

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: October 2, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Shakita LaGrant, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Division of Youth & Family Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend 2020 professional services agreement contracts with providers for the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS)**

Background

Since 2015, the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS) has collaborated with system stakeholders to decrease the number of youth who are court ordered to the Department of Corrections (DOC), Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) and has developed a plan to address the crisis at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools. Due to the steady decrease in the youth population at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake, the DYFS has an anticipated surplus in the 2020 fiscal year. The DYFS is requesting to reinvest a portion of this funding into community-based programming, technical assistance and the provision of individualized and high quality services to advance the continuum of care for youth in their homes and communities.

Discussion

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to enter into 2020 professional services contracts for the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS).

Professional Services Contracts

Training and Technical Assistance – Behavioral Affiliates

In late 2018, DYFS opened the Bakari Center Residential Treatment Center (RTC), an 18-bed program for boys located at 4769 N. 32nd St in Milwaukee. The RTC is an alternative to a correctional placement at the State-operated Lincoln Hills School in Irma, WI and is considered a step down from a correctional placement or as an alternative to a correctional placement. DYFS is also initiating a modification of the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) which is currently a six-month detention phase and six-month community phase program as part of the continuum of care in the youth justice system.

DYFS is proposing that Behavioral Affiliates expand its training and consultation to support a new Transitional Program. In 2021, the Transitional Program will be replacing what is currently the

Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) and is in the process of being designed by DYFS with input from external staff and stakeholders to include, but not limited to, members of the judiciary, Wraparound, Wauwatosa Public Schools and community-based partners. This program will include a Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) model, along with restorative justice practices, education provided by Wauwatosa Public Schools, vocational support, and other individualized interventions. This Transitional Program incorporates a portion of programming time in the detention center, transition planning and in home, community-based programming for youth in the program.

This proposed contract with Behavioral Affiliates will allow for Dr. Henry Schmidt to continue the facilitation of the training, coaching and technical support of the current DBT Skills Group Learning Community consisting of DYFS and community partner staff that will be working within the Transitional Program. This contract will also be directing clinical consultation to the Bakari and Transitional Program staff, assisting with quality improvement and model adherence and co-leading skills groups in the detention Transition Program.

This would include leading the training of the current Skills Group Learning Community consisting of DYFS and community partner staff, directing clinical consultation to the Bakari and Transition Program staff, assisting with quality improvement and model adherence and co-leading skills groups in the detention Transition Program.

DYFS recommends the following contract with Behavioral Affiliates:

Provider	2020 Initial Contract	2020 Amendment	2020 Adjusted Contract
Behavioral Affiliates	\$150,000	\$160,000	\$310,000

Training and Technical Assistance – Urban Institute

The DYFS has been working with the Urban Institute throughout 2020 to promote positive youth development outcomes for youth that are referred to the youth justice system, enhance community safety and engage families and the community in the efforts. These efforts were funded in 2020 through a State of Wisconsin Department of Children & Families (DCF) Youth Justice Innovation Grant that was a one-year grant opportunity that is scheduled to end on December 31, 2020.

In 2021, DYFS plans to continue the work initiated in 2020 with the Urban Institute to fully utilize and align our existing internal structures, processes and tools that have been guided by implementation science and continuous quality improvement frameworks. This work includes utilization of existing tools with fidelity and consistency to fully support the Growth Focused Case Management (GFCM) model implementation and data informed decision making. The GFCM

model integrates all of the DYFS tools, practices and initiatives with a focus on fostering positive youth development. This model is based on guiding principles and case management phases that guides the case planning, key actions and gains to a youth's growth and behavior change. This case management framework helps Human Service Workers (HSWs) interact with youth in ways that research shows will foster growth and prevent and reduce further offending, teaches the HSWs how to utilize the validated risk and needs assessment, the Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI), and other tools in a way that supports the interactions with the youth and families.

This contract will also assist in the expansion of a court bifurcation process, which is currently being piloted in one judicial branch at Vel R. Phillips. The goals of the pilot include improvements in case processing for justice involved youth and their families to facilitate more efficient case processing and ensuring a young person receives individualized goals and case planning, in alignment with the Growth Focused Case Management model. This is expected to result in improved outcomes for youth and their families.

Urban Institute will also assist in building positive, trusting relationships and provide clarity and trust internally among staff and externally among stakeholders and increase competency and confidence in the front line staff. The Urban Institute will partner with the DYFS to support all the efforts to promote positive youth development and outcomes. They will provide support to HSWs, HSW Supervisors and all levels of DYFS leadership, to include technical assistance, problem solving, coaching and assist with system integration. Urban Institute will assist DYFS to fully utilize and align all existing structures, processes and tools that have been guided by implementation science and the continuous quality improvement frameworks.

DYFS recommends the following contract with Urban Institute:

Provider	2020 Initial Contract	2020 Amendment	2020 Adjusted Contract
Urban Institute	\$70,000	\$99,000	\$169,000

Recommendation

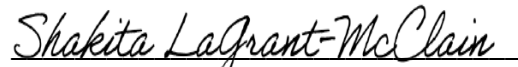
It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to enter into contracts for the period of November 5, 2020 to October 31, 2021 with the providers listed and in the amounts specified in the attached resolution.

Approval of the recommended contract allocations will allow for the provision of high-priority, community-based services for youth being served by the Division of Youth and Family Services.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed professional services contracts reflect total expenditures of \$259,000. Sufficient funds have been allocated in the 2020 Budget to cover these costs due to the projected surplus in DOC-DJC court orders. A fiscal note form is attached.

Respectfully Submitted:



Shakita LaGrant/Director

Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Mary E. Triggiano, Chief Judge
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Supreme Moore-Omokunde, Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
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