

MILWAUKEE COUNTY
HOUSE OF CORRECTION

DATE: September 22, 2020

TO: Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson., Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jose Hernandez, Interim Superintendent, Milwaukee County House of Correction

SUBJECT: From the Interim Superintendent, House of Correction, requesting authorization to execute a multi-year service agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) and to receive revenue in the approximate amount of \$230,000 a year by allowing DOC inmates to utilize the Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center for a daily fee starting on October 1, 2020 with five, one-year renewal options beginning on January 1, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Milwaukee County House of Correction manages the professional services contract for the Milwaukee County Day Reporting Center (DRC) and would like to extend the services provided at the DRC by Wisconsin Community Services to Department of Corrections' inmates. The proposed agreement will provide DRC programs to male correctional clients who have been convicted in adult court, are referred by the Department of Corrections, and are under DOC supervision for the duration of services.

Treatment and intervention strategies for the program will include at a minimum: chemical dependence and substance abuse education; the effects of dependency/abuse on participants' lives; social skills training; self-control training, development of a recovery plan; and relapse prevention skills training using cognitive intervention strategies. Additional services, as deemed appropriate, may include: restorative justice/community service participation; personalized education plans and work towards GED; and, attending groups for parenting, independent living skills and employment readiness. Individuals will be seen for counseling and further clinical services as needed.

Additional programming options may be provided through HOC approved subcontracts that WCS has with qualified community providers. These service partners of WCS include, but are not limited to, subcontracts that WCS has with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) for education services, and The Parenting Network for parenting group services.

The DOC will track their participants being served at the DRC, which they are calling Men's Community Transition Services Center (MCTSC). As such, they require DRC staff delivering services to correctional clients to also prepare for and cooperate with evaluation efforts initiated by the DOC including long-term results of correctional clients discharged from the MCTSC program.

It is requested that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approve the House of Correction's request to enter into this agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections starting October 1, 2020. The contract could then be renewed for 2021 and for optional calendar years, thereafter.

Recently, the DOC lost institutional funding for just over 200 placements for programs and services in a confined setting and are seeking programming alternatives rather than returning to custody. Therefore, it was requested, if Milwaukee County would consider increasing the use of the MCDRC for up to 24 more participants as an Alternative to Revocation (ATR) for clients in the community. However, the DOC requires a commitment to get this program up and running by December 1, 2020, as they have a limited number of Alternative to Revocation programs within our region. Without providing these treatment-based services to State clients of whom are residents of Milwaukee County communities, it will limit resources available to prevent the reincarceration of those in community-based programs.

RECOMMENDATION

I, as Interim Superintendent of the House of Correction, respectfully submit this action item to request the authority to enter an agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. Should this item be referred to committee, presenters from the House of Correction in addition to me, will be Captain Brandon Hutchins, and the HOC's Fiscal Administrator, June Jackson. Representatives from the DOC and WCS will be present, as well. Namely, Holly Akinsanya, DOC Contract Administrator and Sara Carpenter, WCS' Associate Executive Director.

FISCAL NOTE

Wisconsin Community Services, Inc., has agreed to manage the Day Reporting Center for another year for the same annual price of \$794,244 as in 2020. The HOC's 2021 budget request includes sufficient funds for this contract. The estimated revenue of \$230,000 was included in the HOC's 2021 budget request. A Fiscal Note form was completed with further details.

With approval of up to 24 more participants, the revenue to the County from this partnership with DOC and WCS could double to a total of about \$460,000 a year. To accommodate 24 more participants above the initial commitment of 20, additional staff (e.g., group facilitator, substance-use counselor) may be required at the DRC. Therefore, a request is now being made to increase the contract with WCS to manage the DRC by up to \$150,000 a year for possible staffing increases in order to accept and generate the additional revenue from up to 24 more participants. The approval of this additional program will allow DOC and WCS to work towards placing up to 24 clients at the DRC who would otherwise face the possibility of being reincarcerated removing the possibility of implementing restorative treatment-based programs to deter recidivism, due to a lack of community-based program alternatives that are available.

Respectfully submitted,

Jose Hernandez

Jose Hernandez, Interim Superintendent
Milwaukee County House of Correction