(Item 19-192) From the Superintendent – Milwaukee County House of Correction, recommending approval of the HOC’s request for authority to enter into a contract with Wellpath, LLC for the provision of a comprehensive and cost-effective program of medical, dental, and mental health services, compliant with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care’s (NCCHC’s) standards and the Christensen Consent Decree, as well as authority to utilize an independent third-party pharmacy through the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP) to provide pharmaceuticals, to all inmates housed in the Milwaukee County Jail and House of Correction.

# A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in 2018, with support from the Department of Administrative Services - Procurement Division, the House of Correction and Milwaukee County Sheriff’s Office issued a Request for Proposals for a Correctional Medical Services provider for a new contract for health care services in the Jail and HOC beginning in 2019 (RFP 98180020: Correctional Medical Services); and,

WHEREAS; additional detail regarding the RFP is available in File #5 and was provided to the Judiciary Committee in the October 18, 2018 and November 16, 2018 informational reports, and to the Finance & Audit Committee in the December 6, 2018 informational report; and,

WHEREAS; RFP 98180020: Correctional Medical Services was issued on July 20, 2018; and,

WHEREAS; the RFP closed for submissions on September 14, 2018; and,

WHEREAS; following evaluation by an Evaluation Committee comprised of County medical, correctional operations, legal, risk, and fiscal professionals, the Evaluation Committee recommended award of the RFP to Wellpath, LLC; and,

WHEREAS; Wellpath, LLC is a new entity formed from the combined Correct Care Solutions and Correctional Medical Group Companies. Each subsidiary retains its own operations. Wellpath states its vision as “transform[ing] healthcare through innovative public/private healthcare partnerships” and emphasizes “the importance of putting patients first and providing high-quality care to an often overlooked population,”; and,

WHEREAS; the proposed contract with Wellpath will include obligations from the following documents: the Christensen Consent Decree; the NCCHC standards; the RFP and all RFP documents;  Wellpath’s Health Care Staffing Plan/Matrix; Wellpath’s Proposal in response to the County’s RFP; and Wellpath’s Cost Proposal in response to the County’s RFP. and,

WHEREAS; the contract represents more than 1,500 pages of specific obligations, detailing patient care requirements, staffing requirements, accreditation requirements and other standards; and,

WHEREAS; some highlights from the Proposal and new contract include: Inclusion of reference to NCCHC standards as an integral part of the contract, rather than as a passive, outside requirement to be met. Standards are now the primary basis for care, and accreditation is a result of improved standards, rather than a minimum bar to be met; Identification of specific timeframes and high-priority items (such as health assessments, sick call, priorities of care, refusal documentation, etc) in the contract terms; Accreditation requirements:  Wellpath must obtain NCCHC Accreditation within 18 months of entry to the facility, or face fines and penalties. While some accreditation items are the responsibility of the County (such as custody and facility related requirements), the new contract requires Wellpath to provide a monthly report identifying any and all compliance concerns with NCCHC standards, regardless of whether they are medical or custody related, and additionally requires that the report advise the County if action is needed by the County, and if so, what actions are necessary to bring the item into compliance. Technological improvements: ERMA – Wellpath’s fully-hosted electronic health record system. This system is owned, developed, and operated by Wellpath, with no servers required on-site at the County. It can interface with ProPhoenix, our Jail Management Software, to allow real-time insights to County staff on the status of inmate-patients and improve the intake process.     Requirement that Wellpath contract with and use WISHIN, the Wisconsin Statewide Health Information Network, to ensure continuity of care upon an inmate-patient’s release from the facilities; Requirement that Wellpath interface with Clinical Solutions, the third-party pharmacy provider, through a bi-directional interface. Wellpath already works with Clinical Solutions at other facilities and has a functional interface with Clinical Solutions’ systems ready; Use of the Patient Activity Monitoring Management application (PAMM), an advanced patient monitoring system that uses computer tablets and the application to better document wellness checks, segregation rounds, patient observations, and other cell-side treatments. PAMM will increase auditability of Wellpath’s actions and substantially reduce concerns about falsification or inaccuracy of records by making real-time updates to ERMA through Wi-Fi. Pictures of patients are captured at the time of treatment for additional auditability, and PAMM data will be made available through a performance dashboard to allow facility administration to have real-time access to the data. Staffing requirements as stated in the RFP, including related penalties for failure to meet staffing requirements; Improved reporting requirements and amendment requirements, allowing County greater control over the type and timing of reports and ensuring that all requests made by the Court Monitor are reviewed and approved by facility administration; and    Improved insurance requirements, designed to cover the County in the case of emergency or lawsuit; and,

WHEREAS; the contract awarded is for a period of two (2) years, with eight (8) optional one (1) year renewal periods; and,

WHEREAS; the total cost of these services is $19,573,982 for the first year; and,

WHEREAS; the total cost of these services for the full two year term is $39,735,183.00;

WHEREAS; the total cost of these services for five years of service will be $103,920,927.00; and

WHEREAS; in addition to the costs above, the County will pay $750,000 a year directly toward pharmacy costs, and will engage an independent, third-party TBE pharmacy provider (Clinical Solutions) that is part of the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP); and

WHEREAS; once the $750,000 cap is exceeded, Wellpath will be responsible for 75% of all additional pharmacy costs (if any) and the County will be responsible for the remaining 25% of additional pharmacy costs (if any); now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Superintendent of the Milwaukee County House of Correction is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Wellpath, LLC (“Wellpath”) for the provision of a comprehensive and cost-effective program of medical, dental, and mental health services, compliant with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care’s (NCCHC’s) standards and the Christensen Consent Decree, as well as authority to utilize an independent third-party pharmacy through the Minnesota Multistate Contracting Alliance for Pharmacy (MMCAP) to provide pharmaceuticals, to all inmates housed in the Milwaukee County Jail and House of Correction.