

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: January 13, 2014

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Jim Kubicek, Interim Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter 2014 professional services contracts for the Behavioral Health Division**

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is seeking approval from the County Board's Committee on Finance, Personnel and Audit of two professional services contracts – one with Critical Management Solutions (CMS) for consultation assistance and a second contract with Robert G. Clark, M.D., for psychiatrist services.

Background

BHD uses several professional services contracts to support various essential staff activities. Each of these contracts support functions that are critical to patient care and are necessary to maintaining hospital, nursing home and crisis services licensure. A discussion of the two professional services contracts requested for approval in this cycle is provided below:

Critical Management Solutions (CMS)

In order to continue with the Joint Commission accreditation process, DHHS recommends an extension of the current contract with CMS to provide consultation assistance to BHD. To date, CMS has conducted various assessments and developed a comprehensive Regulatory Compliance Action Plan that outlines the policies, procedures and practices that must be revised to be fully compliant with Joint Commission and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid requirements along with an individualized strategy to do so.

CMS has assisted with implementing the action plan by developing and revising policies and procedures, developing staff educational material to support the execution of these policies and procedures, assisting BHD staff with the redesign or refinement of processes as expected by policy and procedure, coaching staff in their performance and documenting clinical activities

to improve compliance with Joint Commission requirements. In addition, CMS has been providing specialized technical assistance related to pharmacy and emergency response.

As a result, BHD is requesting a one-year contract extension to December 31, 2014 for CMS in a not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000.

Psychiatrist Services

In order to provide for the ongoing care and treatment needs of clients residing in BHD's Rehabilitation Center Central and Hilltop Units, DHHS recommends contracting for necessary psychiatrist services until completion of the scheduled unit closures in 2014 and 2015. The psychiatrist supporting these units resigned mid-November and another hourly psychiatrist currently providing coverage is leaving at the end of January. Due to the pending facility closures and the difficulty BHD continues to experience in filling inpatient positions related to the continued national psychiatrist shortage, which is creating strong competition in the Milwaukee area, the department is recommending that psychiatrist services be provided under a contract. This contract would provide necessary services immediately and until all patients are discharged rather than attempt to recruit and employ a psychiatrist to fill this vacancy.

The contractor's activities shall include, but not be limited to, providing psychiatric evaluation, diagnosis, treatment and/or consultation services, medication management, seclusion/restraint orders, serving as an expert witness in court, participating in treatment team activities and quality review activities, and all other duties of an attending and/or consulting psychiatrist, as the assignment requires. The contracted psychiatrist services shall further be utilized to provide for back-up coverage on the Acute Adult Inpatient Service, as needed.

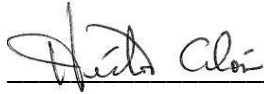
The contract reflects a term of March 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 and a total cost of up to \$265,000. This cost is consistent with the current hourly rates for BHD's hourly, critical-fill psychiatrists whose rates average \$150 per hour. In addition, this cost is significantly lower than hourly rates of temporary physician staffing agencies (known as locum tenens firms) which charge over \$200 per hour.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to extend the current contract with CMS for consultation services and execute a contract with Robert Clark, M.D., for psychiatrist services. The CMS contract reflects an extension through December 31, 2014 and a total cost of \$50,000. The contract with Dr. Clark reflects a total cost of \$265,000 and a term of March 1, 2014 to January 31, 2014. If psychiatrist services are still needed in 2015, BHD will return to the County Board to seek approval to extend this contract.

Fiscal Effect

A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Don Tyler, Director, DAS
Sup. Peggy Romo West, Health & Human Needs Committee Chair
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