

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 19, 2023

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 increase 2023 purchase of service contracts with community vendors for Children, Youth and Family Services

File Type: Action File

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**REQUEST**

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to increase 2023 purchase of service contracts for the Children, Youth and Family Services (CYFS).

**POLICY**

Per Wisconsin Statutes, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services is requesting authorization to increase a variety of CYFS purchase of service contracts.

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

The CYFS has executed several contracts with community-based providers to support the continuum of care for justice involved youth as well as focus on efforts to address the social determinants of health to prevent involvement in the youth justice system. As part of the 2023 budget process, an additional \$550,000 was allocated for youth justice contracted providers. For several years, these purchase of service contracts have not been adjusted to account for inflation and several providers have reached out to express concern in their ability to continue to provide high quality care with flat funding. This is one way in which DHHS is committed to ensuring that our partners are compensated equitably and are able to pay their direct care staff an appropriate wage. This funding is now built into the CYFS operating budget and the plan is to continue these allocations beyond 2023 if possible.

In determining contract increases, only purchase of service contracts were considered since these contracts support direct, high-priority services for youth. A five percent increase was applied to the base allocation for those contracts that were not performance-based and a 7.5

percent increase was applied to those contracts requiring agencies to meet certain performance targets.

The following contracts have been executed for the CYFS for the time frames of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 and CYFS is requesting the following increases to the contracts:

- \$33,968 to St. Charles Youth and Family Services:** The Intensive Monitoring Program (IMP) provides intensive supervision, structure, support, and skill-building opportunities for young people involved in the youth justice system. The targeted populations include youth who are found to be in possession of a firearm, as well as determined to engage in serious and/or chronic behaviors. The program is intended to hold youth accountable in the community while ensuring community safety and providing youth with skills to change their thinking and behaviors. The program frequently serves as a community-based alternative to having youth be court ordered to a secure setting. The program was reduced to serving up to 135 youth at a time in 2022 to serving 100 youth at a time in 2023 for a total allocation of \$1,333,345. Running Rebels Community Organization (RRCO) held the contract from January 1 through March 31, 2023 for a total allocation of \$546,024 and the program was transitioned to St. Charles effective April 1 through December 31, 2023. The St. Charles total allocation is \$679,369.

It should be noted that a portion of this contracted program is funded through Community Intervention Program (CIP) funds awarded by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). These funds are targeted for early intervention and intensive community-based intervention services for youth.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Intensive Monitoring Program	St. Charles Youth and Family Services	\$679,369	\$33,968	\$713,337

- \$46,736 to Running Rebels Community Organization:** The Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) provides a post dispositional alternative to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. There have been service and operational modifications made within this program in order to meet the needs of all justice involved youth. This program provides intensive supervision, advocacy, structure, support, and skill-building opportunities for youth who are court ordered into the program.

The program includes a Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) informed milieu that is built on the foundation of five key components: imparting skills, acknowledging harm of racial injustice and promoting healing, adolescent growth and brain development,

restorative practices and continuous, intentional family inclusion. The program 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. RRCO provides services within this program for 2023 and will serve up to 45 youth in the secure and community settings.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Milwaukee County Accountability Program	Running Rebels Community Organization	\$934,712	\$46,736	\$981,448

- **\$148,205 for Wisconsin Community Services:** 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 services, to include but not limited to community service activities, mentoring, recreational activities, restorative justice activities and tutoring. This contract supports separate shelter care facilities for up to five girls and 15 boys at a time.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Shelter Care – Boys and Girls	Wisconsin Community Services	\$ 1,976,065	\$148,205	\$2,124,270

- **\$12,046 for Wisconsin Community Services:** The Community Service and Restitution Coordination Program is designed to provide a resource for youth to complete their court-ordered conditions of community service and pay back their court-ordered restitution. This program addresses a significant barrier to youth completing the conditions of their court order or Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) by providing and monitoring of community service opportunities. The program primarily serves youth who are subject to a court order, along with youth on a DPA or consent decree. The Community Service and Restitution Coordination program is also designed to be an alternative to youth being placed in secure detention for sanctions or youth picked up on a warrant and are pending court.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Community Service & Restitution	Wisconsin Community Services	\$160,614	\$12,046	\$172,660

- **\$143,361 for St. Charles Youth and Family Services:** The Level II In-Home Monitoring Program with optional Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring serves youth pending court for alleged delinquency as an alternative to secure detention, as well as youth on a court order of supervision who need of short-term intensive monitoring through GPS. The Level II program provides intensive in-home monitoring services to youth and their families to support the youth and their families in their home, to avoid additional charges and to appear for their court hearings.

Youth can be court ordered into this program or referred by CYFS and remain until the time of disposition or discontinuation of services is deemed appropriate by the court or CYFS. The program is based on the belief that youth who remain connected with their families, schools, peers, employers, and with other community resources will decrease the likelihood of further contact with the youth justice system. This is accomplished through a structured supervision plan, program support and counseling, advocacy, and the availability of 24-hour crisis intervention. The use of GPS is also an option for youth who need additional monitoring and supervision.

The increase of \$143,361 would add an additional 15 slots for a total of 160 slots for this service to help address the rising census at the detention center located at the Vel Phillips Youth and Family Justice Center. This expansion in slots is expected to reduce the number of youth currently held in detention as well as support increased costs for training, quality assurance and personnel.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Level II In-Home Monitoring	St. Charles	\$1,911,474	\$143,361	\$2,054,835

- **\$19,841 for Wisconsin Community Services:** The Aspire Education Program serves as a community and school-based program for justice involved youth to provide support around their education needs, to include tutoring, advocacy, group programming and other supports. This program includes community-based services as well as a

collaboration with Milwaukee Public Schools and serves up to 20 youth at a time in a community-based setting.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Aspire Education	Wisconsin Community Services	\$396,823	\$19,841	\$416,664

- **\$22,425 for St. Charles Youth and Family Services:** The Alternative Sanction Program serves youth who are pending court or who are on an order of supervision. The Alternative Sanctions Program is designed to provide a community-based alternative to detention for youth involved in the youth justice system in Milwaukee County. The Alternative Sanctions Program will provide a timely response that holds youth accountable while providing an alternative to youth being placed in the secure detention center. This program engages youth in positive, structured evidence-based programming on weekdays in the evening/after school and on weekends. This program was reduced from serving up to 45 youth at a time in 2022 to 30 youth in 2023.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Alternative Sanctions Program	St. Charles	\$299,000	\$22,425	\$321,425

- **\$30,666 to Running Rebels Community Organization:** The Intensive Monitoring Program-Aftercare is designed for youth to work with an assigned Advocate who will provide intensive supervision, structure, support, and skill building opportunities for youth returned to the community after placement in a youth correctional facility. This program engages the youth in restorative justice activities, recreational and vocational activities, individual and group learning opportunities and includes short term GPS monitoring for youth when they are initially returned to the community.

Service	Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Intensive Monitoring Program Aftercare	Running Rebels	\$408,885	\$30,666	\$439,551

- \$88,993 the Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program:** The Milwaukee County Credible Messenger Program is designed to engage youth, families, and individuals in Milwaukee County in various settings and outreach activities community wide. The goals of Credible Messengers' transformative mentoring are to provide prevention and intervention with youth, keeping youth from both entering the youth justice system or going deeper into involvement with the youth justice system. The focus of the outreach efforts will be to provide information, resources, and build social connectivity that supports the mission and purpose of the Credible Messenger Program. The program will serve justice involved youth and youth who are referred from local law enforcement as an alternative to justice involvement and preventative measure.

The chart below includes the 2023 budgeted allocation for each of the five Credible Messenger agencies. The 2023 total original allocation of \$1,779,858 includes a \$279,858 grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)-Youth Violence Prevention and Reduction Program, \$506,700 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and \$993,300 in tax levy.

Provider	2023 Allocation	2023 Proposed Increase	Total 2023 Allocation
Youth Advocates Program	\$350,000	\$17,500	\$367,500
Running Rebels Community Organization	\$379,858	\$18,993	\$398,851
WestCare	\$350,000	\$17,500	\$367,500
Medical College of Wisconsin – 414 Life	\$350,000	\$17,500	\$367,500
Milwaukee Christian Center	\$350,000	\$17,500	\$367,500

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

The CYFS has implementing contracts that support the ongoing development of community-based programming for justice involved youth and their families and ensures 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.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to increase the purchase of service contracts in a total amount of \$546,241 for the services identified in the accompanying resolution. The effective date of the contract amendments would be the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

The 2023 DHHS Budget includes funding for all community programs in the CYFS.

### **TERMS**

The amendments for the purchase of service contracts are effective 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:**

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Hon. Carl Ashley, Chief Judge  
Sup. Liz Sumner, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Shawn Rolland, 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  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Senior Budget and Management Analyst, DAS