

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: February 18, 2022

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 retroactively amend a 2022 professional services contract by \$3,500, from \$74,500 to \$78,000, to coordinate Evidence-Based Prevention Programs (EBPP) for older adults

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to retroactively amend a contract by \$3,500, from \$74,500 to \$78,000, with Jennifer Lefeber to coordinate and facilitate Evidence-Based Prevention Programs (EBPP) for older adults in Milwaukee County.

POLICY

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to execute this professional service contract.

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

Title III-D of the Older Americans Act provides funding for programs that support healthy lifestyles and promote healthy behaviors among older adults. Interventions provided by evidence-based programming are demonstrated to reduce the need for more costly medical interventions. These activities support the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services' strategy which targets population health and systems change.

Jennifer Lefeber has provided Evidence-Based Prevention Programs for Milwaukee County for over a decade and has a demonstrated history of engaging with older adult residents and providing a variety of programs which demonstrate positive results for older adults.

Through Ms. Lefeber, the Aging & Disabilities Services Division coordinates the following Evidence-Based Prevention Programs:

1. Healthy Living with Chronic Pain
2. Healthy Living with Diabetes (also available in Spanish)
3. Living Well with Chronic Conditions (also available in Spanish)
4. Mind Over Matter
5. Physical Activity for Lifelong Success
6. Powerful Tools for Caregivers
7. Stepping on Fall Prevention Program
8. Walk With Ease

The delivery of in-person Evidence-Based Prevention Programming was paused in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, although some virtual programming did take place after programs were restructured for an online format. In 2021, Ms. Lefeber resumed in-person programming, and she has coordinated virtual programs as well as mailed tool-kit workshop options. These additional formats allow safe delivery for participants who are uncomfortable with on-site classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These outreach strategies also reach those who are homebound and attract new and hard-to-reach audiences by diversifying the workshop format. As the program topics gain national accreditation to be delivered virtually and via mail, Ms. Lefeber is introducing a variety of topics through these additional methods. In 2021, of 30 workshops offered, just over a third (or 11) were offered virtually or over the telephone.

In 2019, there were 721 participants of evidence-based prevention programming and 3,083 units of service provided. In 2020, programming stopped after February as a result of the COVID pandemic, and Ms. Lefeber maintained a connection with researchers and national accreditors in order to reinstate programming with a change in formatting structure while maintaining the evidence-based practices. By autumn of 2020, Ms. Lefeber helped facilitators offer online workshops. In 2021, there were 271 participants at 30 workshops. Twenty-four new facilitators were trained, for a total of 90 active program facilitators. This includes seven in-person, five virtual and two mailed tool-kit workshops. For 2022, Aging and Disabilities Services Division has set a goal of enrolling 750 participants in the evidence-based classes and training 37 new instructors.

In 2021, staff facilitators were trained by Serving Older Adults, the agency that manages the five Milwaukee County owned senior centers, in an effort to increase the opportunities for residents of color and leverage existing vendor partnerships. Partnerships will also be developed and reestablished with community organizations which work closely within communities of color including: Advocate Aurora's *Faith and Health Partnerships*, Unite WI, Gerald L. Ignace Indian Health Center, United Community Center, and the Milwaukee Christian Center.

The scope of this contract has increased with the number of total evidence-based

workshops expanding over the years as well as the additional formats of virtual and mailed toolkit workshops to reach new audiences. There has also been a rise in the responsibilities on community coalitions and as a master trainer for these workshops both at the local and state level. This expansion of scope and expertise of this contractor has led to the requested amendment of the total contract amount.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item is aligned to Milwaukee County’s strategic plan given its particular emphasis on increasing the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses and investing “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.

FISCAL EFFECT

Funding for this service has been included in the 2022 DHHS Budget. This program is supported by funding from Title III-D of the Older Americans Act intended to support healthy lifestyles and promote healthy behaviors.

TERMS

This contract will be in place from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

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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, and Strategic Planning
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
Pam Matthews, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office