHD received a final closing letter from the State stating compliance with the Conditions of Participation. After all SOD related citations have been paid for, \$950,000 remains from the original Board allocation. BHD is now returning to the Board to request that a portion of these funds be used to purchase new patient furniture.

**DISCUSSION**

At the May Committee meetings, as well as in prior St. Michael's reports to the Board and the 2010 BHD Capital Project, BHD indicated that new patient furniture is needed. Although it has never been cited, it has been noted in several surveys that furniture currently used in patient rooms is outdated and could pose future citation issues. The majority of the furniture is original to the building from 1979. Given the age of the patient beds and wardrobes, they pose infection control issues as well as various patient and employee safety issues. BHD clinical and operations staff have worked together to

address immediate issues and implement stop-gap fixes to the furniture for the short-term. Now BHD is proposing to address the patient furniture issue by replacing it to avoid future citations, to address an important component in achieving Joint Commission certification, and also better the environment of care for patients and staff.

BHD has spoken with several vendors, and estimates that the cost to purchase and install new beds, wardrobes, and dressers for approximately 141 of the total 266 patient beds in Acute Adult inpatient, long-term care units, Psychiatric Crisis Services and Observation, would be approximately \$600,000. This would allow BHD to take the oldest and most problematic furniture off units, and then BHD would include some funding in future operating budgets to systematically replace any remaining old equipment based on a furniture replacement plan and schedule. All of the furniture that BHD is recommending be purchased could be moved by staff to accommodate different room and unit configurations and also could be moved to any possible new facility in the future.

**FISCAL**

To date, \$1,173,939, including personnel, equipment, and materials costs have been spent on the SOD repairs. Of this amount, approximately \$600,000 was spent out of the 2010 BHD operating budget. An additional amount of \$300,000 is earmarked for Dietary related updates associated with the SOD. This leaves approximately \$950,000 in funding. The table below summarizes SOD spending:

<b>SOD Capital Funding</b>	
Original Allocation	\$1,825,890
SOD Spending YTD	(\$1,173,939)
Non- Bondable portion of SOD Spending*	\$600,000
Dietary Investments	(\$300,000)
<b>Remaining Balance</b>	<b>\$951,951</b>

\*Note: The \$600,000 was included in the 2010 Operating year-end close for BHD.

BHD has worked with DAS Capital Finance Manager to determine that the patient furniture is bond eligible and will qualify as a capital expense.

**RECOMMEDNATION**

BHD recommends that the Committees on Health and Human Services and Finance and Audit authorize the Interim Director, Health and Human Services, to allocate \$600,000 in Capital funds to patient furniture to address critical patient care needs, assist in achieving Joint Commission certification and avoid any further citations in the future.

  
Geri Lyday, Interim Director  
Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
Patrick Farley, Director, Department of Administrative Services  
Terry Cooley, County Board Chief of Staff  
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