

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 30, 2022

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

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

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute a fee-for-service agreement with Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) for the Bakari Center Program

File Type: Action Report

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**POLICY**

Per Wis. Stat. §59.52(31), the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute a 2023 fee-for-service agreement in Children Youth and Family Service (CYFS).

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| Wisconsin State Statutes | 59.52(31) |
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**BACKGROUND**

The Bakari Center is a court-ordered residential treatment center for boys for up to six months and in the community upon completion of the residential program. The program is a community-based alternative to a correctional placement or a step-down placement from corrections and the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP). The Bakari Center utilizes the Integrated Treatment Model (ITM), which is a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy informed treatment model and the Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) for youth in the community.

Since 2018, CYFS operated the Bakari Residential Care Center (RCC) through a contract with the Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) and in partnership with Behavioral Health Services Wraparound Milwaukee. For 2022, CYFS held a purchase of service contract with WCS for the operation of 12 beds at the Bakari Center facility for a total contract amount of \$1,093,090 through December 31, 2022. This program was also supported by Professional Service Agreements with Norris School District for \$185,000 and Behavioral Affiliates for \$150,000 for a total Bakari Center Program cost of \$1,428,090 in 2022.

In 2022, the average daily population for kids enrolled in the program was only seven kids. Because this number included kids who were missing from care, court ordered to be held in

the detention center on a temporary basis, or off-site in-home visits, there were typically fewer youth on site in the program on a daily basis.

Due to the low enrollment and budgetary constraints, DHHS eliminated funding for this program in the 2023 Budget and ended its contracts with WCS, Norris School District and Behavioral Affiliates for Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) as of December 31, 2022.

After CYFS made the decision to no longer operate the program, WCS began planning to manage the Bakari Program on its own and is in the process of negotiating a lease for the existing facility. WCS also recently received approval from the State Department of Children and Families to operate the Bakari Program as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) at a daily rate of \$650.

To maintain sufficient options for out of home care placements and increase flexibility in procuring services only as needed, CYFS is proposing to purchase beds on a fee-for-service basis with WCS. CYFS would be one of multiple referral sources to the program. CYFS anticipates an average daily population of about 2.5 youth present at the facility over the course of the year. Based on this ADP and the State-approved daily rate of \$650, the total contract being recommended is \$593,125. There also may be additional Wrap-enrolled youth receiving services through the Bakari Program. These services will be paid for under a separate contract between WCS and Wraparound Milwaukee.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The total fee-for-service contract reflects a not-to-exceed value of \$593,125 to support the Bakari Center Program effective January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. A fiscal note form is attached.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or her designee, to execute a 2023 fee-for-service agreement in the amount specified in the attached resolution.

### **TERMS**

The term of the fee-for-service contract would be January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS 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 Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Hon. Mary E. Triggiano, Chief Judge  
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Sr Budget and Management Analyst, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance