

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
Inter-Office Memorandum

DATE: November 6, 2015

TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, and Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Geri L. Lyday, Administrator, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into 2016 Disabilities Services Division purchase of service contracts for adult and children's programs**

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization for DHHS to execute Disability Resource Center, Children's Programs and Adults with Disabilities purchase of service contracts for 2016.

Background

Recommended contract allocations described in this report will allow Disabilities Services Division (DSD) to provide rehabilitation, treatment and support services to adults and children with disabilities in Milwaukee County during 2016. DSD always utilizes the Family Care option prior to accessing purchase of service contracts for individuals requesting services when they are eligible for that program.

The DSD contracts will be used to purchase services that are identified as having a high priority in assisting persons with disabilities to achieve their maximum independence. Services will also be utilized to augment the long-term support system with services that are not typically funded through the managed care organizations such as recreational programming that allows for true community integration.

The following is a detailed description of the allocations being recommended for the adult and children's POS contracts in 2016. DSD continues to maintain the integrity of the existing service delivery system to ensure that a safety net for those who need community-based supports can continue to live independently and not be forced to utilize crisis or institutional-based services.

Discussion

The information that follows includes highlights of 2016 POS contract recommendations for DSD by disability and program areas.

Children’s Programs

Birth-To-Three/Early Intervention

The Birth-To-Three Early Intervention program is a Special Education Program governed by the U.S. Department of Education under IDEA. Birth to 3 is invaluable to families with young children who have a suspected or diagnosed developmental delay. These programs are critical to the identification of early intervention for children with primary coaching strategies that can assist children to reach their maximum potential and actively participate in their communities. Children receive Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Parent Education, Physical Therapy and Social Emotional supportive services to enhance a child’s opportunity to close the gap in their development compared to their same aged peers.

Milwaukee has a long-standing history and commitment to quality services for young children and their families. To that end the division has developed a partnership with partner providers to ensure a comprehensive service delivery and support network. Milwaukee County Birth to 3 partner providers and families work together to develop early intervention services and plans for children that are effective because they encompass the needs of the child and family as the focus.

For the 2016 funding year the Division will be analyzing provider performance to inform performance-based contracting for FY2017. The areas of analysis include quality outcome measures requiring service provision in a child and family’s natural environment, and child outcome measures as outlined by U.S. Department of Federal Performance Indicators under IDEA.

The following providers are recommended for new contracts in 2016 at the 2015 level:

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Early Intervention-Birth to Three | Center for Communication, Hearing, & Deafness, Inc. | \$91,588 |
| | Curative Care Network, Inc. | \$1,267,346 |
| | Curative Care Network, Inc. (Screening & Evaluation) | \$157,779 |
| | Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin, Inc. | \$555,402 |
| | Lutheran Social Services of Wis. & Upper Michigan, Inc. | \$246,532 |
| | Milwaukee Center for Independence | \$418,970 |
| | Penfield Children’s Center | \$1,205,598 |
| | St. Francis Children’s Center | \$489,170 |
| | Vision Forward Association, Inc. | \$92,720 |

Adult Programs

Family Care entitlement provides for immediate enrollment for eligible individuals with disabilities under age 60 who are seeking long-term support services in Milwaukee County. The dollars recommended for allocation to the following agencies are only for individuals who are not financially and/or functionally eligible for Family Care or for services that the Managed Care Organizations typically do not fund. DSD has seen a gradual reduction in the number of individuals served in our contracts since the division reached entitlement status. Those dollars are being re-directed to fund new initiatives in the division and recommendations from the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) report.

Work Services

Goodwill Industries and MCFI are recommended for new contracts in 2016 at a funding level reduced by a total of \$127,000 compared to 2015 based on 2015 experience with the number of consumers being served.

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|----------------|---|------------------------|
| Work Services | Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc. | \$60,000 |
| | Milwaukee Center for Independence | \$15,000 |

Respite

Broadscope Disability Services is recommended for a new contract in 2016 at the same funding level compared to 2015. During CY 2014, DSD was able to identify individuals receiving respite services from Broadscope Disability Services who were eligible for funding through the Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) Medicaid Waiver program and/or the Family Support Program (FSP). Given the number of individuals whose funding was able to be transferred to CLTS/FSP, the Division was able to reduce reliance on Community Aids funding and reduce the contract by \$100,000. This change did not result in any service reductions nor a decrease of funding being provided to this vendor. The change was a different mix of funding received by the provider in that more of their funding now comes from the Children’s Waiver program. There continues to be a high demand primary for children and families for both adults and children.

Respite continues to be a highly demanded service by families. These services support both adults and families with children who have disabilities.

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|----------------|--|------------------------|
| Respite | Broadscope Disability Services (United Cerebral Palsy of SE Wisconsin, Inc.) | \$211,095 |

Advocacy/Outreach

DSD is recommending six agencies for funding in 2016 at the same level as 2015 for the provision of advocacy services. The agencies are:

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|-------------------|---|------------------------|
| Advocacy/Outreach | Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones | \$30,000 |
| | Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin, Inc. | \$10,000 |
| | Epilepsy Foundation of SE Wisconsin | \$20,000 |
| | Hmong American Friendship Association, Inc. | \$25,000 |
| | Life Navigators, Inc. | \$136,043 |
| | WI FACETS | \$30,000 |

These agencies will work in conjunction with the DSD Disability Resource Center to identify individuals eligible for Family Care and refer them to the DRC for assistance including Family Care enrollment when requested. This continued function will help support the DRC's outreach and marketing efforts to the community and help to provide access to long term care services for individuals with disabilities in the various ethnic communities.

Employment Options

Three agencies are recommended for new 2016 contracts at the same level as in 2015. They are as follows:

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|
| Employment Options | Broadscope Disability Services (United Cerebral Palsy of SE Wisconsin, Inc.) | \$14,235 |
| | Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin, Inc. | \$23,000 |
| | Milwaukee Center for Independence | \$30,000 |

The Division has made employment for individuals with disabilities a high priority in 2016 which is consistent with new rules being implemented by the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and a new initiative in DSD with an increased emphasis on employment for young adults transitioning from high school seeking employment.

Recreation

Easter Seals is recommended for a new contract in 2016 at the same 2015 funding level. This agency provides recreational services to more than 500 children and adults with disabilities at the Wil-O-Way sites in conjunction with the Office of Persons with Disabilities and at integrated community events and outings. The funding will provide these important services which have been invaluable to families who depend on it as respite and consumers who enjoy the opportunity for fun and relaxation with their friends. In addition, because it currently is not a covered service under the Family Care benefit, DSD will continue to explore how recreation services can be covered for consumers who desire to continue participation in recreation activities.

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|------------|--|-----------------|
| Recreation | Easter Seals Southeast Wisconsin, Inc. | \$102,250 |

Supported Living Options

Two agencies are recommended for contracts in 2016 for supported living option services at funding levels reduced by a total of \$81,667 as compared to 2015. One agency (Dungarvin) is recommended for an increase in funding in the amount of \$46,338. This funding will enhance the Supported Living Options program at Dungarvin to continue expanding on crisis intervention services to persons with intellectual disabilities and co-occurring conditions. DSD continues to build on our capacity to provide crisis services in the community. This will enhance our crisis mobile team operated by Dungarvin. The other Supported Living Options agencies currently provide daily living skills training and community living assistance to individuals with disabilities. The reduced contract amounts are due to individuals phasing out over time, therefore, not utilizing the services at the same level. This trend is consistent with other DSD purchase of service contracts. This allows the division to reinvest our funds on new initiatives and on the implementation of the HSRI recommendations. These services provide a critical support to certain individuals with significant disabilities who live independently in the community. The agencies recommended for 2016 contracts are as follows:

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Supported Living Options | Broadscope Disability Services (United Cerebral Palsy of SE Wisconsin, Inc.) | \$20,000 |
| | Dungarvin- WI, LLC | \$96,338 |
| | Milwaukee Center for Independence | \$50,000 |

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The DRC provides Information and Assistance, Options/Enrollment Counseling to individuals with disabilities including Disability Benefits Specialist services. The DRC also acts as the front door to all publicly-funded long-term care program options, i.e., Family Care, in Milwaukee County for individuals under age 60.

DSD is recommending continued support for professional services to be provided by Life Navigators to help to provide youth transition services, Disability Resource Room management and enrollment system support. Youth Transition services are critical in assisting young adults graduating from high school explore options available in the adult system. This initiative is a high priority for 2016 and other components will be added to enhance this initiative. The Division has agreements with all 14 school districts in the county and will be working with them more closely in 2016. Given Life Navigators' experience and past history of providing quality services and assisting with these functions, DSD is recommending a 2016 contract with Life Navigators to provide these critical consulting services at a funding level projected to meet the continued DRC needs.

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| DRC Implementation | Life Navigators, Inc. | \$200,000 |

Other Support Services

Best Buddies International - Wisconsin Program

Best Buddies Wisconsin (BBWI) enhances the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by fostering social inclusion by facilitating friendships between those with disabilities and their typical peers. The programs enhance the quality of life for everyone by integrating people with IDD into the community, thereby meeting a currently unmet human need.

The Best Buddies Citizens program pairs adults with IDD with typical adult peer volunteers in Milwaukee County for mutually enriching, one-to-one friendships. Citizen pairs include a buddy, a person with IDD who volunteers to be a friend; a citizen buddy, a person without a disability who volunteers to be a friend; and a sponsor, someone who knows the buddy and supports the friendship. BBWI matches individuals in one-to-one friendships based on common interest and geographic proximity to ensure that members of each match have relative ease of access to one another.

DSD is recommending a new contract for 2016 at the same level as 2015 to fund this innovative program and enhance the services being offered to individuals who contact DSD and are in need of support.

| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Other Support Services | Best Buddies Wisconsin | \$30,000 |

Interim Disability Assistance Program (IDAP)

DSD continues to operate the IDAP program since 2012 after the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services discontinued its support for this function. DSD is recommending a new contract with Community Advocates to continue to assist Supplemental Security Income/Social Security Disability (SSI/SSD) applicants who are applying for or currently receiving IDAP, which provides financial assistance to disabled persons while their SSI application is pending. This contract is being recommended for an increased amount in 2016 as they have assumed complete operation of the program in 2015.

The Division worked with Community Advocates to assume a greater role in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the program in 2015. This change provided a high degree of involvement by Community Advocates in representing individuals who were in the IDAP program. This change provided efficiencies and better continuity of service for the customer. The division had to increase overall funding by \$46,120 to achieve this; however, over time it is anticipated that overall costs to operate will decrease as we refine the operations of the program.

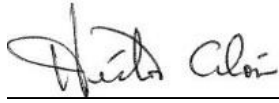
| Service | Provider | 2016 Allocation |
|---------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| IDAP | Community Advocates, Inc. | \$91,120 |

Recommendation

It is recommended that the County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to enter into 2016 purchase of service contracts with community-based provider agencies per the narrative above and in the amounts specified in the accompanying resolution.

Fiscal Effect

The contracts reflect total expenditures of \$5,719,186 which are included in the DHHS 2016 Budget. A fiscal note form is attached.



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
County Supervisor Peggy Romo-West, County Board
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, DAS
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