



County of Milwaukee  
**Office of the Sheriff**

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David A. Clarke, Jr.  
Sheriff

**DATE:** August 8, 2011

**TO:** Chris Abele, County Executive  
Supervisor Lee Holloway, County Board Chairman  
Patrick Farley, Director, Department of Administrative Services

**FROM:** Richard Schmidt, Inspector, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Declaration

Pursuant to Chapter 32.28 of the Milwaukee County Ordinances, the Office of the Sheriff is proceeding with the execution of a professional service contract with Health Care Partners, Inc. (HCP) to provide one or more providers including a House Physician, Psychiatrist, Physician Assistant or Nurse Practitioner for the County Correctional Facilities.

#### Background

The County Correctional Facilities Medical Unit had been supervised by a long time county employee who recently retired. Subsequent to the retirement, a new Medical Director was hired but was not retained. The Office of the Sheriff has attempted to fill the position on a permanent basis but has had difficulty in finding an adequate replacement. This is an essential position to the Agency and cannot remain vacant. The County Correctional Facilities operate under a court ordered consent decree and must remain in compliance for inmate medical care or become exposed to potential fines imposed by the Court.

The Office of the Sheriff has entered into a contract with Health Care Partners, Inc. (HCP) who has located a medical doctor, Dr. Allison Benthal, to serve as the Staff Physician for the Office of the Sheriff on a contractual basis. The Office of the Sheriff has entered into the contract with HCP prior to the County Board approval due to the pressing need for a Staff Physician in the Correctional Facilities and to remain in compliance with the Christensen Consent Decree. The Sheriff will continue to recruit for a Medical Director and when successful, the hours for Dr. Benthal will be reduced or eliminated.

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Dr. Benthall shall perform all of the tasks and achieve the objectives set forth below;

- Provide inpatient adult medical services including the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of adults
- Prescribe and administer medications
- Examining, diagnosing and treating inmates
- Serve as an expert witness in courts
- Complete medical orders
- Participate in quality improvement activities

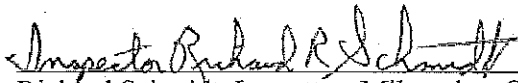
This contract is to be performed on an annual basis beginning August 8, 2011. The cost of the contract is based upon an hourly rate range of \$110 - \$130 per hour. Annualized estimated costs are \$249,600. 2011 costs are projected to be \$100,800

The contract also allows for the Office of the Sheriff to use HCP to locate and hire Psychiatrists, Physician Assistants or Nurse Practitioners should the Sheriff encounter difficulty in filling those positions.

#### Recommendation

It is requested that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approve the Sheriff's request to execute a contract to provide a Staff Physician for the County Correctional Facilities for the Office of the Sheriff and allow for payment of any services received prior to County Board approval of said contract.

**Fiscal Note:** The estimated annualized cost of the contract is \$249,600 and will be paid for by existing resources within the Office of the Sheriff 2011 Adopted Budget. Funding was budgeted for a full time staff member for 2011 with estimated annual costs of \$271,032 including benefits. Estimated 2011 costs are \$100,800.

  
Richard Schmidt, Inspector, Milwaukee County

cc: Johnnie Thomas, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee  
Willie Johnson, Jr., Chairman, Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee  
Pamela Bryant, Interim Fiscal and Budget Administrator  
Jon Priebe, Public Safety Fiscal Administrator

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