

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: January 3, 2011

TO: Supervisor Lee Holloway, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health & Human Services

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Requesting the Creation of One Human Services Worker – Bilingual Spanish and the Abolishment of One Human Services Worker in DSD**

REQUEST

The Director of the Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) requests the creation of one Human Services Worker (HSW) – Bilingual Spanish position and the abolishment of one HSW – monolingual position to be assigned to the Interim Disability Assistance Program (IDAP) and General Assistance (GA) Burials Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

As of January 1, 2010, the State of Wisconsin assumed control over the Income Maintenance and Child Care programs. Under this arrangement, the 344.5 county positions that supported Income Maintenance (IM) and Child Care remained county employees, retaining the same benefits, but were supervised by the State.

Since the 2010 takeover, the State agreed to allocate staff resources to the IDAP and the GA Burials programs and the county paid for a portion of the associated staffing costs as part of its contract with the State Department of Health Services (DHS).

In July 2011, the State Budget converted the county IM staff to State employees effective December 31, 2011. In addition, the State Legislature converted the Child Care positions as of October 1, 2011 as part of a passive review process. The two positions that currently provide eligibility support to the IDAP and GA Burials programs are among the positions being converted.

In anticipation of the conversion of these positions to State employment, the 2012 Budget includes the creation of one HSW monolingual position. In addition, the IDAP and GA Burials programs, formerly operated by the Economic Support Division, were

organizationally relocated to the Disabilities Services Division (DSD). The new HSW position will now report to DSD.

Subsequent to the adoption of the 2012 Budget, the department realized the need for additional bilingual services for these programs therefore DHHS is now requesting to abolish the monolingual HSW and create a bilingual Spanish HSW. Overall, the department has 12 budgeted bilingual positions with nine currently filled as of the end of November and of those nine, only three are stationed at the Coggs Center.

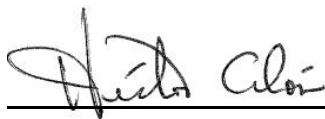
There are numerous Spanish-speaking clients that visit the Coggs Center not only for the State-operated IM and Child Care programs but also for programs managed by DSD. The State has its own dedicated bilingual staff that was once employed by Milwaukee County to handle translation needs for IM and Child Care. The remaining county-operated programs, including IDAP and GA Burials, will continue to require Spanish-speaking staff.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the HSW Bilingual Spanish position be created to support the IDAP and GA Burials Programs now operated by DSD to ensure individuals have access to public benefits and services for which they are eligible in Milwaukee County.

FISCAL EFFECT

The 2012 net estimated fiscal effect of the abolishment of one Human Services Worker monolingual position and the creation of one Human Services Worker Bilingual Spanish position is \$0. A fiscal note is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health & Human Services

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