

County of Milwaukee
Interoffice Communication

DATE: December 28, 2017

TO: Sup. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Sup. Peggy West, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

FROM: Holly Davis, Milwaukee County Department on Aging

RE: Informational report on the contract status of the five county-owned senior centers

I respectfully request that the attached informational report be scheduled for consideration by the Committee on Finance and Audit at its meeting on January 25, 2018.

At the December 14th meeting of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, the County Board approved File 17-763 which authorized our Department to enter into a five-month contract with Interfaith Older Adult Programs Inc. to coordinate programming at five county-owned senior centers (Clinton Rose Senior Center, Wilson Park Senior Center, Kelly Senior Center, Washington Park Senior Center, and McGovern Senior Center). The contract that was approved was for an amount not to exceed \$495,000 for the period of January 1, 2018 through June 1, 2018. The contract also authorized the County to extend this contract for one-month periods through December 31, 2018 upon written notice to the vendor for additional compensation of \$89,695.29 per month pending the County Board's authorization of a transfer of funds from contingency.

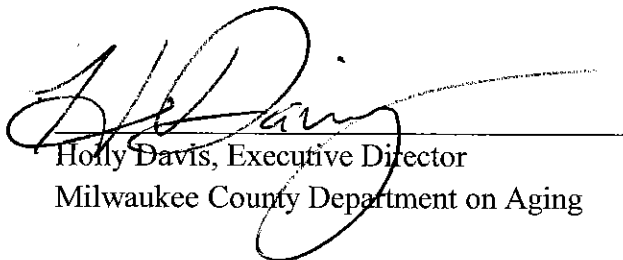
At the December 11th Finance and Audit Committee meeting where File 17-763 was initially discussed and approved by the Committee, we mentioned that we would be meeting with Interfaith (UNISON) staff on December 18th to discuss and approve a revised staffing and operational plan at the five county-owned senior centers. This meeting, which was scheduled weeks in advance, was necessary not only because of the reduced funding amount for senior center programming that was approved within the 2018 Adopted Budget, but also because our staff and senior volunteers had raised several questions relating to various forms of information submitted to us by Interfaith during our RFP process this past fall. In addition, we have received various (and at times conflicting) email communications from Interfaith staff over the last several weeks relating to staffing and operational changes within their organization.

Unfortunately, the December 18th meeting with Interfaith was not as productive as we had hoped. We left that meeting with many questions that remain unanswered about their proposed staffing and operational plan at the five centers. The meeting also raised additional questions about how staffing changes in the program areas of dining site supervision and neighborhood outreach will impact service delivery in those programs as well.

Following the December 18th meeting with Interfaith we provided an update to Supervisor Steve Taylor, who asked that we schedule a follow-up meeting with Interfaith staff in January to get all staffing and operational questions answered. To that end, I emailed Interfaith's Executive Director on December 20th and asked to schedule this meeting. I have yet to receive a response to my e-mail.

Because we continue to have many questions that remain unanswered, we have decided to contract with Interfaith on a month-to-month basis for not only senior center programming, but also for neighborhood outreach services and nutrition site supervision. We are hopeful that our meeting with Interfaith in January will result in a clear understanding of the staffing and operational changes that Interfaith has made in recent weeks, and to what extent those changes impact programming for seniors in Milwaukee County.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 2-6876.



Holly Davis, Executive Director
Milwaukee County Department on Aging

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
County Supervisor Steve Taylor
County Supervisor Marina Dimitrejevic
Raisa Koltun
Stephen Cady
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