

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 12, 2021

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 Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute an amendment to increase the 2021 purchase of service contract with Running Rebels Community Organization within the Children, Youth and Family Services Division

File Type: Action File

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to increase the 2021 purchase of service contract for the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) with Running Rebels Community Organization (RRCO) for the Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) Division (formerly the Division of Youth and Family Services).

**POLICY**

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to increase the purchase of service contract with Running Rebels Community Organization.

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

The Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) contract was awarded to Running Rebels Community Organization (RRCO) through a competitive bid process in 2020. MCAP is operated with 24 beds within the detention center at the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center as well as the community phase of the program. MCAP provides intensive supervision, advocacy, structure, support, and skill-building opportunities for youth who are court ordered into the program. The program also includes Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills groups with the youth and support them in moving towards their ideal self. The MCAP includes an out-of-home placement of up to 180 days in a secure setting as well as a transition and aftercare planning and intervention for the young person and their family.

Milwaukee County continues to build the continuum of care for young people involved in the youth justice system, in alignment with the SRCCY and Act 185, and is in the development and implementation stages of transitioning the MCAP into a new program model, temporarily called, "Transitional Program." The design and implementation of the new model includes the collaboration with many stakeholders, to include RRCO staff.

CYFS continues to be committed to serving youth in Milwaukee and reducing the number of youth court ordered to the Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC), to achieve the zero-youth corrections initiative.

As youth are being diverted from DJC, they are often being court ordered into MCAP and because MCAP is currently experiencing a waitlist, young people are being served during a pre-treatment phase in the detention center pending an open spot in MCAP. In addition, RRCO is also serving additional youth in the community and youth transitioning from secure detention to the residential care center as part of the Bakari Program. This situation is resulting in a higher number of young people being served in the program than budgeted. For this reason, the RRCO has experienced increased operating costs including salaries, supplies, travel, and other professional fees in 2021. The RRCO staff has also been instrumental in the design and implementation of the Transitional Program including facilitation of the Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills groups to youth in the secure portion of MCAP and participation in various workgroups.

The current MCAP contract is \$535,000 and an increase of \$133,056 is being requested for a total contract amount of \$668,056.

<b>Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>2021 Allocation</b>	<b>2021 Proposed Increase</b>	<b>2021 Total Adjusted Contract</b>
Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP)	Running Rebels	\$535,000	\$133,056	\$668,056

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

CYFS proposes to utilize funds to support the ongoing development of community-based programming for justice involved youth and their families. CYFS ensures that 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. CYFS is committed to transition youth out of correctional placements and back to Milwaukee by leveraging resources to support the zero-youth corrections plan which focuses on the youth, their family and other supports.

**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 an amendment to increase the 2021 contract with Running Rebels Community Organization by \$133,056, from \$535,000 to \$668,056, for the period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

**FISCAL EFFECT**

The 2021 DHHS Adopted Budget includes funding to support this contract amendment. A fiscal note form is attached.

**TERMS**

The purchase of service contracts would be effective January 1, 2021 and end December 31, 2021.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director  
Mark Mertens, CYFS Administrator  
Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget & Operations Manager

**PREPARED BY:**

Mark Mertens, 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. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Felesia Martin, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Pam Matthews, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office