

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: February 8, 2012

TO: Lynne DeBruin, Vice-Chair, Finance and Audit Committee
Supervisor Peggy Romo West, Chairperson, Health and Human Needs Committee

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

SUBJECT: From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Submitting a Status Report on the Behavioral Health Division New Facility Options

Issue

As part of the final resolution (File #11-516) of the Committee of the New Behavioral Health Facility Study, it was requested that a report be brought to the Health and Human Needs and Finance and Audit Committees. The resolution specified that the report would include: "Recommendations related to the option of Milwaukee County constructing and operating an inpatient facility on the County Grounds...and how these options would tie into the broader system redesign of mental health services; this report shall include recommendations as to the preferred level of continued inpatient care to be provided at a new facility, inpatient care services that are recommended for community-based inpatient or alternative community-based care, recommendations regarding future use of the current BHD facility, and potential options for financing the recommended services."

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Administrator of the Behavioral Health Division are returning to the Board with a status update.

Background

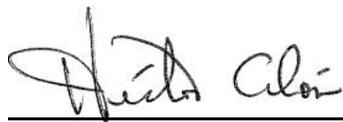
The Behavioral Health Division submitted two reports in the January Board cycle showing the progress and work of the Mental Health Redesign Task Force and its Action Teams and also sharing the information gathered as part of the RFI process for the expansion of community based services. In addition, BHD has been working with the DAS – Facility Management, Architectural, Engineering and Environmental Services (AE&E) Division on an RFP for design services for a potential new BHD facility. A status report regarding that RFP is also being submitted to the Board in the March cycle by AE&E. Finally, the Finance Workgroup, consisting of staff from the County Executive's Office, County Board, Department of Administrative Services (DAS), Department of Audit and BHD (as defined in the final recommendations of the Facility Committee) has begun to meet to discuss the various fiscal implications of this initiative.

BHD is continuing to work with the County Executive, County Board, DAS and Audit staff to start to assess the fiscal impact of the various scenarios possible as part of this project. At this time, the Mental Health Redesign Task Force is planning a Summit and is moving forward with solidifying recommendations and making implementation plans, AE&E and BHD will shortly be reviewing all of the RFP responses for design services. BHD continues to implement the 2012 Budget initiatives to expand community-based services, including working with DSD to consider opportunities to move more clients to community care. All of these projects and teams are underway and working diligently to provide the best information and recommendations possible to the policy makers of Milwaukee County. At this time, both the Finance Workgroup and the DHHS administration believe it is premature to propose actual facility options, recommend levels of care, options for the future use of the BHD facility, or financing options. Until final recommendations are determined by the various stakeholders and reviewed by the policy makers, it is extremely difficult to provide solid fiscal information and options to the Board.

DHHS will continue to provide status updates and the Finance Workgroup will continue to meet to assess the fiscal impacts of this project.

Recommendation

This is an informational report. No action is necessary.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health & Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Supervisor Joe Sanfelippo
Terrence Cooley, County Board
Patrick Farley, Director, DAS
Pam Bryant, Interim Fiscal & Budget Administrator, DAS
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