

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: November 25, 2013

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Geri L. Lyday, Administrator, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into 2014 Disabilities Services Division purchase of service contracts for adult and children's programs**

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization for DHHS to execute Disability Resource Center, Children's Programs and Adults with Disabilities purchase of service contracts for 2014.

Background and Rationale

The contract amounts shown on Attachment 1 reflect 2014 proposed DSD contracts. Recommended contract allocations will allow DSD to provide rehabilitation, treatment and support services to adults and children with disabilities in Milwaukee County during 2014. The number of contracts has decreased over the last three years due to the availability of an entitlement benefit through Family Care. The Family Care program allows individuals with disabilities immediate access to long term support services. The Division always utilizes the Family Care option prior to accessing purchase of service contracts for individuals requesting services.

Therefore, the DSD contracts in CY 2014 support individuals who are not eligible for Family Care due to their financial or functional status. The remaining POS funding in DSD contracted programs will be used to purchase services that are identified as having a high priority in assisting persons with disabilities to achieve their maximum independence. Services will also be utilized to augment the long-term support system with services that are not typically funded through the managed care organizations such as recreational programming that allows for true community integration.

The following is a detailed description of the allocations being recommended for the adult and children's POS contracts in 2014. DSD has made it a high priority to maintain the integrity of the existing service delivery system to ensure that a safety net for those who need community-

based supports can continue to live independently and not be forced to utilize institutional based services including nursing homes.

The information that follows includes highlights of 2014 POS contract recommendations and program changes for DSD by disability and program areas.

Children's Programs

Birth-To-Three/Early Intervention

Milwaukee County DSD will receive approximately the same State Birth-To-Three funding for 2014, as it did 2013. Contracted agencies that provide these critical services, continue to report costs in excess of the available funding while State revenues have remained unchanged or slightly decreased. The Division will continue to work with State and Federal agencies that fund Birth-To-Three to examine ways of increasing revenue for this critical program. The County recognized this financial need in prior years and budgeted additional funding in 2013 to help with their fiscal challenges.

It should be noted that one long-standing provider, Next Door Foundation, notified DSD that they were terminating their contract to provide Birth-To-Three services. The agency reported that due to a large change in the agency's programming, they were not able to continue to participate in the provider network as a result of their new focus on Head Start services. All cases that were assigned to Next Door Foundation were transferred to two other providers in the Birth-To-Three network in late 2013. The providers who assumed cases for this transition have absorbed the cases within their existing budgets with the expectation that some reallocation will occur after year end expenses are reviewed for Next Door Foundation and all other providers. However, in order to continue to serve the volume of cases that were assigned to Next Door Foundation on an ongoing basis, it will be necessary to release an RFP for the services. This RFP is going out in 2013 and a provider will be selected in early 2014.

Birth-To-Three services continue to be invaluable to families who have a child with a developmental delay. These programs are critical to the identification of early intervention strategies that can assist children to reach their maximum potential and actively participate in their communities. Wisconsin has a long-standing history and commitment to quality services for young children and their families. Provider agencies are key partners in the process through the delivery of effective early intervention services in partnership with families and Milwaukee County.

The Division has implemented performance based contracting focused on Federal indicators, review of unit rates and provision of services in the natural environment. The Division has worked closely to improve financial and service volume reporting to allow agencies costs to be compared accurately. Many Birth-To-Three agencies are projected to demonstrate program costs that exceed their 2013 contract. This includes the number of children served and units of service delivered.

As noted above DSD modified the reporting requirements beginning 2013 to allow for more detailed service information that could be utilized to compare agency performance and service volume. The new reporting system did not get implemented until late spring. Therefore, the availability of comparable data was not available until late May/early June. At the writing of this report, we only have September verified data and units of service provided.

In order to ensure that the Division has captured the full last calendar quarter of 2013 fiscal performance information and reliable data to make adjustments to contract recommendations which include both reallocations of existing service dollars as well as the \$150,000 in funding that was budgeted in the 2013 DSD budget, we are recommending six-month agreements for the Birth-To-Three providers. The six-month allocations will give the providers some indication of their 2014 annual contract awards and the Division will award the remainder of the allocations in early 2014.

The following providers are recommended for new six-month contracts in 2014:

- Curative Care Network
- Easter Seals
- Lutheran Social Services
- Milwaukee Center for Independence
- Penfield Children's Center
- St. Francis Children's Center

In summary, the Division will return to the County Board with information to allocate 2013 funding retroactively that is consistent with the new performance-based methodology. This will include the \$150,000 of additional funding budgeted for 2013 as well as reallocation of under spending and any additional costs agencies may have incurred as a result of the Next Door Foundation contract termination.

Adult Programs

As indicated above, Family Care entitlement has provided for immediate enrollment for eligible individuals with disabilities under age 60 who are seeking long-term support services in Milwaukee County. The dollars recommended for allocation to the following agency is only for individuals who are not financially and functionally eligible for Family Care or for services that the Care Management Organizations typically do not fund.

Work Services

One agency, Goodwill Industries, is recommended for a new contract in 2014 at the same funding level as 2013.

It should be noted that this agency may be able to help support individuals who are being relocated from the Hilltop program and would be able to begin utilizing services from the community agency to assist in the transition to community living. While this option has not yet been implemented, DSD will continue to recommend that it be utilized to help provide a smooth transition to community living.

Respite

United Cerebral Palsy is recommended for a new contract in 2014 at the same funding level as 2013. Respite continues to be a highly demanded service. Respite services support both adults and families with children who have disabilities.

Advocacy

DSD is recommending funding the 2014 contract for Life Navigators, Inc. (formerly ARC Milwaukee) at the same level as 2013 for the provision of advocacy service.

This agency will work in conjunction with the DSD Disability Resource Center to identify individuals eligible for Family Care and refer them to the DRC for assistance including Family Care enrollment when requested. This continued function will help support the DRC's outreach and marketing efforts to the community.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC provides Information and Assistance, Options/Enrollment Counseling to individuals with disabilities including Disability Benefits Specialist services. The DRC also acts as the front door to all publicly funded Long Term Care program options, i.e., Family Care, in Milwaukee County for individuals under age 60.

The DRC continues its focus on program development and has moved to include enhancements to certain program requirements that were not the emphasis of the DRC while efforts were being made to eliminate the waiting list. Additionally, the State of Wisconsin has a number of Medicaid sustainability program components designed to reduce overall expenditures in the current biennial budget. DSD is therefore recommending continued support for professional services to be provided by Life Navigators (formerly ARC Milwaukee) to help implement the State's Medicaid sustainability cost saving initiatives and to help develop needed DRC enhancements including outreach, youth transition planning and support as well as enrollment system support. Additional support will also be utilized to initiate the State's cost reduction initiatives. DSD will also work with Life Navigators on ways to enhance the work/employment options for individuals with disabilities. This will include working with businesses to create a culture that encourages hiring for individuals with disabilities.

DSD continues to work with BHD on the Hilltop downsizing initiative and will continue to require assistance to provide support for relocation efforts and provider network development.

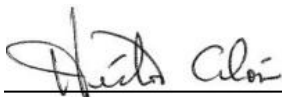
Given Life Navigator's experience and past history of providing quality services and assisting with these functions, DSD is recommending a 2014 contract with Life Navigators to provide these critical consulting services at a funding level projected to meet the continued DRC needs.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to enter into 2014 purchase of service contracts with community-based provider agencies per the narrative above and in the amounts specified in Attachment 1 and the accompanying resolution.

Fiscal Effect

The contracts reflect total expenditures of \$2,844,895 which are included in the DHHS 2014 Budget. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Don Tyler, Director, DAS
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