

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: July 13, 2026

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

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

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting passive review of an amendment to increase a 2026 purchase of service contract with Bloom Art and Integrated Therapies with Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)

File Type: Passive Review

REQUEST

The Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting passive review of an amendment to increase a 2026 purchase of service contract for CYFS.

POLICY

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

CYFS partners with community-based providers to support the continuum of care for justice-involved youth. One such partner, Bloom Art and Integrated Therapies, offers a High School Artist in Residence Program. Bloom, a community agency focused on mental health and wellness through creativity, has worked with CYFS since 2022.

CYFS was awarded a \$25,000 Herzfeld Foundation grant effective June 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026 to expand the Bloom residency. These funds will enable Bloom to serve an additional cohort of up to three youth (ages 14–17) who are involved in, or at risk of involvement in, the youth justice system. Referrals come from CYFS Human Service Workers.

The residency offers hands-on arts training, studio visits, workshops, and exposure to small businesses across Milwaukee County to demonstrate how artistic skills translate to employment. Participants receive lunch and hourly compensation of \$11.65. Over the residency, youth develop a cohesive body of work emphasizing self-expression and artistic skill growth. The program culminates in a maker's market at Bloom and in the community, where youth showcase and may sell their work; proceeds from any sales go directly to the artists. The program also builds practical job-related skills, including marketing and sales.

CYFS currently holds a \$99,000 contract with Bloom and is requesting a \$25,000 contract amendment bringing the total contract amount to \$124,000.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

CYFS is recommending this contract to support the ongoing development of community-based programming for children, youth and their families served across CYFS and ensures a racial equity lens is utilized in all program and contract decisions. These programs improve quality of life in Milwaukee County and support ongoing youth justice reform by expanding community-based care, individualizing case planning, and reducing system silos. CYFS is committed to transitioning youth from correctional placements back to Milwaukee, leveraging resources from the zero-youth corrections plan to better support young people and their families.

FISCAL EFFECT

This contract amendment is fully offset by the \$25,000 grant from the Herzfeld Foundation.

TERMS

The purchase of service contract is effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Steve F. Taylor, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Shawn Rolland, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee
Liz Sumner, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Nicholas Sinram, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance

Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Madeline Fruehe, Budget and Management Analyst, SBP