


COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : June 30th, 2017

To : Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM : James Mathy, Housing Administrator – DHHS 

SUBJECT: **Request to create 3.0 positions in the Department of Health and Human Services**

Background

The Department of Health and Human Services has developed a new trauma strategy to make headway in addressing racial and ethnic disparities in the system, while also helping to appropriately drive down the county's overall jail population. The strategy expands a book and release program for low-level non-violent misdemeanor offenses, which is already in use in Milwaukee's suburban districts, to the City of Milwaukee. The program also aims to take an integrated approach to mental health services that will allow the county to share data across agencies and provide law-enforcement with enhanced resources and alternatives other than arrest and jail.

Two Community Intervention Specialist positions and one Lead Community Intervention Specialist position will support the Post-Booking Stabilization process in an attempt to divert individuals with a mental health or substance abuse issue from the jail and into a supportive housing placement attached to services. The Lead Community Intervention Specialist will have additional responsibility to coordinate the release planning process with the two Community Intervention Specialists, ensuring successful placements and referrals to the Behavioral Health Division for treatment.

To fund this initiative, DHHS has requested and been awarded funding through the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Grant. This grant revenue will fully offset the cost of the requested positions to support the program.

Fiscal Impact

The creation of the requested positions increase operating costs by an estimated \$169,348 per year, offset entirely by grant revenue for the remainder of 2017 and 2018.

CC: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff
Kerry Mitchell, Chief Human Resources Officer
Margaret Daun, Corporation Counsel

Supervisor Peggy West, Chairwoman, Finance & Audit Committee
Supervisor Jim "Luigi" Schmitt, Chairman, Personnel Committee
Kelly Bablitch, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors Chief of Staff
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director of Administrative Services
Steve Kreklow, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget
Scott Manske, Comptroller
Stephen Cady, Comptroller's Office
Janelle Jensen, Committee Coordinator