

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 14, 2025

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

From: Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: A report from the Executive Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute **2026** fee-for-service contracts with community vendors for Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)

File Type: Action File

REQUEST

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute **2026** fee-for-service contracts for the Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) area within DHHS.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Executive Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute these contracts consistent with Milwaukee County procurement standards.

Wisconsin State Statutes:	59.52(31)
Milwaukee County General Ordinances	Ch. 32.40

BACKGROUND

Since 1970, DHHS has supported a social service delivery system comprised of both directly provided and purchased services. DHHS has partnerships with community members and partners that have allowed DHHS to cooperate and collaborate with various community stakeholders. These partnerships further the opportunities for community participation in responding to a youth's behaviors and needs, as well as community safety and are in alignment with the development of the youth justice continuum of care. These collaborations also support DHHS's mission and vision for all kids and families across Milwaukee County.

The majority of 2026 CYFS fee-for-service contracts were identified in the 2026 Adopted Budget narrative and were approved as part of the budget process. The following contracts were not identified in the narrative and are therefore, included in this file for approval in the December cycle.

The following fee-for-service contracts reflect clinical services and parent advocate services:

- \$135,000 for MD Therapy for clinical services
- \$100,000 for RISE Youth and Family Services for clinical services
- \$115,000 for Lifting Individuals Forward Everyday (LIFE) for Parent Advocate services

The following are fee-for-service contracts for out-of-home care providers serving youth involved in the justice system and who are all court ordered to these placements:

- \$200,000 for Love of Grace PNCC Services dba Love of Grace Residential Services group home
- \$200,000 for Revive Youth and Family Services, LLC group home

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The CYFS is recommending contracts that support the ongoing development of community-based programming for children, youth and their families served across CYFS and ensures a racial equity lens is utilized in all program and contract decisions. The CYFS programs enhance the quality of life for youth and their families in Milwaukee County. There are ongoing efforts to reform the youth justice system in Milwaukee County to build upon the community continuum of care, individualize all case planning and services for youth in the community whenever possible and break down the silos in the system across all entities. The CYFS is committed to transition youth out of correctional placements and back to Milwaukee by leveraging resources for the zero-youth corrections plan to better support young people and their families.

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 execute fee-for-service contracts in a total amount of \$750,000 for the services identified in the accompanying resolution. The effective date of the contracts would be the period of January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026.

FISCAL EFFECT

The 2026 DHHS Budget includes funding for all community programs in the CYFS.

TERMS

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

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator
Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget & Policy Director

PREPARED BY:

Kelly Pethke, CYFS Administrator

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

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