

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: April 15, 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 contract amendments for the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) and Shelter Care Program in Children Youth and Family Services (CYFS) and to transfer \$538,128 from the unallocated contingency to finance these items

File Type: Action

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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 amendments to two purchase of service contracts in Children Youth and Family Service (CYFS).

Funding to support these contract amendments is being requested from the county's unallocated contingency account. Per Wis. Stat. §59.60(9)(a), transfers from the unallocated contingency require Finance Committee approval and approval by a two-thirds vote of the members-elect of the Milwaukee County Board. Transfers from the unallocated contingency are requested on an emergency basis when a department requires funding for an item that is not budgeted and there is no revenue anticipated to offset the expenditure.

Wisconsin State Statutes	59.52(31), 59.60(9)(a)
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**BACKGROUND**

In March, DHHS reported a deficit to the County Board of \$4.6 million in CYFS due to an increased number youth being ordered to the State facilities of Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School for Girls as well as the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center (MJTC) (File 22-422). Per Chapter 301 of the Wisconsin State Statutes, Counties are required to pay a daily rate to the State for the care and supervision of the youth ordered to these facilities.

The 2022 daily rate is currently \$1,154 which reflects an increase of 88% over 2021 and an annual cost of \$421,000 per youth. This rate is set to increase to \$1,178 on July 1, 2022.

CYFS operates a 127-bed detention center at the Vel R. Phillips Youth and Justice Center. As reported to the County Board in File 22-423 in March, the census in the detention center has been gradually rising since September of 2021 and reached an unprecedented peak of 141 in late February. This compares to an average census of 89 over the last 10 years. At the time of this writing, the census was at 124 which is still higher than average but much lower than the peak.

### ***Contract Increase Requests***

The CYFS is requesting contract increases for two community-based programs, Shelter Care and the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP), to continue to address the population of youth in detention. MCAP provides intensive supervision, advocacy, structure, support, and skill-building opportunities for youth who are court ordered into the program. This program is provided by Running Rebels Community Organization (RRCO). Advocates in RRCO facilitate Dialectical Behavioral Therapy Skills groups with youth and support them in moving toward 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.

There has been a wait list for youth to get into the program for the past several months, with the number of youth on the wait list ranging from 15 to 25 at a time. CYFS is requesting an additional \$399,712 through December 31, 2022 to allow RRCO to hire three additional Advocates to work with youth and support the transition of youth from the secure portion of programming back to the community. This additional funding will also support the operating deficits through 2022 due to an increase in youth served and increase in expenses (food, gasoline, purchased services, etc.).

<b>Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>2022 Contract</b>	<b>2022 Proposed Amendment</b>	<b>Amended Contract</b>
Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP)	Running Rebels Community Organization	\$535,000	\$399,712	\$934,712

Shelter Care provides short-term (typically 30 days), non-secure, 24-hour supervised care and residential programming to youth. The program primarily serves youth pending court for alleged delinquency as an alternative to secure detention placement. Other youth involved in the youth justice system may be placed in Shelter Care at the discretion of either CYFS or the Children's Court Judiciary. While in shelter care, youth receive programming which includes community service activities, mentoring, recreational activities, and tutoring, etc. This contract supports a shelter care facility for up to five girls and 15 boys at a time and is operated by Wisconsin Community Services (WCS).

The WCS Shelter Care program has been operating at a deficit since early 2021 due to

increased costs associated with recruitment and retention of staff, food and other personal care items for youth as well as repairs to the facility caused by youth. The population of youth at Shelter has continued to remain at or near capacity throughout 2021 and so far in 2022. CYFS is requesting an additional \$138,416 for Shelter Care through December 31, 2022 to avoid service disruption. This program is necessary in order to alleviate the number of youth in the youth detention center on a daily basis.

Service	Provider	2022 Contract	2022 Proposed Amendment	Amended Contract
Boys and Girls Shelter Care	Wisconsin Community Services	\$1,837,648	\$138,416	\$1,976,064

#### ***Projected DHHS 2022 Deficit and Request from Contingency***

As stated previously, DHHS reported a deficit to the County Board of \$4.6 million in CYFS in March due to an increased number youth being ordered to the State facilities. This was based on an average daily population (ADP) of 28. As of this writing, the number of youth being held at the three State facilities is 36 which reflects an increased deficit of \$7.3 million. After factoring in carryover of unclaimed Youth Aids and Basic County Allocation (BCA) revenues from 2021, projected underspending for placements of youth within the Wraparound Program as well as other savings across DHHS, the net anticipated deficit for the department is about \$4.3 million.

This deficit includes the requested contract amendments of \$538,128 contained in this report. Given the critical nature of the programming on relieving the increased census in detention, DHHS worked with the Department of Administrative Services(DAS)-Strategy, Performance and Budget (SPB) to discuss options for moving forward with the requested amendments. As a result, with SPB's support, DHHS is requesting \$538,128 from the unallocated contingency.

#### **Next Steps:**

DHHS will continue to monitor the fiscal situation and will keep the board updated on efforts to reduce the projected deficit.

#### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The total requested amount is \$538,128 to support increasing the MCAP and Shelter Care programs through December 31, 2022. Funding is being requested from the unallocated contingency. 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 amend the 2022 purchase of service contracts in the amounts specified in the attached resolution as well as authorize an appropriation transfer in an amount of \$538,128 from the unallocated contingency to finance these contract amendments.

**ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

By reporting on the potential deficit within this area as early into the year as possible, the department is demonstrating a commitment to protecting the County's fiscal health and sustainability.

**TERMS**

The terms of the contract amendments would be January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

**VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director  
Kelly Pethke, CYFS Interim 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  
Hon. Mary E. Triggiano, Chief Judge  
Chairperson, Finance Committee  
Sup. Felesia Martin, Chairwoman, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee  
Scott Manske, Comptroller, Office of the Comptroller  
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services  
Joseph Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance  
Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller  
Pam Matthews, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS

Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller