

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: November 8, 2011

TO: Supervisor Lee Holloway, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: **Report from the Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to operate the Disability Resource Center under the Family Care Program for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 and to accept \$2,074,753 in revenue**

Issue

Milwaukee County ordinances require that departments obtain authorization from the County Board in order to execute contracts. The Acting Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is therefore requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) enabling the DHHS Disabilities Services Division (DSD) to serve as the Disability Resource Center (DRC) of Milwaukee County under the Family Care program for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, and to accept \$2,074,753 in revenue.

Background and Rationale

The major purpose of Family Care is to provide publicly funded long-term care services to eligible persons with disabilities and older persons in order to provide them with a community-based living option, rather than expensive publicly funded nursing homes or other institutional settings.

One essential component of Family Care enables counties to serve as a Disability Resource Center (DRC) for individuals with disabilities ages 18 through 59. In June 2009, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorized DHHS to participate as the DRC of Milwaukee County beginning August 2009.

The Resource Center is responsible for providing information and assistance; and benefits counseling that includes access to Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance and other benefits including Food Share. It also provides access to emergency response services; adult protective services; transitional services for youth; long-term care options counseling; and access to the Family Care benefit or other publicly funded long term care options (i.e. partnership PACE and IRIS-Self Directed Supports service models).

The 2011-2013 State Budget includes a statewide cap on new Family Care enrollments, allowing only enrollments based on program attrition statewide over the next two years. The current waitlist for individuals with developmental or physical disabilities is about 1,550 as of Oct. 1.

In response to the Family Care cap, DSD's budget reflects resources and support for all remaining areas and realigns the functions and new role of staff, including a focus on options counseling. DSD will be forced to continue to maintain a waitlist for services that is anticipated to grow over the next several years given the State cap on Family Care.

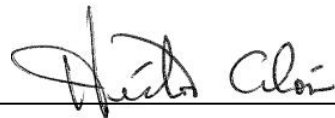
The base award of \$2,074,753 in general purpose revenue is allocated to Milwaukee County to operate the DRC for the period January 1, through December 31, 2012. This allocation is the same as CY 2011.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Acting Director, DHHS, or designee, to enter into a contract with DHS to operate the Disability Resource Center in the amount of \$2,074,753 for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012 and to accept any addenda to this contract.

Fiscal Effect

The 2012 Budget includes the \$2,074,753 in revenue for the Disability Resource Center. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Acting Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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