

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: September 27, 2019

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

FROM: Mary Jo Meyers, Director, Department of Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, providing an update on the status of developing and entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City of Milwaukee to provide doulas to 50 women in the 53206 zip code**

Issue

In May, the Milwaukee County Board adopted Resolution File No. 19-306 authorizing and directing the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to partner with the appropriate department at the City of Milwaukee to enter into a joint pilot program to provide doulas to 50 women in the 53206 zip code and authorizing the Department of Administrative Services to transfer \$52,000 from the Unallocated Appropriation for Contingencies to an Allocated Account in the Appropriation of Contingencies.

The resolution also authorized DHHS to develop and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the City of Milwaukee. The resolution indicated that DHHS would report back to the County Board on the status of this MOA and seek approval of an appropriation transfer to DHHS of \$52,000 from the contingency account.

Discussion

Over the last few months, DHHS has met and worked with City of Milwaukee Health Department staff along with respective legal counsel to draft a MOA. This MOA outlines the expectations of the pilot program and conforms with requirements identified in Resolution File No. 19-306. A copy of the MOA is included as an attachment to this report.

Funding from Milwaukee County would support doula reimbursements at an estimated cost of \$1,040 per woman for a total of 50 women. County funding will only be used for doula reimbursement, not the cost of administering the program.

In conformance with this resolution, DHHS has submitted an appropriation fund transfer for the October cycle seeking \$52,000 from the Appropriation for Contingencies to DHHS's operating budget. These funds will be used to reimburse the City of Milwaukee to fund doula services for 50 women in the 53206-zip code.

As required by the authorizing resolution, the MOA indicates that prior to the release of funds from the County to the City, the Milwaukee Health Department will provide a report identifying how the effectiveness of the program will be evaluated, the timeline for doing so, and the projected long-term need. The City will monitor and provide an assessment of the efficacy of the doula pilot program and, in conjunction with the DHHS, report back to both the County and the City on the same.

Recommendation

This report is informational and no action is required.

Fiscal Impact

Per Resolution File No. 19-306, DHHS has submitted an appropriation fund transfer for approval under a separate file in the October cycle. The pilot doula program would be funded by \$52,000 transferred from the Appropriation for Contingencies to DHHS.



Mary Jo Meyers, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

Attachment (1)

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Sup. James "Luigi" Schmitt, Chair, Finance Committee
Sup. Supreme Moore-Omokunde, Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee
Raisa Koltun, County Executive's Office
Teig Whaley-Smith, DAS Director
Kelly Bablitch, County Board
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director – Comptroller's Office
Pam Matthews, Budget Analyst - DAS