

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

Inter-Office Communication

DATE: February 14, 2017

TO: Sup. Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Delinquency and Court Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **An informational report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on the Delinquency and Court Services Division community outreach for Shelter programs**

Issue

In January, the Delinquency and Court Services Division (DCSD) requested authorization to enter into a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) for shelter programming for boys and girls in the amount of \$2,385,458 starting February 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 with the option to extend the contract for three years (File No. 17-84). At its meeting February 2, the County Board laid over this item to a special meeting to be held February 16. The County Board requested that in the interim, outreach be conducted with the surrounding neighborhoods in which the shelters would operate and report back.

Shelter Programming Community Outreach Update

DCSD and WCS have implemented community outreach plans which include holding community meetings in the neighborhoods of the two proposed shelter locations as well as door-to-door outreach efforts. The proposed boys' shelter facility is located at the Horizon House, 2511 W. Vine Street, Milwaukee and the proposed girls' shelter facility is located at 3790 N. 12th Street, Milwaukee.

WCS conducted door-to-door outreach in the Arlington Heights neighborhood (girls' shelter) and Midtown neighborhood (boys' shelter) the week of February 6-10, 2017. The Arlington Heights neighborhood community meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2017 from 5:30-6:30 pm at the St. Mark AME Church located at 1616 W. Atkinson Ave. Invited guests include Supervisor Willie Johnson, Milwaukee Alderwoman Milele Coggs and representatives from DCSD, including Division Administrator Mark Mertens. The Midtown neighborhood community meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2017 from 6:00-7:00 pm at the Horizon House located at 2511 W. Vine St. Invited guests include Supervisor Supreme Moore-Omokunde, Milwaukee Alderman Russell Stamper and Mr. Mertens.

The door-to-door outreach was conducted by five WCS staff members who have experience in canvassing and they went to every house and business in each neighborhood within a two-block radius during daylight hours. Each outreach person was given talking points to ensure a consistent message was communicated to neighbors. Outreach staff completed a form to record firsthand responses (see Attachment 1). Flyers with the community meeting information, contact information, and employment recruitment announcements were also circulated (see Attachment 2).

WCS staff made a total of 164 contacts within the Arlington Heights and Midtown neighborhoods as of mid-February. Of the total contacts, staff was able to speak to 57 residents in-person. Of these, 74 percent expressed their support and no one was opposed to the shelters. WCS staff will continue to canvass the Midtown neighborhood so that a second attempt can be made for those neighbors who weren't home at the time of the initial attempt.

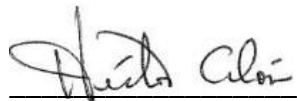
All responses received as of Feb. 13 are outlined in the table below:

Responses	Arlington Heights Neighborhood (Girls' Shelter)	Midtown Neighborhood (Boys' Shelter)	Total	%
Supportive of Shelter	34	8	42	74%
Not Supportive	0	0	0	0%
Unsure	6	2	8	14%
Requested Contact/Further Info	4	0	4	7%
Interested in Attending Community Meeting	2	1	3	5%
Total Number of In-Person Contacts	46	11	57	100%
No Response (informational flyer left at residence)	67	40	107	65%
Grand Total Number of Contacts	113	51	164	

Pending County Board authorization, WCS will submit required shelter care facility applications to the State of Wisconsin and will start the hiring and training of shelter staff for both facilities. There will be open houses scheduled in early April for both facilities and community members will be invited and encouraged to attend. The goal is to have both shelters open and operational by the end of April.

Recommendation

This report is informational and no action is required.



Héctor Colón, Director

Department of Health and Human Services

Attachments

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Hon. Maxine A. White, Chief Judge
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Kelly Bablitch, County Board