

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: November 26, 2012

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Paula Lucey, Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Requesting Authorization to Enter into 2013 Contracts with the Nine Municipalities Providing Advance Life Support for the Emergency Medical Services Division

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 Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is seeking County Board approval to enter into a four-year agreement with local municipalities and the North Shore Fire Department for the provision of Paramedic Services in Milwaukee County. Contracts between the County of Milwaukee and the municipalities providing Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical care to their citizens will expire in 2013. The Emergency Services Division (EMS) is a program within the Behavioral Health Division (BHD).

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. The Milwaukee County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program has served to train, monitor and coordinate the delivery system for these services. Negotiations with the municipalities began in mid-2012 with a meeting between the County Executive and representatives from the ICC. A number of key issues were identified including operational issues related to education, the county's support of infrastructure costs including medical control and the communication center and the supplemental payment. BHD-EMS and the municipalities worked diligently over the last few months and this contract represents the mutual agreement of the municipalities and Milwaukee County to provide outstanding paramedic service to the residents and visitors of Milwaukee County. The Milwaukee County EMS system has grown to 380 paramedics, working nine fire departments on thirty-eight paramedic units. It is important to have a uniform agreement with all the municipalities involved in the EMS system.

To ensure the efficient and effective fulfillment of the responsibilities of the EMS area, within the Behavioral Health Division, the DHHS Director requests County Board approval to enter into contracts beginning January 1, 2013 and extending through December 31, 2016 as follows:

- The contract for ALS services could begin as early as January 1, 2013 and extend through December 31, 2016. The municipalities are currently reviewing the final contract and once it is signed by all parties and this report is approved by the County Board, the new contract will go into effect. If necessary, the prior EMS contract will be in effect based on a clause contained in it which includes an extension, expiring December 31, 2013, if it is not renegotiated by both parties. BHD-EMS hopes to have the final 2013-2016 contract signed before March 1, 2013.
- The contract insures that effective, efficient and a high quality emergency medical services system remains within the County of Milwaukee.
- This contract is performance based and the municipalities will be paid individually based on a formula developed by the ICC upon achievement of performance criteria. The performance criteria are attached to the contract. This approach continues the tradition of on-going improvement and growth within the program.

The contract 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.

This contract continues the market-based approach to the operations of the EMS system and allows 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 Director, DHHS, or his designee, to enter into a four-year contract with the nine municipalities to provide ALS services as detailed on the attached resolution.

Fiscal Impact

The 2013 Budget includes \$2,000,000 to be distributed to the EMS municipalities. In future years the contract indicates that there will be at least a \$1.5 million payment from Milwaukee County to the EMS municipalities. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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