

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 17, 2025

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

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

Subject: A report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend 2025 fee-for-service contracts with out-of-home care community-based vendors for Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS)

File Type: Action

REQUEST

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to amend 2025 fee-for-service contracts for Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS).

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the 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)
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BACKGROUND

CYFS assumed primary management and oversight of all out-of-home care contracts, tasks and responsibilities effective January 1, 2025. These contracts include Residential Treatment Centers (RTC) and Group Homes for youth who are justice involved and whom are court ordered to be placed at the facility. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is responsible for the licensing and monitoring of all Residential Treatment Centers and Group Homes as well as setting the rates for these facilities. DCF ensures that licensing requirements are met through ongoing inspection of licensed agencies.

RTC's are licensed under Wisconsin Administrative Code DCF 52 and Group Homes are licensed under Wisconsin Administrative Code DCF 57. Due to the youth being court ordered to these programs, CYFS is required to make all reasonable efforts to enter into a contract with the facility and oversee the placement of the youth per the Dispositional Court Orders (WI SS

938.555), as well as outlined in WI SS 938.36 Payment of Services and WI SS 938.57 Powers and Duties of County Departments.

RTC's are a higher level of care and are designed for youth with severe mental health or behavioral challenges who require intensive treatment and support and offer a structured environment with a focus on therapy, medication management, and educational support and provide a higher level of care and supervision than group homes. Group homes provide 24-hour care and supervision for children and youth in a family-like setting and offer basic needs care, such as meals, housing, and supervision, but may also provide some counseling or therapy. Group homes are typically smaller facilities and offer a more general level of care compared to RTCs, with less emphasis on intensive treatment or therapy. Youth may be placed in either level of care based on their needs, acceptance into the programs and court order.

The following contract amendments are being proposed by CYFS effective January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. The amendments would increase the existing contracts by \$8,027,000, from \$2,973,000 to \$11,000,000.

Group Home Provider	2025 Current Allocation	Amendment	2025 Total Contract
AKNU Direction Keys to Life Living Center	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Bella's Group Home	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Boyz Life Group Home	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Bridge to Brighter	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Butterflyz LLC dba Home Away from Home	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Frazier Support Services	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Home 4 the Heart	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Hopgood Youth Homes	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
House of Love Youth Homes	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Men of Men, Inc.	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Moe's Transitional Living Center	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
New Hope & Destiny Home II	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Next Chapter	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Positive Alternatives	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Pretti Girlz with a Purpose, LLC	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Promising Young Woman	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000

Reflections Group Home	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Revive Youth & Family Services	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Schmied Inc. dba Smith Transitional Living	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Servant Manor Inc.	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Win-Win Enterprises LLS DBA BOys II Men Transitional Living Home	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
La Causa, Inc	\$99,000	\$151,000	\$250,000
Total Group Home Contracts	\$2,178,000	\$3,322,000	\$5,500,000

Residential Treatment Center (RTC) Provider	2025 Current Allocation	Amendment	2025 Total Contract
Lad Lake	\$99,000	\$2,001,000	\$2,100,000
Norris	\$99,000	\$501,000	\$600,000
St. Charles	\$99,000	\$401,000	\$500,000
Rawhide Youth Services	\$99,000	\$901,000	\$1,000,000
Lutheran Social Services, Homme Home	\$99,000	\$401,000	\$500,000
Wisconsin Community Services, Bakari Center	\$300,000	\$500,000	\$800,000
Total RTC Contracts	\$795,000	\$4,705,000	\$5,500,000
Grand Total	\$2,973,000	\$8,027,000	\$11,000,000

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

CYFS is recommending contracts that support the ongoing development of community-based 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. 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. 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 Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to execute amendments to fee-for-service contracts totaling \$8,027,000 for the services and with the agencies identified in the accompanying resolution.

FISCAL EFFECT

The total anticipated cost for both the Group Home and Residential Treatment Center contracts is \$11 million which reflects an increase of about \$2 million over the 2025 Budget. The budget included \$8.3 million for out of home care. About 70% of this increased amount is due to increased GH and RTC daily rates which are set by the state and the remaining 30% of the increase is due to increased utilization. At this time, the fiscal projection for CYFS anticipates offsetting this increased cost in out of home care with savings due to lower correctional placements to Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake.

A fiscal note is attached.

TERMS

The contracts would be effective January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

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. Karl Ashley, Chief Judge
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office