

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Delinquency and Court Services Division (DHHS)
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: April 3, 2014

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

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by B. Thomas Wanta, Administrator/ Chief Intake Officer – DCSD

SUBJECT: **Informational Report from the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the 2014 Purchase of Service Contract with Wisconsin Community Services for an Alternative to Detention program within the Delinquency and Court Services Division**

Background

Since 1970, DHHS has supported a social service delivery system comprised of both directly provided and purchased services using a combination of State, grant and local tax funds. Partnerships with community providers have allowed DHHS to cooperate and collaborate with various community agencies and resources. These partnerships further the opportunities for community participation, leverage resources and utilize community expertise regarding the DCSD community response to delinquency.

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) intends to increase the purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services by an amount not to exceed \$81,500 to expand the Alternative Sanction Program within the Delinquency and Court Services Division (DCSD) to implement juvenile justice system reform activities associated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI).

Discussion

DCSD recently applied for and was awarded a Juvenile Justice Title II Formula grant from the Wisconsin Department of Justice to implement juvenile justice system reform activities associated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI). On January 31, 2014 DCSD received a grant award notice in the amount of \$47,000 for the time period spanning January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. There is no local funding match requirement associated with this grant revenue. The department has submitted a fund transfer this cycle to accept the grant funds and to recognize the revenue from the grant that supports the increase in funding.

JDAI is a national juvenile detention reform effort that has been implemented in nearly 200 jurisdictions in 39 states. JDAI has successfully reduced the number of youth in confinement while maintaining or improving public safety in other states across the country through

implementing eight core strategies. Milwaukee County was chosen in 2012 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to participate in JDAI as one of three Wisconsin counties, along with Manitowoc and Racine Counties, as part of a statewide roll-out through the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. Milwaukee County formally agreed to serve as a pilot JDAI demonstration site and follow the JDAI model through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (Wisconsin Department of Justice as of July 2013).

As a JDAI demonstration site, DCSD receives technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation designed to:

- Reduce reliance on confinement
- Improve public safety
- Utilize best practice programs
- Save taxpayers' dollars
- Reduce racial disparities & bias
- Stimulate overall juvenile justice reforms

The Milwaukee County Board passed a resolution in January 2013 (File No. 13-84) in support of efforts to implement system reform strategies within the Milwaukee County juvenile justice system through participation in the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. This resolution stated support for the overall principle of safely reducing reliance on confinement of youth while maintaining or improving public safety and for Milwaukee County's participation in JDAI including receiving technical assistance from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to implement system reform strategies.

The Alternative Sanction Program is designed as a program to provide a community-based alternative to detention for sanctions placement for youth who violate the conditions of their probation. According to the detention utilization study conducted by DCSD, 31 percent of detention admissions in 2011 were for sanctions. The Alternative Sanctions Program will provide a timely response that holds youth accountable relative to their violations and engages them in positive and constructive programming.

The goals of the Alternative Sanction Program include the following:

- Provide a timely community-based alternative to sanctions in detention
- Hold youth accountable for violations of the conditions of their dispositional order
- Assist youth in restoring and maintaining compliance with the conditions of their dispositional order
- Target interventions to address the nature of youth's violations and build skills and competencies for improved decision-making relative to behavior leading to violations
- Expose youth to community-based services and positive programming with the potential to lead to continuing involvement beyond their sanction and/or probation involvement

DCSD issued a request for proposals (RFP) in April 2013 for the operation of the Alternative Sanction Program. In addition to Section 46.09 of the County Ordinances, DCSD conforms to the DHHS RFP process to ensure objectivity and fairness in the awarding of purchase of service

contracts. Based on the scores from the RFP community panel, DCSD recommended, was approved by board resolution, and entered into a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services in the amount of \$40,000 for July 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013. The RFP program requirements and the winning proposal included a provision to eventually expand the program.

Wisconsin Community Services implemented the Alternative Sanction Program, called the Saturday Alternative Sanction (SAS) program in July 2013. The SAS program consists of a weekend (Saturday) report center that features structured activities, community service opportunities, family engagement, behavioral contracts (incentives) and transportation to and from the program. The provider also works to engage the youth's family by including the parent/guardian in the intake process and hosting family days at the agency. Referrals to community resources are also available for youth and their families. The program includes the opportunity for youth to participate in three groups that address their specific probation violations and build skills and competencies for improved decision making related to the behaviors leading to violations. These groups are: Thinking For Change, Aggression Replacement Training and Alcohol & Other Drugs Abuse (AODA). The target population for the program is youth who are referred by their probation officer or ordered by a judge to participate in the program as a response to violating the conditions of their dispositional (probation) order. The capacity of the report center on a given day is currently up to 16 youth.

Thirty-nine youth between the ages of thirteen and seventeen have been referred to the program since its inception with twelve youth successfully completing the program as of January 2014 and eleven of those youth still enrolled in the program. There has been a positive response from workers, as well as partners in the judicial system, and there had been a wait list for this program in the fourth quarter of 2013 and at the time of this report, the program is full. The detention admissions for sanctions have decreased in the last quarter compared to the previous three quarters of 2013.

DCSD plans to expand the Alternative Sanction Program contract with Wisconsin Community Services by adding up to an additional \$81,500 to the existing contract of \$90,500 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$172,000. The expanded funding includes \$47,000 in grant funding and additional funds, which were budgeted in 2014 for the purpose of post-dispositional alternative sanctions programs. This expansion would increase the capacity of the program from April 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 and adding a north side location.

Recommendation

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office

Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Peggy Romo-West, Chair – Health & Human Needs Committee
Don Tyler, Director – DAS
Josh Fudge, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget
Matthew Fortman, Fiscal and Management Analyst – DAS
Steve Cady, Director of Research– Comptroller’s Office
Erica Hayden, Research Analyst – Comptroller’s Office
Janelle Jensen, County Clerk’s Office
Jodi Mapp, County Clerk’s Office