

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: November 15, 2012

To: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

From: Craig Kammholz, Fiscal and Budget Administrator, DAS – Fiscal

Subject: Request to create 1.0 FTE RN 2 (Title Code 00044700, Pay Range 18N) and 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Emergency Service Clinician (Title Code 00059025, Pay Range 24)

REQUEST

The Department of Health and Human Services is requesting to create 1.0 FTE RN 2 (Title Code 00044700, Pay Range 18N) and 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Emergency Service Clinician (Title Code 00059025, Pay Range 24) within the Crisis Services Division of BHD.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The Mobile Crisis Team is responsible for responding to behavioral health crises in the community that involve individuals ages 18 and older. A key component to this response is the evaluation of emergency detentions.

Currently, when a person is in distress, they call 911 and the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) is the first responder. MPD can either call the Mobile Crisis Team or determine themselves if psychiatric services are required. If the distressed person agrees that psychiatric services are needed, they are voluntarily admitted to an inpatient psychiatric facility. If they do not agree, then they are involuntarily taken to the Psychiatric Crisis Services/Admission Center (PCS), the emergency room for BHD. In most cases, MPD is making this clinical determination. Wisconsin is one of few remaining states where the decision to detain is made exclusively by law enforcement. Because MPD does not have the proper training to make clinical determinations, Milwaukee County experiences a significantly high number of emergency detentions. As a result, BHD has been working to develop initiatives that will assist with keeping individuals in the community while avoiding involuntary hospitalizations.

An initiative included in the department's 2012 Budget as part of the Mental Health Redesign and Community Resource Investment was the expansion of community crisis options, specifically the Mobile Crisis Team. Expansion of this team will allow for more upfront intervention prior to any contact with PCS, hopefully leading to fewer emergency detentions. As

a result, BHD is requesting to create 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Emergency Service Clinician (BHESC) that will work with a police officer from MPD as part of a pilot program. Both the police officer and the BHESC will be the first responders to the call of a distressed person.

The BHESC will primarily work with the Mobile Crisis Team but will also work in six other areas of Crisis Services such as the crisis walk-in clinic, the crisis telephone line, PCS, the observation unit, and crisis respite. The responsibilities of this position are as follows: cover the crisis telephone line; provide psychiatric assessments for clients in the walk-in clinic and PCS; triage and facilitate discharges in the Observation Unit; provide services to patients at the respite houses; provide clinical supervision and consultation to contracted Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRF) agencies and Peer Support Specialists; provide case management to individuals in need of crisis stabilization and linkage services; and provide support to community health service providers.

In addition, the department is requesting to create 1.0 FTE RN2 that will mainly be responsible for coordinating patient transfers on third shift. This position will be responsible for working with the fiscal department to establish a payor source for patients; initiate transfer agreements; work with patient and receiving facility to coordinate transfer; assist in relationship development with private hospitals; resolve issues with problem transfers; help to coordinate standby mobile list; respond to private hospital emergency rooms for ED evaluations; obtain census numbers from all private hospitals daily; and conduct mobile assessments of patients on the standby list that appear to be appropriate for private hospital transfers. Currently, transfers are done by one nurse that performs this function on first and second shift. This new position would expand transfers and the Mobile Crisis Team response capability to third shift.

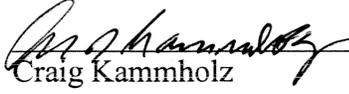
FISCAL NOTE

The funding for these positions has been included in the 2013 Adopted Budget as part of the Community Resource Investment funds. As a result, approval of the request to create 1.0 FTE RN 2 and 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Emergency Service Clinician effective December 20, 2012, will result in no levy impact.

RECOMMENDATION

To assist BHD in the full implementation of the expansion of community crisis options, including the expansion of the Mobile Crisis Team, the Department of Administrative Services, Fiscal Affairs recommends that the request to create 1.0 FTE RN 2 and 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Emergency Service Clinician, effective December 20, 2012, be approved.

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