

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
Inter-Office Communication

Date: July 14, 2021

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

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

Subject: Report from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, requesting authorization to release funding from contingency for youth justice reform efforts as well as enter into professional services contracts for the period of August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021

File Type: Action

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**REQUEST**

The Director, Department of Health and Human Services, is requesting authorization to release \$500,000 in funding being held in contingency as part of the 2021 Budget as well as enter into professional services agreements effective August 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 with the following agencies:

The Academy for Transformational Change	\$127,500
Prism Economic Development Corporation	\$126,000
Milwaukee Turners	<u>\$246,500</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>

**POLICY**

Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	1A020
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**BACKGROUND**

As part of the 2021 DHHS Adopted Budget, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved budget amendment, 1A020, which appropriated \$500,000 to an allocated contingency account in the Division of Youth and Family Services (DYFS). This allocation is intended to support youth justice reform efforts and provide expanded community alternatives for youth. The amendment further directed DHHS to submit a plan to the County Board of Supervisors to release this funding.

The following contracts are being proposed by DYFS:

- **\$126,000 to Prism Economic Development Corporation:** This agency will partner with the Shular Institute to establish a culinary arts education and training institute for youth and young adults who are or have been involved in the justice system. Funds will support start-up costs, training for the lead chef at the Shular Institute in Atlanta, GA, and salary for a lead chef/trainer for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. Shular Institute is a minority-owned and operated culinary institute that works with youth and young people in Atlanta with a head chef who is originally from Milwaukee. Classes would begin in early 2022.

The Prism/Shular partnership will solicit matching funds from private donors for scholarships and ongoing operational costs. The program will also be incorporated into the DYFS provider network so that tuition can be paid for justice system-involved youth if there is no scholarship available. This program will interface with the proposed culinary arts program which currently is in the development stage within the Vel R. Phillips Youth Detention Center. This will allow youth who start the program in Detention to continue their training when they are released into the community.

- **\$127,500 to the Academy for Transformational Change (ATC):** This agency will support the continuous improvement and ongoing development of community-based providers to include Credible Messengers. ATC is owned and operated by two minority owners who conduct similar work throughout New York and Washington D.C. This work includes a Balanced and Restorative Justice Training Academy for community-based providers and DYFS direct care staff, a System Building for Transformational Change series of trainings to build the capacity and strengths of community-focused youth engagement strategies, and a Transform to Change Academy for up to 50 community providers of Credible Messengers and staff to focus on transformative mentoring movements.

These efforts will be supported on an ongoing basis through a Train-the-Trainer component in which ATC will train selected DYFS and community-based providers in the facilitation of the Transform to Change Academy.

- **\$246,500 to the Milwaukee Turners:** The Milwaukee Turners will serve as an anchor agency to establish a community-driven process to distribute public and private funds to small, local, youth-serving agencies to address community concerns and meet the needs of justice involved youth and families. County funds committed to this initiative will be matched up to \$200,000 by the Public Welfare Foundation (PWF), a national philanthropic organization located in Washington, DC. Milwaukee Turners is a non-profit organization working for social justice and strengthening the Milwaukee community.

PWF and Milwaukee Turners will seek additional matching funds from local philanthropic organizations. This initiative will be the first step in pursuing the DHHS strategic goal of establishing participatory budgeting that includes community members and

stakeholders in determining use of funds. It will advance our efforts at community engagement and accountability. At least 90% of county funds will go directly to community-based agencies for direct service of youth and families. As much as 10% could be used for administrative costs for Milwaukee Turners.

### **ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

DYFS proposes to use the contingency funds toward the ongoing development of community-based programming for justice-involved youth and their families through three innovative initiatives, all of which support the zero-youth corrections plan. All of these initiatives are occurring in the Milwaukee community and are focused not only on the youth but also their families. This programming meets the youth where they are in unique ways that are individualized to their needs.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, or her designee, to utilize \$500,000 in contingency funding for the services identified in the accompanying resolution. The effective date of the contracts would be the period of August 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

### **FISCAL EFFECT**

There is no tax levy impact. The 2021 DHHS Adopted Budget includes \$500,000 in an allocated contingency account in the DYFS budget.

### **TERMS**

The professional services agreements would be effective August 1, 2021 and end December 31, 2021.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES**

Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director  
Mark Mertens, DYFS Administrator  
Clare O'Brien, DHHS Budget & Operations Manager

### **PREPARED BY:**

Mark Mertens, DYFS Administrator

### **APPROVED BY:**

  
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, DHHS Director

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

cc: County Executive David Crowley  
Sup. Jason Haas, Chair, Finance Committee  
Sup. Felesia Martin, Chair, Health Equity, Human Needs, & Strategic Planning Committee  
MaryJo Meyers, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office  
Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Steve Cady, Research Director, Comptroller's Office  
Pam Matthews, Fiscal & Management Analyst, DAS  
Lottie Maxwell-Mitchell, Research & Policy Analyst, Comptroller's Office