

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: December 29, 2017

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

FROM: Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by: Mark Mertens, Delinquency and Court Services Administrator

SUBJECT: **Report from the Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to enter into a 2018 purchase of service contract for a Type II Residential Treatment Center with Wisconsin Community Services**

Issue

The Interim Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to enter into a 2018 purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) for Type II Residential Treatment Center (RTC) programming and treatment components.

Background

Since December 2015, key partners, including the County Executive, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors, Chief Judge, District Attorney, Public Defender, DHHS Director, Delinquency and Court Services Division (DCSD) Administrator, Wraparound Milwaukee Director and other involved parties have been meeting to formulate a plan to address the crisis at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake and ensure the safety of youth. As part of this process, the development of a Residential Treatment Center (RTC) for youth has been discussed and planning is being implemented.

Discussion

Development of a Type II Residential Treatment Facility

Over the past 18 months, DCSD has been exploring alternative residential placements for youth to avoid correctional placement with the State Department of Corrections. In addition, the establishment of an alternative residential facility is expected to reduce the strain on the Detention Center, which experienced higher-than-average census during 2016 as a result of the crisis at Lincoln Hills. DCSD's efforts to create an alternative placement have been detailed in monthly reports to the County Board beginning in 2016 (Resolution File No. 16-292 and 16-602) and are summarized below:

- In early 2016, DCSD pursued plans to establish a locked residential facility at the Child and Adolescent Treatment Center (CATC) on the County Grounds in order to expand the capacity of the Milwaukee County Accountability Program (MCAP) as part of the 2016 Adopted Budget.

The initiative involved moving MCAP into a Type II *secure* residential facility in the community to allow more youth to be served while simultaneously removing youth from detention.

- Following a series of communications with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Department of Corrections (DOC), it was determined that this was not a viable option because a “*secure* residential care center” does not currently exist in Wisconsin as there is no current administrative code detailing the specifications of such a facility.
- In mid-2016, DCSD then began exploring a *staff secure*, “step-down” Residential Treatment Center (RTC) for high-risk youth in jeopardy of placement at the DOC or youth transitioning out of MCAP or DOC placement. Although a location and provider were initially identified in Wauwatosa, the provider ultimately withdrew its proposal.
- Despite this setback, DCSD continued to pursue the RTC as part of the 2017 Adopted Budget which envisioned a 24-bed staff-secure RTC. A Request for Proposals (RFP) was released earlier this year to identify a location and another RFP was released this summer for the programming.

Outcome of Facility & Programming RFP & Community Outreach

In response to the facility RFP, the department negotiated the lease of a 24-bed, five-story facility owned by Bishop’s Creek Community Development Corporation and located at 4769 N. 32nd Street, Milwaukee.

Over the last few months, several community meetings were held to inform residents about the program, answer any questions and gauge community interest or opposition. The first community meeting was held on August 24 with follow up meetings being held September 27, November 3, 2017 and November 28.

An RFP for the treatment and programming components of the RTC was released June 19. Two informational sessions for potential respondents occurred on July 17 and 18. The program RFP was originally scheduled to close in July but was extended until August 18 in order to allow more sufficient time for potential responders to develop their proposals. The proposals were scored by a panel of three reviewers and the review process has been completed as of September 12. The recommended vendor, Wisconsin Community Services, has been selected to provide the treatment and programming component of the RTC in alignment with the Integrated Treatment Model with Behavioral Affiliates.

Pending County Board approval of the contract, the licensing process will begin and the expectation is that the hiring and training of the program staff will occur starting in January 2018. The lease will be finalized in mid-January with the expectation that the provider will occupy the building by March 2018. Preliminary training is expected to occur with Dr. Henry Schmidt of Behavioral Affiliates starting in February. The licensing is expected to be completed by the end of April 2018 and the targeted date of operation is May 1, 2018. DCSD plans to gradually transition youth into the RTC and hopes to fill all 24 beds by November 1, 2018.

Please see the tentative timetable below for further details on the progress of the RTC.

Residential Treatment Center	Timeframe
Facility Selection Component	
RFP Released	January 23, 2017
Community Outreach Meetings	August to December 2017
Lease Finalization	January 2018
Building Improvements	January 2018 to March 2018
Treatment/Programming Selection Component	
RFP Released	June 19, 2017
Info Session w/ Dr. Schmidt	July 17-18, 2017
RFP Closes	August 18, 2017
Review of Responses	September 12, 2017
Final Vendor Selection	October 2017
County Board Approval	January 2018
Licensing Process Starts	January 2018 through April 2018
Staff Training	Starts in January 2018
Provider Occupancy	March 2018
Licensing Complete	End of April 2018
Facility Opens	May 1, 2018

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 enter into a purchase of service contract with Wisconsin Community Services for a Type II Residential Treatment Center programming in an amount not to exceed \$2,712,116 for the time period of January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

Fiscal Impact

A fiscal note form is attached.



Jeanne Dorff, Interim Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive, Chris Abele
Raisa Koltun, Chief of Staff
Supervisor Peggy West, Chair, Finance and Audit Committee

Supervisor Supreme Moore Omokunde, Chair, Health and Human Needs Committee

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors

Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, Department of Administrative Services

Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Comptroller's Office

Erica Hayden, Research & Policy Analyst – Comptroller's Office

Lisa Wozny, Budget & Management Analyst, Performance, Strategy and Budget Office