

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 19, 2024

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, requesting authorization to execute a 2024 fee-for-service agreement with Racine County for Children, Youth and Family Services

File Type: Action Report

---

**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute a 2024 fee-for-service agreement for Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS).

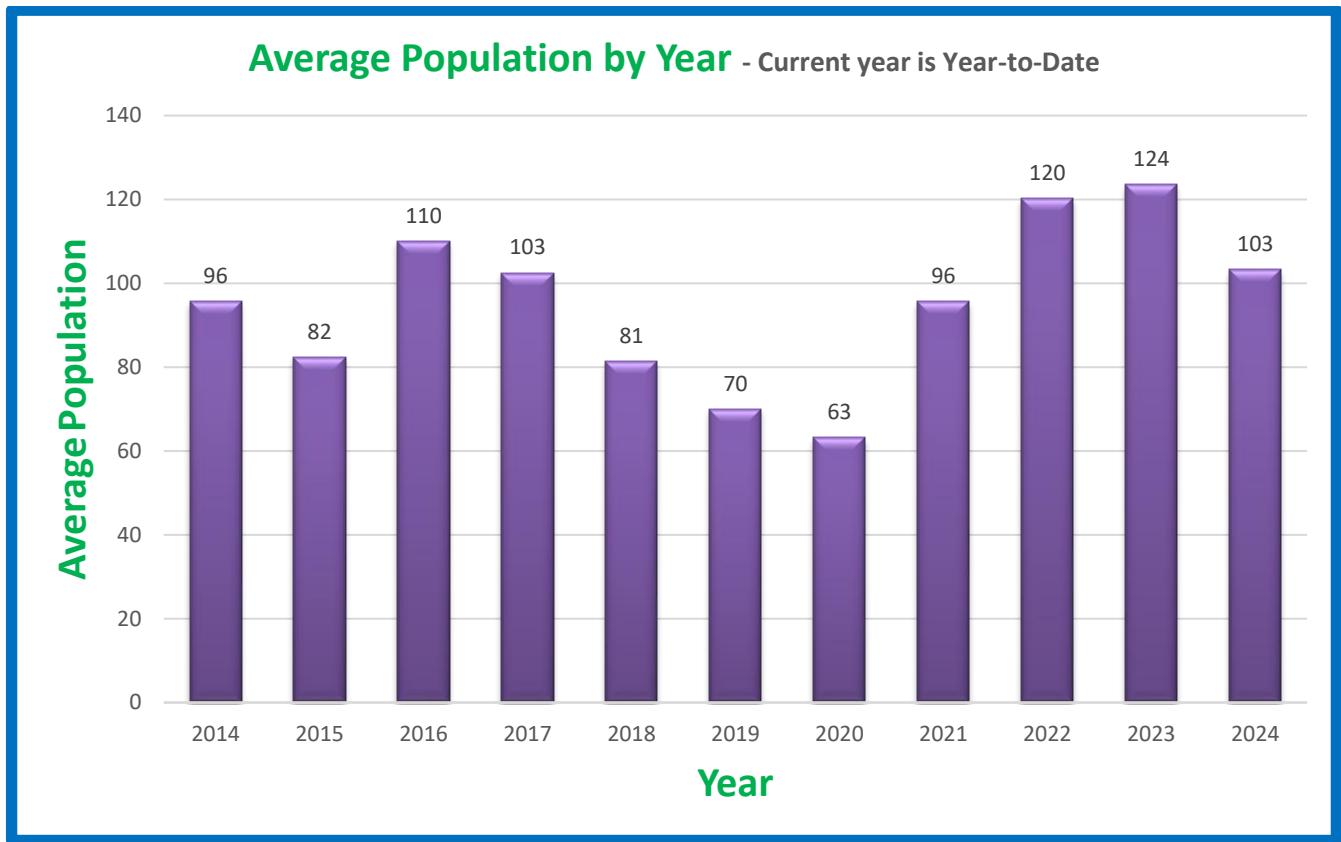
**POLICY**

Per Wis. Stat. § 59.52(31), the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute a fee-for-service agreement. Chapter 938 of the Wisconsin State Statutes governs the operation of county detention facilities. The State Department of Corrections has statutory authority, in accordance with Wis. Stats. §301.37, for the regulation and oversight of local detention facilities including secure juvenile detention centers.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31), 938, 301.37
---------------------------	--	------------------------

**BACKGROUND**

The DHHS Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) operates a 127-bed detention center at the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Justice Center. As shown by the graph below, since 2021, the census in the detention center has been gradually rising. However, through March of 2024, the census has been declining, and is averaging 103 which is well below capacity.



In response to the high census throughout the years, DHHS and Racine County executed an initial Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed in November of 2021. This MOU outlined responsibilities of both parties and stated that any costs exceeding \$99,000 would require Milwaukee County Board approval. This MOU has been updated and executed in 2022 and 2023, with the 2024 MOU currently under review.

Given that the census in the detention center continued to be high throughout 2022, CYFS leadership team and the Department of Corrections-Office of Detention Facilities Director and Jail Inspector met on June 14, 2022 to discuss the census of youth in the detention center, the concerns for the safety of youth and staff as well as plans to address the high population. At that time, CYFS was strongly encouraged to utilize other existing detention facilities, specifically Racine County, to place up to 10 youth in their facility as soon as possible. As an outcome of the meeting, CYFS submitted a plan in writing to the Office of Detention Facilities, that was approved, that outlined CYFS efforts and plans to continue to provide a safe and secure facility for the youth served and CYFS staff, including utilization of the Racine detention center.

In September 2022, DHHS submitted File 22-971 seeking approval of a fee-for-service agreement with Racine County. However, this item was not approved by the County Board. This authorization was later approved as part of the 2023 Adopted Budget for CYFS. Throughout 2023, there were between one to three youth placed in Racine.

Although there are currently no youth placed with Racine County, approval of this contract would allow CYFS to transition appropriate youth to Racine in a safe and equitable manner should the census increase to or at capacity in the youth detention center. The 2024 daily rate per youth in Racine is \$375 for the general population.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or her designee, to execute a 2024 fee-for-service contract with Racine County in a not-to-exceed amount of \$100,000.

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

CYFS has been leveraging its resources toward the ongoing development of community-based programming for justice-involved youth and their families. The number of youth in the detention center fluctuates significantly over the year and CYFS continues to be committed to reducing the youth in secure care across the continuum.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The total requested amount is \$100,000 to support the fee-for-service agreement with Racine County. A fiscal note form is attached.

### **TERMS**

The term of the contract is June 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director  
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

### **PREPARED BY:**

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

### **APPROVED BY:**

*Shakita LaGrant-McClain*  
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution and Fiscal Note

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Hon. Carl Ashley, Chief Judge  
Chair, Finance Committee  
Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, and Strategic Planning  
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 Director, County Clerk's Office  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, DAS