

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-office Memorandum

DATE: April 29, 2013

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by James Mathy, Administrator, Housing Division

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into a Purchase of Service contract with Our Space for \$52,500 to provide supportive services for the Farwell Studios Permanent Supportive Housing Development

Issue

Section 46.09 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires County Board approval for the purchase of human services from nongovernmental vendors. Per Section 46.09, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization for the Housing Division to enter into a purchase of service (POS) contract with Our Space for \$52,500 to provide supportive services for the Farwell Studios Permanent Supportive Housing Development. This contract will provide individuals with on-site supportive services necessary for consumers to succeed in permanent housing. Our Space will be taking over the contract on June 1, 2013 as a result of a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

Discussion

Farwell Studios is a Permanent Supportive Housing Development that has been in operation for two years. The Housing Division worked with Cardinal Capital Management and Stay In Balance to use Neighborhood Stabilization Funds to acquire the building in foreclosure. It is a 38 unit apartment building and 19 of those units are used for the purposes of providing supportive housing to consumers receiving services through the Behavioral Health Division (BHD).

Recently, Cardinal Capital Management has been awarded Low Income Housing Tax Credits to fund a major renovation of Farwell Studios. The financial closing has already occurred and these funds will be used to substantially renovate all the apartments, HVAC systems and place an elevator in the building. The complete rehabilitation of the building will be completed in the fall. Due to this substantial upgrade, the Housing Division decided to conduct a competitive RFP for on-site supportive services provided at this location.

The competitive RFP resulted in Our Space being chosen for this purchase of service contract. Our Space has been in existence since 1987 with a mission to empower adults who have experienced mental illness to attain a more meaningful life by offering quality programs and services, which promote recovery, rehabilitation and renewal. Our Space is based on a membership and peer support concept, which creates a circle of wellness that enhances connectivity, self-determination and reintegration. Our Space has been providing on-site services at several of Milwaukee County's permanent supportive housing locations since they opened.

At Farwell Studios, Our Space will be providing comprehensive services, which will assist Milwaukee County BHD consumers with maintaining their individual housing unit and coordinating services with case management. Professional staff will work with the individual's case manager, Certified Peer Support Specialists and the resident to offer recovery-oriented services.

Individual one-on-one activities with residents will include ongoing support, assistance in establishing personal goals, feedback on recovery, development of independent living skills, including cleaning, meal planning and preparation, laundry, budgeting, shopping and bill paying. Skill development is based on daily use of existing skills, developing new skills and learning how to problem solve.

Certified Peer Support Specialists will have daily contact with each resident and communicate issues or concerns to other Certified Peer Support Specialists and professional staff. Peer Support Specialists will conduct groups under the supervision of professional staff. These groups will include mental health education groups to offer improvements in the categories of self-stigma/insight, medication management, creation of Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP) and community involvement activities.

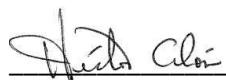
Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or his designee, to enter into a purchase of service contract with Our Space for \$52,500 to provide supportive services for the Farwell Studios Permanent Supportive Housing Development for the time frame of June 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Fiscal Effect

Funds for these services have already been identified in the 2013 budget. A fiscal note form is attached.

Respectfully Submitted,



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablich, Chief of Staff, County Board
Don Tyler, Director, DAS
Josh Fudge, Interim Fiscal & Budget Administrator, DAS
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