

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 24, 2026

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, seeking approval of an agreement to expand and fund an expedited options counseling team within the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The ADRC requests approval of an agreement with Ascension Health, Advocate Aurora Health, Inc., and Froedtert Thedacare Health, Inc. to jointly fund an Expedited Options Counseling Team. This agreement would allow for an expansion of the ADRC's staffing and capacity to address high acuity cases of hospitalized consumers needing assessment and enrollment for publicly funded long-term care (PFLTC).

POLICY

Under the Code of General Ordinances §56.06(1), departments must obtain County Board approval to submit or receive any grant that requires a county match with county funding or in-kind services. The proposed revenue contract requires the county to create three new positions for a team dedicated to providing expedited options counseling to the three hospital systems.

Milwaukee County Ordinances:		56.06(1)
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BACKGROUND

The ADRC, operated by DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS), assists older adults and people with disabilities in securing services and benefits, including access to publicly funded long-term care options. The ADRC continues to experience significant growth in community need, demonstrated by rising call volumes, referrals, and expedited cases.

- In 2025, the ADRC received 49,896 calls for assistance. From these calls, the ADRC received 10,847 Options Counseling referrals, completed 5,390 long term care functional screens. This

resulted in the enrollment of 4,491 individuals into PFLTC, which is a 14% increase over the year prior.

To respond to this demand, the ADRC created an Expedited Options Counseling Team in 2025 and established strict criteria for expedited referrals, which hospitals closely follow. Any patient meeting these criteria is assigned to this team. The team focuses specifically on patients who require long-term care due to catastrophic events or medical instability, rather than general hospital referrals.

The team currently consists of one Options Counselor Supervisor and three Advanced Options Counselors. Due to continued growth in high-acuity cases, there is a need to expand the team by three additional Advanced Options Counselor positions, for a total of seven team members, as part of the proposed agreement with the three health care systems. These three new positions are being considered under File 26-522 before the County Board in the June 2026 cycle.

Under the agreement, the team will complete the Long-Term Care Functional Screen (LTCFS) within 15 days, instead of the State-required 30 days.

Each of the three hospitals will contribute \$100,000 annually over three years in exchange for a dedicated Expedited Options Counseling Team. The total annual funding of \$300,000 would cover the majority of the salary and fringe costs with the State ADRC contract supporting the balance.

The Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) of Milwaukee County was awarded \$7,363,051 in ongoing funding for CY2026 with the ability to draw an additional \$7.4 million in federal match based on spending and time reporting.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The request to create these new positions in DHHS aligns with the county's strategic plan to ensure that we can continue in determining what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute an agreement with Ascension Health, Advocate Aurora Health, Inc., and Froedtert Thedacare Health, Inc. to jointly fund an Expedited Options Counseling Team, each in the annual amount of \$100,000 for three years, for a total of \$300,000 per year, for the period August 1, 2026, through August 1, 2029.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The renewable agreement reflects a three-year term effective August 1, 2026 until August 1, 2029. The

agreement is written to auto renew for another 36 months under the same terms unless written notice is given by either party.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Rebecca Schmitt, ADRC Director, DHHS Aging and Disabilities Services (ADS)

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, Department of Health & Human Services

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Steve F. Taylor, Chair, Finance Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Steve Cady, Director of Research and Policy, Comptroller's Office
Janelle M. Jensen, Director of Legislative Services, Office of the County Clerk
Madeline Fruehe, Senior Budget & Management Analyst, DAS