

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: March 22, 2019

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

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by David Muhammad, Deputy Director, DHHS

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting approval of a community benefit agreement charter for the Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY)**

Background

In March 2018, the Wisconsin State Legislature adopted Act 185 paving the way for the development of local alternatives to Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake. Act 185 directs the closure of Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake for use as youth correctional facilities by January 1, 2021 and authorizes County-operated Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth (SRCCCYs). Under Act 185, DOC maintains supervision over juveniles with adult court sentences and youth in the Serious Juvenile Offender Program (SJOP), but the supervision of youth under other correctional placements is now transferred to the counties.

Under the Act, the State Building Commission can authorize up to a total of \$40 million statewide to counties for the planning and construction of these facilities. To qualify for the funds, counties must submit grant applications to the Juvenile Corrections Grant Committee in DOC by March 31, 2019. The Grant Committee then makes grant recommendations to the State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee no later than July 1, 2019.

In November, the Milwaukee County Board adopted File No. 18-633 authorizing the creation of a capital project for the SRCCCY with a budget of \$3 million. An additional \$500,000 was approved (File No. 19-235) as part of a transfer from DHHS' 2018 operating surplus increasing the total budget to \$3.5 million. This capital project enables DHHS to move forward on the planning and design for a local facility so that Milwaukee County youth can be closer to their families. In addition, the County Board approved the submittal of Milwaukee County's application (File No. 19-236) in March.

As part of this project, DHHS has been engaging the community not only on the location of the facility but also on creating a meaningful commitment to individual, community and system change. For this reason, the department has developed a charter outlining its commitment to the community.

Discussion

The purpose of the charter is to guide the planning and implementation of the SRCCCY facility construction and operations. All aspects of this project will reflect a meaningful commitment to individual, community and system change. As part of this charter, DHHS is committed to the following principles in the SRCCCY design and construction process:

- **SRCCCY Design – Meeting the Vision through Good Design Practices:** This involves providing a safe, healing and restorative learning environment. The sustainable design will also encourage regular interaction between residents and staff to improve overall well-being.
- **Construction - Eliminating Racial and Gender Disparities with Construction Jobs:** The SRCCCY construction process and all contracts will be structured and reviewed for their ability to meet the following objectives:
 - SRCCCY construction and project management will include measures for equity in hiring and contracting.
 - Milwaukee County Community Business Development Partners (CBDP) has established a Targeted Business Enterprise (TBE) aggregate goal of 25 percent participation.
 - CBDP will provide any bid submittal training for TBE firms not familiar with the Milwaukee County process and make available its Revolving Loan program to assist TBE firms in need of working capital for the SRCCCY project.
 - SRCCCY facility construction will adopt recruitment, hiring and retention practices that connect residents to jobs at SRCCCY. This will include encouraging community workforce partners to host recruitment/pre-screening activities in low-income areas, consistent with Milwaukee County's 50 percent residency requirement on construction projects.
 - Without compromising safety and security, the SRCCCY project team will make best efforts to provide access to jobs for those with barriers to employment such as a criminal record and contract with small, community-based providers.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** The SRCCCY project team will report outcomes to community partners and stakeholders in an agreed upon process to ensure ongoing commitment to accountability and transparency. This will include dis-aggregate workforce and contracting demographics to be reported to the public.
- **Operations:** The SRCCCY's design will be culturally receptive to the youth and families being served and staff will be trained in youth development principles, culturally responsive curricula, restorative practice, and trauma-informed care, in alignment with DHHS' practice model.

DHHS is committed to convening ongoing meetings of community stakeholders to agree upon a Community Engagement Process to include ongoing engagement and solicitation of feedback from community residents and stakeholders throughout the building, programmatic planning, and operations of the SRCCCY.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approve the accompanying resolution authorizing DHHS to convene ongoing meetings of community stakeholders to agree upon a Community Engagement Process to include ongoing engagement and solicitation of feedback from community residents and stakeholders throughout the building, programmatic planning, and operations of the SRCCCY.

Fiscal Impact

Approval of the community benefits agreement has no fiscal impact. A fiscal note is attached.



Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Hon. Maxine A. White, Chief Judge
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
County Supervisor James "Luigi" Schmitt
County Supervisor Supreme Moore-Omokunde
Teig Whaley-Smith, Director, DAS
Joseph Lamers, Director – Office of Performance, Strategy & Budget
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office
Lisa Wozny, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office