

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: December 30, 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 amend 2021 purchase of service contracts with Birth to 3 agencies within Children Youth and Family Services

File Type: Action File

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to amend two purchase of service contracts for the Birth to 3 Program within 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 amendments to Birth to 3 purchase of service contracts each with values in excess of \$300,000.

Wisconsin State Statutes:		59.52(31)
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BACKGROUND

Beginning in 2022, the title for the Division of Youth and Family Services is changed to Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS) to recognize the addition of children's programming from the Disabilities Services Division. As a result, the Birth to 3 Program, Children's Long-Term Support Program (CLTS) and Children's Community Options Program (CCOP) transition to this new division in 2022. This change promotes further alignment toward the department's strategy for improving health by integrating services and care for customers.

The Birth to 3 Program is an entitlement and provides critical early intervention services to children age zero to three years who demonstrate developmental delays. Provided services are critical to the identification of early intervention strategies that can assist children to reach their maximum potential and actively participate in their communities. Services delivered by this program are provided by contracted community-based agencies that have significant expertise in this area.

Birth to 3 services continue to be invaluable to families who have a child with a developmental delay. Provider agencies are key partners in the process through the delivery of effective early intervention services in partnership with families and Milwaukee County.

The County Board approved 2021 allocations to Birth to 3 agencies under File 20-858 for a total of \$4,525,106. As part of its ongoing monitoring and contract oversight, DHHS identified underspending in the provider contract with St. Francis. St. Francis is projected to be underspent by about \$45,000 in its 2021 contract.

The recommended contract amendments as shown below would reallocate \$44,860 in underspending from the contract with St. Francis to the Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI) and Penfield Children’s Center. Both Penfield and MCFI actually overspent their contracts in 2021 and the \$44,860 has been allocated based on the percentage of the provider’s 2021 projected overspending compared to their base 2021 contract.

These contract adjustments are necessary to maintain compliance with a federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement. As part of the MOE, DHHS must sustain a county funding threshold of at least \$2,289,182. This means that the total financial commitment in county funds such as tax levy, Potawatomi, and Basic County Allocation (BCA) must be maintained to this level. Otherwise, the State makes a commensurate reduction to Milwaukee County’s Birth to 3 allocation of \$2,685,321.

Agency	2021 Contract	2021 Recommended Amendment	Adjusted 2021 Contract
Curative	\$2,079,218	\$0	\$2,079,218
Milwaukee Center for Independence	\$517,241	\$27,058	\$544,299
Penfield Children’s Center	\$1,382,394	\$17,802	\$1,400,196
St. Francis	\$546,253	(\$44,860)	\$501,393
Total	\$4,525,106	\$0	\$4,525,106

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The Birth to 3 Program aligns with the strategic objective to invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities. The purpose of early intervention is to maximize the learning potential for children with developmental delays or disabilities as they enter preschool or elementary school. Numerous studies have shown that children’s earliest experiences play a critical role in brain development, and high-quality early intervention services improves outcomes for children, families, and communities.

FISCAL EFFECT

A fiscal note form is attached.

TERMS

The term for the contract amendments would be effective January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director
Kelly Pethke, Interim CYFS Administrator
Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget & Policy Director

PREPARED BY:

Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget & Policy Director

APPROVED BY:

Shakita LaGrant-McClain
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

ATTACHMENTS:

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley
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