

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 13, 2026

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Executive Director, DHHS

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend a 2026 purchase of service contract with Racine County

File Type: Action File

REQUEST

The Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to amend a 2026 purchase of service contract with Racine County within the Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) area.

POLICY

Per §59.52(31), departments must obtain authorization from the County Board to execute contracts over \$300,000.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

The Racine Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) opened in mid-2025 and serves youth across the State of Wisconsin as the only operating SRCCCY at this time. Milwaukee County's SRCCCY is anticipated to open in March 2026. Act 185, as amended by 2019 Wisconsin Act 8, restructured the Wisconsin youth correctional system, impacting both state and county systems, including how and where youth who are adjudicated delinquent can be placed.

Until its own SRCCCY is opened, Milwaukee County is required to refer youth to the Racine SRCCCY for all male youth pending a correctional placement per Wis. Stat. §938.34(4m). Wisconsin counties must contact the Racine County SRCCCY to complete a referral for the program for all youth who are pending or who have a correctional placement disposition. If Racine is not willing to accept the youth or there is no space available at the SRCCCY, a change of placement request can be made for placement to a Type 1 juvenile correctional facility operated by the State.

CYFS and Racine County executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was signed, along with the 2026 contract. This MOU outlined responsibilities of both parties and stated that any costs exceeding \$99,000 would require Milwaukee County Board approval. Milwaukee County pays a daily rate of \$1,200 for each youth enrolled in the Racine SRCCCY program.

Since September 2025, there have been a total of nine Milwaukee County youth ordered to the Racine SRCCCY. There are currently seven youth placed in the Racine County SRCCCY and all are tentatively scheduled to be released by July 2026 or sooner. Due to the number of youth ordered and placed in Racine, the contract amendment is being requested to ensure CYFS is able to pay for all youth court ordered to this placement.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

CYFS is recommending an amendment to a contract that supports the ongoing development of programming for justice involved youth and their families and ensures a racial equity lens is utilized in all program and contract decisions. CYFS programs enhance the quality of life for youth and their families in Milwaukee County. CYFS is committed to transitioning youth out of correctional placements and back to Milwaukee.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to amend the existing purchase of service contract of \$99,000 to a total amount \$1,299,000, an increase of \$1.2 million for the services identified in the accompanying resolution. The effective date of the contract would be the period of January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

FISCAL EFFECT

The 2026 DHHS Budget includes funding for the contract.

TERMS

The purchase of service contract would be effective January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Hon. Carl Ashley, Chief Judge
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office