

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: December 31, 2020

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

FROM: Shakita LaGrant McClain, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Marietta Luster, Administrator, Disabilities Services Division

SUBJECT: **Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to amend 2020 Disabilities Services Division purchase of service contracts with Birth to 3 agencies**

Issue

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), is requesting authorization for DHHS to amend 2020 purchase of service (POS) contracts with the Birth to 3 provider agencies within the Disabilities Services Division (DSD).

Background and Rationale

The Birth to 3 Program is an entitlement and provides critical early intervention services to children age zero to three years who demonstrate developmental delays. Provided services are critical to the identification of early intervention strategies that can assist children to reach their maximum potential and actively participate in their communities. Services delivered by this program are provided by contracted community-based agencies that have significant expertise in this area.

Birth to 3 services continue to be invaluable to families who have a child with a developmental delay. Provider agencies are key partners in the process through the delivery of effective early intervention services in partnership with families and Milwaukee County.

Discussion

The County Board approved 2020 allocations to Birth to 3 agencies under Files 19-886 and 20-231 for a total of \$4,887,615. As part of its ongoing monitoring and contract oversight, DHHS identified underspending in the provider contract with St. Francis. St. Francis is projected to be underspent by about \$65,000 due to an ongoing staff vacancy.

The recommended contract amendments as shown below would reallocate \$65,000 in underspending from the contract with St. Francis to the Milwaukee Center for Independence

(MCFI) and Penfield Children’s Center. Both Penfield and MCFI actually overspent their contracts in 2020 and the \$65,000 was allocated based on the percentage of the providers’ 2020 projected overspending compared to their base 2020 contract.

Agency	2020 Contract	2020 Recommended Amendment	Adjusted 2020 Contract
Curative	\$2,245,972	\$0	\$2,245,972
Milwaukee Center for Independence	\$557,117	\$40,124	\$597,241
Penfield Children’s Center	\$1,494,772	\$24,876	\$1,519,648
St. Francis	\$589,754	(\$65,000)	\$524,754
Total	\$4,887,615	\$0	\$4,887,615

These contract adjustments are necessary to maintain compliance with a federal Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement. As part of the MOE, DHHS must sustain a county funding threshold of at least \$2,289,182. This means that the total financial commitment in county funds such as tax levy, Potawatomi, and Basic County Allocation (BCA) must be maintained to this level. Otherwise, the State makes a commensurate reduction to Milwaukee County’s Birth to 3 allocation of \$2,685,321.

It also should be noted that agencies will need to maintain compliance with federal indicators to keep pace with the high number of new referrals. In addition, DSD will conduct ongoing monitoring of agency performance on quality Birth to 3 measures including the annual parental survey and family outcomes.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or her designee, to increase 2020 purchase of service contracts in the amounts specified in the above table and detailed on the attached resolution.

Fiscal Impact

Funding for these purchase of service contract increases is included in DSD’s 2020 Adopted Budget. There is no additional tax levy impact associated with this request. A fiscal note form is attached.


Shakita LaGrant-McClain, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

cc: County Executive David Crowley
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee
Chair, Health & Human Needs Committee
Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
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