

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE  
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION**

**DATE:** November 21, 2014

**TO:** Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board

**FROM:** Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by: Ken Sternig, Administrator – Emergency Medical Services*

**SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into 2015 contracts with the nine municipalities providing Advance Life Support (ALS) for the Emergency Medical Services Program**

**Issue**

Section 56.30 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the execution of professional services contracts.

The 2015 Budget transfers the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program from DHHS to a new Department of Emergency Management. However, given the critical nature of these contracts to the operation of the EMS Program, the DHHS Director is bringing this contract forward for approval at this time.

Although the existing contract was approved with a term of January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2016, the Comptroller's Office has advised in a memo dated September 25, 2014, that funds from a future budget year cannot be obligated under a contract regardless of value without County Board approval. Therefore, the department is bringing this contract forward again for authorization.

DHHS is seeking County Board approval to issue payment for the third year of the four-year agreement with local municipalities and the North Shore Fire Department for the provision of Paramedic Services in Milwaukee County. The four-year agreement began January 1, 2013 and extends through December 31, 2016; these third year contracts cover the period January 1 through December 31, 2015. The EMS Program is now contained within the Milwaukee County Emergency Management Department.

**Background**

Since 1974, Milwaukee County and the municipalities within its borders have worked together to provide the highest quality, life-saving services to the citizens of this county. EMS has served to

train, monitor and coordinate the delivery system for these services. Through the mutual agreement of the municipalities and Milwaukee County, the residents and visitors of Milwaukee County are assured of receiving outstanding paramedic service. The Milwaukee County EMS system has grown to 380 paramedics, working for nine fire departments on 38 paramedic units.

The contracts with the Cities of Franklin, Village of Greendale, Greenfield, Milwaukee, Oak Creek, South Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, West Allis, and the North Shore fire department provides infrastructure support of education, quality assurance, health information medical records, medical directions and communications in an efficient and effective manner that allows the municipalities to function as necessary to operate the above programs, as well as meet county, state, and federal guidelines.

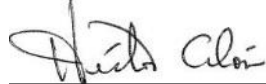
These contracts continue the market-based approach to the operations of the EMS system and allow the municipalities the flexibility to meet local needs while maintaining a county-wide EMS system that has received local, state and national recognition.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the DHHS Director, or his designee, to execute contracts for the third year of the four-year agreement with the nine municipalities to provide ALS services for the period January 1 through December 31, 2015 as detailed on the attached resolution.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The 2015 Budget includes \$1.5 million to be distributed to the EMS municipalities. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director

Department of Health and Human Services

### **Attachment**

cc: County Executive Chris Abele  
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, County Board  
Don Tyler, Director, DAS  
Josh Fudge, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Matt Fortman, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS  
Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst – Comptroller's Office