



*County of Milwaukee*  
**Office of the Sheriff**

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**David A. Clarke, Jr.**  
*Sheriff*

**Date:** February 10, 2012

**To:** Supervisor Lee Holloway, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

**From:** Richard Schmidt, Inspector, Office of the Sheriff

**Subject:** **Request to Execute a Professional Service Contract with TelePsych, Inc. to provide psychiatric services for inmates at the County Correctional Facilities of the Office of the Sheriff.**

Pursuant to Milwaukee County Ordinance Chapter 56, the Sheriff is requesting referral to proper board committee for review and disposition, authorization to execute a psychiatric services contract for inmate services at the County Correctional Facilities of the Office of the Sheriff.

### **Background**

In 1996, Milwaukee County became a defendant in litigation (Milton Christensen, et al vs. Michael J. Sullivan, et al) regarding Jail overcrowding and health care services. After extended negotiations in the class action lawsuit, a consent decree was entered into by Milwaukee County in 2001. One portion of the consent decree resulting from the court case was the establishment of standards of medical and mental health care for inmates housed in the County Correctional Facilities. In addition, there is a court appointed monitor whose is responsible to monitor the County's compliance with the consent decree. The current monitor is Dr. Shansky.

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The County Correctional Facility has had difficulty hiring and retaining Psychiatrists for the Correctional Facilities. In fact, the County Correctional Facility Central has been without a Psychiatrist for the past eight months. Dr. Shansky worked with detention staff and indicated the need for immediate action to get coverage for psychiatric services. The CCFC was able to obtain the necessary psychiatric care by entering into a contract with TelePsych, Inc. Attached to this report is a letter from Dr. Shansky in support of the contract with TelePsych, Inc. to fulfill the medical requirements of the consent decree as it relates to psychiatric services.

TelePsych, Inc. will provide the following functions to Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office:

- Provide inmate adult psychiatry services and medication management of mental health and additional issues including the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of adult inmates
- Determine the necessity for an inmate's seclusion and restraint
- Serve as expert witness in court for Milwaukee County
- Completion of Medical records
- Participate in quality improvement activities

The term of the contract is for one year March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013 and may be extended for up to two additional one year periods for a total potential contract of three years. The contract is for \$135/hour for every hour worked not to exceed 40 hours per week for a maximum annual cost of \$280,800.

### **Recommendation**

It is requested that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approve the Sheriff's request to execute a professional services contract with TelePsych, Inc. to provide psychiatric services for inmates at the County Correctional Facilities of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.

The term of the contract is for one year March 1, 2012 to February 28, 2013 and may be extended for up to two additional one year periods for a total potential contract of three years.

**Fiscal Note:** The 2012 Adopted Budget included funding for a Medical Director-Mental Health of \$261,164, full time Psychiatrist of \$237,429 and an hourly Psychiatrist of \$196,024 offset with vacancy and turnover of \$196,024 for total tax levy funding of \$498,593. Current staffing is one hourly employee with anticipated annual costs of \$81,000. The contract with TelePsych, Inc. has

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anticipated total 2012 costs of \$234,000 based on \$135/hour for every hour worked not to exceed 40 hours per week.



Richard Schmidt, Inspector  
Office of the Sheriff, Milwaukee County

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive  
Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Chair, Judiciary, Safety & General  
Services Committee  
Pamela Bryant, Interim Fiscal and Budget Administrator, DAS  
Janelle Jensen, Committee Clerk  
Rick Ceschin, Research Analyst

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**MEDICAL CONSULTANT**

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CORRECTIONS

CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

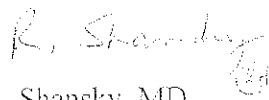
February 7, 2011

Kevin Nyklewicz, Deputy Inspector  
Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

Dear D.I. Nyklewicz,

I am writing this letter in support of the contract for Telepsych, Inc. As you know, we have had problems in providing the necessary psychiatric services in a timely fashion to our mental health patients. Mental health advocates have alleged substantial delays in access to care. My investigation has confirmed some of these allegations. My understanding is this contractor can provide access to psychiatric services virtually immediately. In order to mitigate some of the existing programmatic deficiencies, I am strongly encouraging that this contract be awarded as timely as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

  
R. Shansky, MD  
Court Monitor