

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 17, 2025

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting passive review of an amendment to a professional services contract that exceeds \$100,000 but is less than \$300,000

File Type: Passive Review Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting passive review of a professional services contract amendment with Amergis in the amount of \$151,000 increasing the 2025 contract from \$99,000 to \$250,000.

POLICY

Per §59.52(31), the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting passive review authorization to execute an amendment to one professional services contract. In addition, CYFS is mandated to provide for the necessary medical care of all youth while in custody, per Chapter DOC 346.23.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	Wis. Stat. §59.52(31), DOC 346.23
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BACKGROUND

Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) holds a 2025 professional services agreement with Amergis to provide healthcare-related staffing for the Vel R. Phillips youth detention center. The contract allows for one full-time Registered Nurse (RN) who works to fill gaps for Milwaukee County staff on leave on a temporary basis, as well as provides for an additional RN that has specialized skills and experience that cannot be addressed with current internal staffing. There has been an increase in the number of kids in secure care that have high medical needs, to include injuries sustained from auto related accident and gun shots. There are kids who are court ordered to detention that have significant medical needs and the Amergis RN provides the needed medical care and oversight required for the youth.

CYFS is in the process of hiring for an additional RN position to work in the youth detention center, although there have been some challenges in filling this position. Once the CYFS RN position is filled, the utilization of the Amergis contract is anticipated to decline.

The original 2025 contract was for \$99,000 and is expected to be spent by the end of May 2025. The request for an additional \$151,000 is to cover all the potential 2025 expenses for this service in the youth detention center for a total contract amount of \$250,000. Actual costs will depend upon the level of medical needs and the length of stay for individual youth in secure care. DHHS can offset the costs of the additional service funding with Youth Aids revenue in 2025.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This program is aligned to Milwaukee County's strategic plan and supports Strategy 2A Bridge the Gap by delivering services based on the resolution of health disparities. It will apply a health equity lens by recruiting participants from communities with limited English-speaking proficiency, under- or uninsured communities, communities with transportation limitations, and communities with other inequities in the social determinants of health. This program is also aligned with the DHHS strategy of coordinating care and managing human service needs for individuals by addressing the root causes of those needs.

FISCAL EFFECT

The cost of this contract is fully covered in the 2025 CYFS budget.

TERMS

The contract is effective from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita.LaGrant@milwaukeecountywi.gov
Kelly.Pethke@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Karl Ashley, Chief Judge
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office