

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: August 31, 2012

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman – Milwaukee County Board

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Paula Lucey, Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Requesting Authorization to Enter Into a Professional Service Contract with the Planning Council for Health and Human Services for the Behavioral Health Division

Issue

Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires County Board approval for professional services contracts of \$50,000 or greater. Per Section 56.30, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to enter into a 2012 professional services contract with the Planning Council for Health and Human Services to assist the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) with the allocation of the remaining \$1,114,296 related to the Mental Health Community Investment.

Background

The 2012 BHD Budget included over \$3 million for a Mental Health Redesign and Community Resource Investment, which included six specific initiatives aimed at expediting the necessary groundwork for a mental health system more reliant on community resources and less reliant on inpatient care: a community-based crisis stabilization program, an additional stabilization house, increased community crisis investment, a crisis resource center expansion, a developmental disabilities-mental health pilot respite program and a quality assurance component. In July 2012, BHD presented a status update report regarding the actions that had been taken related to those budget initiatives and indicated that BHD was working on a plan to spend the one-time funds that remained. At the Health and Human Needs Committee it was requested the BHD return to the Board with a plan to spend the remaining funds in 2012. See attached Expenditure Tracker for more detailed information.

Discussion

After the July committee meeting, BHD met with various community stakeholders, including the Mental Health Redesign Task Force and brainstormed multiple ideas for investments for the remaining funds. BHD, after several discussions with the Task Force members, established a set of priorities for the funds. However, in order to maximize the impact of the \$1.1 million, and in recognition of the complexity of soliciting bids and entering into various contracts, BHD

determined that the best course of action was to return to the Board to request that all funds be managed by the Planning Council of Health and Human Services. This is similar to a fiscal agent type relationship where they will establish the funds in a separate account and BHD will work with them to fund the list of priorities, as detailed below, in a longer time frame.

Priorities

As mentioned above, BHD and the Mental Health Redesign Task Force established a list of priorities, with funding allocations, for the remaining funds. Below is a detailed listing:

- **Step-Down Housing Alternative:** \$150,000 will be dedicated to the creation of a step-down housing alternative. This offers a new approach and addition to the existing system and would be focused on individuals in Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF) who need some skill coaching in order to move into supportive housing. The Housing Division would develop the site and work with BHD to meet the programmatic needs. The funds would be dedicated to up-front renovation and startup costs.
- **Supportive Living Units:** \$300,000 will be used to leverage additional supportive living units with a focus on a suburban site. The Housing Division has a history of working with private investors to leverage county funds to successfully open these types of housing units.
- **Employment:** \$300,000 will be dedicated to working with community agencies to develop a full scale community plan related to employment. The focus would be on developing employment opportunities across the full spectrum including competitive, supported and sheltered. This is an essential component of mental health recovery and ideally something that would be sustainable with this initial investment. The Planning Council will be asked to staff and coordinate this activity for a \$20,000 fee, which is included in the total amount listed above.
- **Peer Specialists:** \$200,000 will be earmarked for a peer specialist initiative. BHD plans to have use Zia Partners to work with Peer Specialists to develop a comprehensive plan for a peer clearing house and also put together an education continuum, including initial and refresher trainings.
- **Nursing:** \$25,000 will be dedicated to planning an educational program focused on the future of mental health nursing in partnership with the Faye McBeath Foundation and the Alverno College of Nursing.
- **Additional Investments:** \$84,250 will be used for new investments as identified and approved by BHD and the Mental Health Task Force that fit with the overall goals of this initiative. In addition, BHD will pay the Planning Council a 5% fee, or \$55,750, for serving as the fiscal agent and administrator of the funds (a total of \$75,750 including the Employment fee listed above).

The Planning Council will be required to work with Milwaukee County Contract Administration staff to develop any necessary Request for Proposals, establish any contracts, meet DBE goals and follow all applicable County rules. Due to the timeframe for this initiative and the importance of getting the funding into the community, BHD is requesting to allow the Planning Council to serve as the fiscal agent and take a fee of up to \$75,750 without going through an RFP process. The Planning Council has been a good partner to BHD and has assisted with the Mental Health Redesign Task Force and BHD feels they are a good fit for this project. BHD will report to the Board on a quarterly basis with updates regarding this funding.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, or his designee, to enter into a professional services contract with Planning Council for Health and Human Services starting October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 for \$1,114,296, of which they will be paid \$75,750 for services and fees.

Fiscal Effect

All of the funds were included in the 2012 BHD Budget and are detailed on the attached spreadsheet. There is no tax levy impact that results from this initiative. A fiscal note form is attached.

Respectfully Submitted:



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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