

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: August 22, 2023

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

From: Cassandra Libal, Director, Office of Emergency Management

Subject: From the Director of Office of Emergency Management, requesting approval of the Agreement for Professional Services for the Provision of Medical Direction to the Emergency Medical Services Division of the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management.

File Type: Action Report

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**REQUEST**

From the Director of Office of Emergency Management, requesting approval of the Agreement for Professional Services for the Provision of Medical Direction to the Emergency Medical Services Division of the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management for a ten-year term from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2033.

**BACKGROUND**

The agreement for the Provision of Medical Direction Services for the Milwaukee County EMS System is expiring at the end of 2023. Without a named Medical Director in place, the EMS Providers cannot legally provide medical care in the prehospital setting. The current relationship with the Medical College of Wisconsin has existed since 1973 for the entire existence of the Milwaukee County EMS system. Extension of this agreement for a term of 10 years will help ensure stability in quality patient care and oversight.

The EMS Medical Director is responsible for the following major duties:

1. Developing and guiding patient care guidelines.
2. Ensuring quality and safe patient care practices are implemented through a robust quality assurance program.
3. Overseeing and approving all continuing education for EMS providers.
4. Acting as a liaison between the health systems and EMS agencies to ensure seamless and fully integrated care is available to all patients.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the strategic plan:

1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government

1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government

1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses

2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity

2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered

2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions

- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

The EMS Medical Director has a major impact on determination of resources made available to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service, including areas of the community that may be underserved. This position will work across County departments to ensure resources and efforts are not duplicated.

Racial equity is front of mind with this work in addition to a culture of transparency leveraged through the EMS data work that is utilized for public consumption as well as research.

This position has an opportunity to have major impact citizens with creative delivery of services and alternative means of patient care engagement.

By having a centralized contract that covers all fire departments in the county, the care is consistent and the taxpayers recognize the fiscal benefit as opposed to individual agreements with each fire department.

This position will assist in assessing community needs and barriers to care and assist in development of ways to overcome these barriers.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The total cost of the agreement is \$4,264,563, with annual payments starting at \$372,000 in 2024 and increasing by 3% per year. The payment for 2023 is \$289,000 is will be an increase to operating funds annually. OEM seeks outside grant opportunities whenever possible to reduce the burden on the tax levy to fund the work of the EMS Medical Director.

### **TERMS**

If approved, this agreement would be effective for 10 years from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2033. Further amendment would be required to extend and amend the agreement.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Cassandra Libal  
Christopher McGowan  
Dan Pojar

### **PREPARED BY:**

Dan Pojar, EMS Division Director

### **APPROVED BY:**



Cassandra Libal, Director OEM

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

Report, Resolution/Ordinance, Fiscal Note, DRAFT Contract

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk