

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 17, 2023

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

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

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an informational report on service enhancements supported by the Home and Community-Based Services Grant

File Type: Information Report

BACKGROUND

Milwaukee County DHHS applied for and received approximately \$2 million in American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) funding, authorized under Wisconsin's ARPA HCBS Spending Plan. Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is investing the ARPA federal funds to enhance, improve, and strengthen statewide HCBS.

DHHS plans to utilize this funding across our service areas to enhance the quality of care and promote better outcomes in our Children and Adult Service Areas. Of the \$2 million in funding, \$1.1 million is being allocated to our Children's Service Area and the remainder to our Adult Service Area. In 2022, Milwaukee County enrolled 12% of children and 32.15% of adults and elders into publicly-funded long term care statewide under the HCBS waiver. This is by far the highest percentage of enrollments across the state. Program goals include providing support to our consumers, families and caregivers through direct services and supports.

Program and Service Detail

Funding will be used to provide education and training, technology, and specialized services, including translation and accessibility that directly support HCBS recipients and providers. The following represents key milestones and deliverables but there were many others included in the grant application:

- Reduce disparities and improve access to a diverse and culturally competent pool of HCBS providers
- Support organizations and providers with workforce training and service delivery improvements as they recover from the COVID-19 pandemic
- Develop stronger relationships with culturally specific providers to meet the needs of residents in our community by partnering with culturally competent providers so that

- educational opportunities in culturally and linguistically specific formats may be offered
- Help individuals with intellectual, developmental, and other significant disabilities find and retain work
 - Coordinate youth transition, providing funding and resources for assessment and decision-making support, continuity of care and support for families as youth transition into adults
 - Identify and authorize training/conferences for up to 50 staff that enhances their ability to provide culturally appropriate person-centered care that builds competencies and provides opportunities for engagement
 - Increase specialized care, services, and engagement for people with disabilities
 - Design a fully integrated website that is accessible and culturally specific, strengthens our No Wrong Door approach, identifies and improves access to technology and supports children, youth and family engagement
 - Support quality initiatives that improve services and supports and increases community engagement. This includes the Coordinated Community Response (CCR), Enhanced Multi-Disciplinary Team (EMDT) and subsequent workgroups.

All costs associated with these activities are 100 percent covered by the HCBS grant. DHHS has submitted an appropriation transfer in this March cycle to recognize the additional expenditures and offsetting revenue.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Services and programs supported by the HCBS grant align to the goals in the Milwaukee County Strategic Plan as the focus is on delivering services based on addressing health disparities. These efforts are advanced through a participant-centered lens and prioritize delivery of a variety of services that are accessible to all participants.

FISCAL EFFECT

This report is informational and has no tax levy impact.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator
Marietta Luster, Aging and Disability Services Administrator

PREPARED BY:

Marietta Luster, Aging and Disability Services Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Mary E. Triggiano, Chief Judge
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs & Strategic Planning Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Bree Bzdawka, Research and Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance