

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: June 25, 2021

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Cassandra Libal, Director, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Subject: Milwaukee County Chief Health Policy Advisor

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

This report describes the County's need for a Chief Health Policy Advisor and recommends the establishment of such a position on a contract basis for a one-year period.

POLICY

This report does not correspond to any statutes, ordinances, budgets or capital projects.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic amplified Milwaukee County's role in pandemic response, health promotion and healthy equity.

As the County became highly visible in emergency coordination and response, so did the importance of a health advisor operating under the contract between Agency and County for services, given the nature of the response.

In addition, in order to realize the County's vision of achieving racial equity to become the healthiest county in Wisconsin, a Chief Health Policy Advisor is needed to provide expertise to County leaders in advancing the County's strategic plan. The County currently needs additional capacity and capabilities in this vein in order to meet the significant need for such expertise to guide decision-making at all levels.

The scope of a health advisor would be distinct in scope from other established health and medical roles in the County.

Furthermore, roles and responsibilities that have demonstrated value over this past year that are not part of the usual scope of health and medical roles in the County include:

- becoming a voice and face for the County internally and externally around

- COVID-19 and broader health promotion, consulting with public and private entities across the region on health promotion, disease prevention, and equity, and
- leading strategies that have demonstrated value across the region, state, and beyond, such as the county dashboard, SAFER Model, and EVE Model, to pair racial/ethnic equity with health equity in a meaningful, impactful, and measurable way

Given this background, this report recommends the funding of one-year pilot of a Chief Health Policy Advisor.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

- 1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government
- 1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
- 1C: Increase the number of County contracts awarded to minority and women-owned businesses
- 2A: Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity
- 2B: Break down silos across County government to maximize access to and quality of services offered
- 2C: Apply a racial equity lens to all decisions
- 3A: Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities
- 3B: Enhance the County’s fiscal health and sustainability
- 3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

Establishing a Milwaukee County Chief Health Policy Advisor will enhance the ability of County leaders to advance objectives 2A, “Determine what, where, and how we deliver services to advance health equity” & 3A, “Invest “upstream” to address root causes of health disparities.”

This role will provide direct guidance and expertise to support the creation of deliverables under development by the Service Alignment Strategy Team (responsible for overseeing objectives 2A & 3A), including the Milwaukee County Service Inventory, the Milwaukee County Needs Assessment and Asset Map, and the Milwaukee County Public Health Research Project.

In addition, the Chief Health Policy Advisor will collaborate with the Office on African American Affairs to provide direct guidance and support to departments as they operationalize objectives 2A and 3A at the department level.

FISCAL EFFECT

The one-year cost of the Chief Health Policy Advisor contract is \$108,233.33. From this amount, the estimated cost for 2021 is \$45,097.22 and the estimated cost for 2022 is \$63,136.11.

The contract is proposed to be funded with previously authorized funds under File 20-

937, which authorized the use of \$5.0 million of reserve funds to provide financing for COVID-19 related needs.

TERMS

The duration of this contract will be from August 2021 until July 2022.

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Cassandra Libal, Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM)
Dr. Ben Weston, Medical Director, Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

PREPARED BY:

Isaac Rowlett, Strategic Planning Director, Milwaukee County

APPROVED BY: *Cassandra Libal*

Cassandra Libal, Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

ATTACHMENTS:

Chief Health Policy Advisor Resolution
Fiscal Note

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk