

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: November 25, 2013

TO: Sup. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Kerry Mitchell, Director, Department of Human Resources

FROM: Hector Colón, Director, Department of Health & Human Services
Prepared by: Bruce Kamradt, Administrator, Children's Community Services – Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to create one position of Program Coordinator for the Children's Community Services Area – Wraparound Milwaukee to oversee the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Grant for pro-active healthcare approaches to sexually exploited youth who are victims of human trafficking

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to create one position of Program Coordinator. This position is required for grant coordination of a Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Grant that the Children's Branch – Wraparound Milwaukee Program was recently awarded in October 2013. The purpose of the grant is to identify and provide outreach services for sexually exploited youth who are victims of human trafficking.

Wraparound Milwaukee, which is partnering with the Medical College of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, is designated to provide a Project Coordinator for this grant, which begins January 1, 2014. Therefore, DHHS is seeking approval for the creation of this position which is critical to the project's implementation.

Background

Human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of youth have become both a national and local issue in this community. Research indicates that victims of human trafficking often have a wide variety of physical and mental health needs. Similar to victims of domestic violence and other traumatic experiences, many victims of human trafficking suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, severe depression, and substance-related disorders. Many of these youth have substantial runaway experiences and have ended up in secure detention at the Milwaukee County Juvenile Detention Facility. A number of these

human trafficking victims end up in out-of-home foster care, group care, and residential treatment.

A recent review conducted by the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission indicates that identification processes for human trafficking are in need of great improvement. Currently, the Milwaukee Police Department only identifies a small number of children as victims of human trafficking. Healthcare practitioners are also expressing a need for assessment tools to identify victims. Further, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare is looking for more assistance in identifying and finding treatment resources for these sexually exploited youth.

The Human Trafficking Task Force of Greater Milwaukee has been focused on developing ways to better identify this population, to understand the characteristics of sexually exploited youth and identify treatment resources. Until this grant was awarded, however, no organization had particularly focused on the medical and mental health implications of human trafficking.

The overall goal of this grant is to identify youth (through age 17) who are victims of human trafficking and those at high risk of being sexually exploited.

Once identified, a system of treatment resources will be established and identified for agencies to access including evidence-based treatments. Additionally, the grant will provide resources, materials and training to healthcare providers, advocates, and others to help these groups identify the healthcare needs of this population.

The duties of the Project Coordinator include: 1) facilitating and coordinating the meeting of all system partners 2) developing a project advisory committee 3) creating and maintaining databases on the affected number of youth across agencies 4) creating a list of treatment resources in the community that can be accessed by agencies serving this population of youth and 5) providing materials and training to medical and mental health providers on the physical and mental health needs of victims of human trafficking based on the surveys, focus groups, and other data collected.

The Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Grant will offset 100 percent of the cost of the Program Coordinator position over a two-year period (1/1/2014-12/31/2015). If this program proves successful, funding may be available beyond the planning phase of this two-year grant from the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, and Wraparound Milwaukee.

Recommendation

To assist BHD-Wraparound Milwaukee with implementing the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Grant to improve healthcare outcomes for sexually exploited youth, it is recommended that the

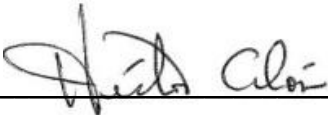
County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or his designee, to create a full-time Program Coordinator position (pay range 29).

Fiscal Impact

The 2014 estimated cost of this position is between \$80,451 and \$93,675. This cost reflects salary (step one to step five), social security and active fringe benefit rates contained in the 2014 Budget.

The creation of this Program Coordinator position results in no tax levy impact. All costs for this position are covered through the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Grant for 2014 and 2015 and additional funding through Wraparound Milwaukee, if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Kolton, Legislative Affairs Director, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Don Tyler, Director, DAS
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