

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY**  
**Inter-Office Memorandum**

**DATE:** November 13, 2017

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

**FROM:** Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director, and Department of Health and Human Services  
*Prepared by Geri L. Lyday, Administrator, Disabilities Services Division*

**SUBJECT:** Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend 2017 purchase of service contracts with Broadscope Disability Services, Inc. and Milwaukee Center for Independence

**Issue**

DHHS is requesting authorization for DSD to execute 2017 contract amendments with Broadscope in the amount of \$50,000 and Milwaukee Center for Independence (MCFI) in the amount of \$25,000 to assist with DSD employment Initiatives.

**Background and Rationale**

For the last three years, the Disabilities Services Division (DSD) has been implementing a best practice by increasing opportunities for young adults with disabilities, ages 14 to 24, to obtain meaningful employment. The division has been working with Goodwill, MCFI and Broadscope to accomplish this goal through contracts totaling about \$100,000. In 2017, the Milwaukee County Board authorized contracts with Broadscope and MCFI for \$14,235 and \$30,000, respectively. Both agencies have been offering the following services:

- Job seeking skills training
- Soft skills
- Job experiences
- Assisting with DVR
- Job coaching
- Opportunities for employment

The agencies also have been teaming up with several schools that have large numbers of children with Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Earlier this year, Broadscope staff began focusing on outreach to the Milwaukee area schools in an effort to link up with both transition programs within the MPS school system as well as individual students and their family supports. Although some challenges exist, key connections have been made with two large area MPS high schools, South Division and Hamilton. Discussions of a collaboration began in the spring of this year, and have now developed into a more formal service format. Broadscope and school personnel are

prepared to start supportive services to small groups of high school students with disabilities at both settings.

At South Division High School, Broadscope will assist the special educators with their transition programming and linkages to the adult system as well as work on family involvement to enhance their awareness of the changes that occur as adults and in preparing for life in community employment. Broadscope will provide group sessions and individual guidance with the teachers. These activities are expected to occur in late October 2017 due to the recent start of the 2017 school year.

For Hamilton High School students, Broadscope will work with the transition coordinator to team up and provide group sessions focused on planning and preparation of students for employment. Sessions will address assessment, job exploration and work/career planning. Broadscope will conduct follow up activities with the parents to help the student/participant through the transition process. The group sessions are also scheduled for late October. Currently, 15 students are registered.

The second outreach effort Broadscope has engaged in is exploring employment needs of community agencies serving the young adult population. Consequently, Broadscope has been meeting with WestCare of Wisconsin. WestCare administration has attended meetings on employment supports exploring opportunities for young adults who attend its center. As a result of the meetings, the two agencies, Broadscope and WestCare, are interested in partnering. The two agencies have identified a significant unmet need for guidance and service for young adults who have varying disabilities, and a joint effort and service model has been designed to help bridge the gap. The partnering service model will focus on group sessions to include pre-employment assistance, soft skills, job experiences, connection to DVR and job retention support. The group sessions will vary but range in size from approximately six to 15 participants. The model offers the opportunity to strategize on bridge building between disability agencies and other social program agencies.

To establish these services, Broadscope is in need of an additional \$50,000 for 2017. These funds will impact approximately 50 young adults with disabilities over the final quarter of 2017.

MCFI is also participating in the employment initiative and has created an opportunity to provide a work experience model for a small group of young adults with disabilities. These individuals have barriers to work and are not eligible for long-term care. They will be utilizing their Hospitality Academy and Commercial Services programs. These two programs will provide a learning and hands-on training service with specific skill training in marketable fields in the community.

The service model consists of educational classroom sessions, opportunities to learn different types of tasks in the training program and paid work activities. The focus will be on skill development and strengthening as well as a wide variety of work readiness topics to aid the trainee with preparation to work and decision-making during their transition time. Trainees will be provided a small number of paid work hours and career counseling to supplement their work

experience. Participants will be school students and young adults in community/social agencies who have ended high school service and have no plan or skill for gainful employment to integrate into community work.

DHHS has a small amount of unallocated funding that DSD is able to utilize to continue to advance this employment initiative. To date, DSD has been able to support over 250 young adults. The division is very proud of the success achieved but more importantly, the work that has been done by these partner agencies to link young adults with disabilities to acceptable employment. This additional funding will allow Broadscope to continue collaborations with the community and MPS South Division/Hamilton high schools as well as to continue building upon the strong collaboration with WestCare. MCFI will also expand upon providing work experiences for young adults utilizing its Hospitality Academy and Commercial Service programs in 2017.

Service	Provider	2017 Allocation	2017 Amendment	Total
Employment	Milwaukee Center for Independence	\$30,000	\$25,000	\$55,000
	Broadscope Disability Services	\$14,235	\$50,000	\$64,235

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to amend the contract with Broadscope by \$50,000, from \$14,235 to \$64,235, and the contract with MCFI by \$25,000, from \$30,000 to \$55,000, for 2017.

**Fiscal Effect**

The amendments reflect total additional expenditures of \$75,000 which are absorbed in the 2017 DSD Budget. A fiscal note form is attached.



Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director  
 Department of Health and Human Services

- Cc: County Executive Chris Abele
- Raisa Koltun, County Executive’s Office
- Kelly Bablitch, County Board
- County Supervisor Peggy West
- Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, DAS
- Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller’s Office
- Lisa Wozny, Budget Analyst - DAS
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