

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Delinquency and Court Services Division (DHHS)
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: May 27, 2014

TO: Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and Peggy Romo-West, Chairwoman, Health and Human Needs

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by B. Thomas Wanta, Administrator/Chief Intake Officer – DCSD

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the 2014 Purchase of Service Contract with Wisconsin Community Services for an Evening Report Center within the Delinquency and Court Services Division**

Background:

Since 1970, DHHS has supported a social service delivery system comprised of both directly provided and purchased services using a combination of State, grant and local tax funds. Partnerships with community providers have allowed DHHS to cooperate and collaborate with various community agencies and resources. These partnerships further the opportunities for community participation, leverage resources and utilize community expertise regarding the DCSD community response to delinquency.

The Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) intends to enter into a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services by an amount not to exceed \$210,000 for an Evening Report Center within the Delinquency and Court Services Division (DCSD) to implement juvenile justice system reform activities associated with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) and early intervention programming.

Discussion:

DCSD recently applied for and was awarded Early Intervention funds for juvenile justice programs and services aimed at youth at risk of delinquency. On December 16, 2013 DCSD received the Calendar Year 2014 Early Intervention Funding Award in the amount of \$353,975 for the time period spanning January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 to supplement the Youth and Family Aids Program funding from the State of Wisconsin Division of Juvenile Corrections, Department of Corrections. On January 1, 2014 the Division of Juvenile Corrections and the County Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee entered into an early intervention supplemental contract to the 2014 State and County Contract Covering the Administration of Community Youth and Family Aids Program.

DCSD has historically used Early Intervention Program (EIP) funding to supplement Community Intervention Program funds to continue to support the First Time Offender Program (FTJOP) and

related activities. Due to the significant increase in funds available for 2014 for EIP, DCSD will initiate new alternatives to detention programs aimed at reducing the use of secure detention. These initiatives will enhance early intervention opportunities for first time offenders, along with other youth at risk of placement in secure detention, which is consistent with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative. Milwaukee County was chosen in 2012 by the Annie E. Casey Foundation to participate in JDAI as one of three Wisconsin sites as part of a statewide roll-out through the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance to reduce the number of youth in confinement while maintaining or improving community safety. Milwaukee County formally agreed to serve as a pilot JDAI demonstration site and follow the JDAI model through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (Wisconsin Department of Justice as of July 2013). The proposed initiatives for the early intervention funds included an evening report center for youth at risk of being placed in secure detention.

The Evening Report Center is designed as a program to provide a community-based alternative to detention for youth served by DCSD. The program will primarily serve youth pending court for alleged delinquent acts but may also include youth that are the subject of a court order. The evening report center is designed to be an alternative to youth being placed in secure detention pre-dispositional, for sanctions or youth picked up on a warrant and are pending court. The Evening Report Center program will provide a timely response that holds youth accountable, provides supervision and engages the youth in positive and constructive programming.

The goals of the Evening Report Center include the following:

- Provide a timely community-based alternative to placement in detention
- Minimize risk taking and delinquent behaviors
- Provide highly structured and well supervised group activities during high risk time periods
- Ensure youth are attending their court hearings
- Reduce the likelihood of re-arrests while allowing the youth to continue attending school and remain at home or least restrictive setting
- Target interventions to address the nature of youth's behaviors and build skills and competencies for improved decision-making
- Expose youth to community-based services and positive programming with the potential to lead to continuing involvement beyond their probation involvement

DCSD issued a request for proposals (RFP) in February 2014 for the operation of the Evening Report Center. In addition to Section 46.09 of the County Ordinances, DCSD conforms to the DHHS RFP process to ensure objectivity and fairness in the awarding of purchase of service contracts. One proposal was submitted and it was determined that this proposal met the criteria for responsiveness. Based on this proposal, DCSD plans to enter into a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) in the amount of \$210,000 for May 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. WCS will operate this program out of one location; provide transportation to and from the program for the youth, as well as meals and other incentives.

Recommendation:

It is requested that this contract be referred to the Committee on Finance, Personnel and Audit. Pursuant to §59.52(31)(b)(1), Stats., the County Executive has approved this contract for a total contract sum of **\$ 210,000** and the contract will take effect unless the Committee takes action to reject or affirm the contract within 14 days of this submission to you.

Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Date