

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: November 16, 2019

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

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Shakita LaGrant, Associate Director of Integration, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to operate the Disability Resource Center for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 and to accept \$2,074,753 in revenue**

Issue

Milwaukee County ordinances require that departments obtain authorization from the County Board to execute contracts. The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), therefore requests authorization to execute a contract with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to operate the Disability Resource Center (DRC) under the Family Care program for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 and to accept \$2,074,753 in revenue.

Background and Rationale

The DRC, operated by the DHHS Disabilities Services Division (DSD), helps people with physical or developmental/intellectual disabilities, ages 18-59, secure needed services or benefits, live with dignity and security, achieve maximum independence and quality of life. The goal of the DRC is to empower individuals to make informed choices and to streamline access to services and supports.

The DRC is a welcoming and accessible place in which people with disabilities can obtain information, advice, and help in locating services or applying for benefits. The DRC provides a central source of updated, accurate and objective information about a broad range of programs and services to help people evaluate the various options available. Through the assistance of the DRC, customers can identify resources in their communities and make informed decisions about long term care. This allows customers to conserve their personal resources, maintain self-sufficiency and delay or prevent the need for potentially expensive long-term care. The DRC also serves as the single access point for publicly-funded long-term care, including Family Care and IRIS.

The DRC is responsible for providing information and assistance and benefits counseling which includes access to Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, and other benefits such as Food

Share. It also provides access to emergency response services, adult protective services, transitional services for youth, long-term care options counseling, and access to the Family Care benefit or other publicly-funded, long-term care options (i.e. partnership PACE and IRIS-Self Directed Supports service models).

Staff from the DRC meets with customers to assess their needs and determine eligibility for long term care programs, including Family Care, Partnership, PACE and IRIS. These programs provide long-term care services to help customers live safely and successfully in the community and prevent admission into nursing homes or other institutional settings. Staff reviews program choices with customers and then enrolls them into one of the programs.

The State contract for 2019 reflects a base award in State General Purpose Revenue (GPR) of \$2,074,753 to operate the DRC for the period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019. This allocation has been the same since 2013. It should also be noted that DSD has continued to perform very well in earning federal Medical Assistance (MA) match revenue through activity reporting. This revenue along with county tax levy have been critical to funding the overall DRC budget.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or her designee, to enter into a contract with DHS to operate the Disability Resource Center in an amount of \$2,074,753 for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 and to accept any addenda to this contract.

Fiscal Effect

The 2019 budget includes the \$2,074,753 in revenue for the Disability Resource Center. A fiscal note form is attached.



Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
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