

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: May 14, 2018

TO: Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Chairman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Kerry Mitchell, Director, Department of Human Resources

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Interim Director, Department of Health & Human Services
Prepared by: James Mathy, Administrator, Housing Division

SUBJECT: **From the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to create two FTE positions of Community Intervention Specialists and one FTE position of Housing Stabilization Assistant in the Housing Division**

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization to create two permanent FTE Community Intervention Specialist (CIS) positions and one permanent FTE Housing Stabilization Assistant in the Housing Division. The CIS positions will be responsible for clients referred by Health Management Organizations (HMOs) and the Housing Stabilization Assistant will work with referrals for eviction prevention.

Background

The Housing Division is forming new partnerships with local HMOs who are interested in adopting the Division's Housing First model. For the first time, local HMOs will be using their own funds to pay for housing for their participants who continue to cycle through emergency rooms and have a long history of homelessness. The HMOs are also willing to pay the Housing Division for housing navigation services for their members. The two CIS positions created in this report will perform these navigation services, similar to the work being done in the Division through Housing First. Through the existing model, the Division is seeing large reductions in usage of emergency rooms and other high cost services.

The Housing Stabilization Assistant position will fulfill the duties spelled out in the 2018 County Board Budget Amendment creating the Housing Opportunities and Minimizing Evictions for Stabilization Program (HOMES). This eviction prevention initiative will focus on mitigating an individual or family's housing situation prior to getting evicted in order to maintain their housing. This newly created position will take referrals from non-profit partners and quickly intervene in eviction situations.

Recommendation

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is recommending the creation of two permanent FTE Community Intervention Specialist (CIS) positions and one permanent FTE Housing Stabilization Assistant in the Housing Division.

Fiscal Impact

The cost of the two Community Intervention Specialist positions assumes funding from HMOs to cover the full cost of the positions. If funding does not materialize, the positions will not be filled. The funding of the Housing Stabilization Assistant position was covered in the 2018 budget through the County Board amendment process.



Mary Jo Meyers, Interim Director
Department of Health & Human Services

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