

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Date: November 1, 2016
To: Milwaukee County Board Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr.
From: Michael Hafemann, Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction (HOC)
Subject: From the Superintendent, House of Correction, requesting authorization to execute a contract extension with the Benedict Center for the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$198,045

Issue

The current contract with the Benedict Center expires on December 31, 2016. This contract is for re-entry programming services provided for and to female offenders remanded to the custody of the House of Correction (HOC). The HOC is requesting to continue and expand this specialized re-entry program to assist female inmates for one more year. After this time period, the HOC may conduct a Request for Proposal (RFP), if any other organizations/resources can be identified in the Milwaukee community that have the expertise and relevant experience to provide such services at or at a level above what is provided by the Benedict Center.

Discussion

If this contract is approved, the Benedict Center will continue to provide re-entry services to female offenders, which is designed to reduce women's risk of recidivism. The current scope of services now includes six groups using evidence based, gender specific curriculum to address issues such as trauma, anger management, a cognitive behavioral program, life skills, employment soft skills, parenting, and Women's Sexuality (for women who have been involved in prostitution or sex trafficking, and yoga class (primarily aimed at assisting with trauma issues). The HOC is requesting to extend and expand the contract:

- To increase staffing provided by Contractor for these services from 2 full-time equivalent (FTE) to 2.9 FTEs in order to provide services to over 200 females.
- To expand the scope of services provided by Contractor to include: Case management and re-entry planning on an individually determined basis. This includes housing, safety planning, health insurance, child care, disability applications, etc.

The Benedict Center will also continue to conduct additional programming that provides Nurturing and Parenting skills as well as evidence based curriculum that are considered key for addressing criminogenic risks and needs: Moving On (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy) and Anger/ Stress.

The total cost of the programming, which will assist at least 200 women, is \$198,045. Sufficient funds were requested in the 2017 budget to expand this program.

Moreover, the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM) Helen Bader School of Social Welfare received a grant to conduct a study in 2017 of the effectiveness of female programming activities provided by the Benedict Center at the HOC. This study or project will work with female offenders while in and after they are released from custody. Once released from custody women enrolled in the project will meet with a case worker once a day for the first five days after their release. These one hour sessions will focus on securing resources and services and problem solving a longer term plan to use services and reduce pathways toward recidivism. At the end of the first five day period, women will be re-screened with the relevant measures used during their incarceration as well as information on efforts to secure and obtain resources/treatment services. The project will offer monetary incentives for women to meet with project staff on a bi-weekly basis (3 times) for the next 6 weeks to monitor their efforts, successes, and barriers to obtaining needed resources and treatment. Staff will meet with the women at 6 months after their release to measure their progress and understand the barriers they are encountering in obtaining needed resources.

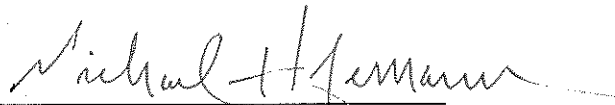
The UWM Helen Bader School of Social Welfare worked very closely with the Benedict Center to develop and implement the programming options available for female offenders at the HOC. The grant project reference above will not be possible without extending the current contract with the Benedict Center for a least an additional year.

Recommendation

The HOC herein requests to continue the partnership with the Benedict Center, enhance current female offender program options and participate in the grant project with the UWM Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. Accomplishing this objective requires extending the contract with the Benedict Center for at least one more year. A fiscal note form is also attached.

I am respectfully requesting that this item be referred to the Committee on Finance and Audit as an action item.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael Hafemann, Superintendent
Milwaukee County House of Correction

cc: Chris Abele, County Executive
Finance and Audit Committee Members
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board
Scott Manske, CPA, Milwaukee County Comptroller
Steven Kreklow, Budget Director, Department of Administrative Services
Stephen Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst, Office of the Comptroller
Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk
Janelle Jensen, Chief Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk