OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER

***Milwaukee County***

DATE: May 21, 2021

TO: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Brian L. Peterson, MD, Medical Examiner

SUBJECT: Request authorization for the Medical Examiner to execute an Agreement with Medical College of Wisconsin to develop an Overdose Public Health and Safety Team (OD-PHAST) within Milwaukee County (File No. 21-525)

**Policy Issue**

Per Wis. Stat. §59.52(31)(c), contracts with an aggregate value of more than $300,000 may take effect only if the contract is approved by a vote of the County Board. In accordance with this statute, the Medical Examiner is requesting County Board approval of a contract with the Medical College of Wisconsin.

**Background**

Milwaukee County, with an estimated population of 945,726 leads Wisconsin counties in the count and rate of overdose deaths. To illustrate, from 2014-2019, the opioid overdose fatality rate in Milwaukee County was 30.3 per 100,000 persons, more than twice the Wisconsin rate of 13.4 per 100,000. To address this issue the Medical Examiner’s Office, in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin, was selected to receive a $1.2 million award from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance under the Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) Site-Based Program for a 36-month period beginning October 1, 2020.

The Medical Examiner’s Office is requesting authorization to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with the Medical College of Wisconsin for the provision of services to establish a Milwaukee County Overdose Public Health and Safety Team (OD-PHAST) which will bring key partners together for regular review and analysis of data and key metrics in order to identify data-driven strategies for addressing the changing dynamic of overdose and substance use trends.

The contract is from March 1, 2021 through October 1, 2023 with anticipated expenditures to the Medical College of Wisconsin in the amount of $1,022,487. The remaining funds are budgeted to the Medical Examiner’s Office to cover personnel expenses.

**Recommendation**

This Agreement is submitted for County Board approval.

**Committee Action**

This report should be referred to and reviewed by the Committee on Finance for action.



Brian L. Peterson, MD

Medical Examiner

Attachments

Cc: Supervisor Jason Haas, Chairperson, Finance Committee

David Crowley, County Executive

Finance Committee Members

Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board

Mary Jo Meyers, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive

Aaron Hertzberg, Director, Department of Administrative Services

Steve Cady, Research & Policy Director, Research Services Division, Office of the

Comptroller

Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator, Office of the County Clerk

Janelle Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk