COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: January 10, 2013

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman – Milwaukee County Board

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Paula Lucey, Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: **Report, from the Director, Department of Health and Human Services, Requesting Authorization to enter into a Retroactive Purchase of Service Contract with M&S Clinical Services for the Families Moving Forward Coalition**

Issue

Section 46.09 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances requires County Board approval for the purchase of human services from nongovernmental vendors. No contract or contract adjustment shall take effect until approved by resolution of the County Board. Per Section 46.09, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is requesting authorization to execute a purchase of service contract with M&S Clinical Services to function as the fiscal agent for the Families Moving Forward Coalition and to retroactively establish this contract from December 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

Discussion

For people of color seeking behavioral health services, the quality of the services they receive may be negatively affected by the lack of cultural sensitivity in service delivery. The 2003 President's New Freedom Commission report indicates that because of the lack of cultural sensitivity, people of color may not seek services in the formal system, cannot access treatment, drop out of care, are misdiagnosed, or seek care only when their illness is at an advanced stage. The Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force has placed great emphasis on the environment needed for effective service delivery and denoted, "Therapeutic and welcoming environments in which individuals receive care that is timely, accessible, culturally competent, person-centered, co-occurring, and trauma-informed should characterize the system." The Families Moving Forward Coalition has presented a comprehensive proposal to the Behavioral Health Division (BHD) for the use of the Community Reinvestment funds specifically addressing the needs of African American consumers and families through the delivery of six behavioral health preventative interventions strategies. Families Moving Forward is a community of concerned service providers that are dedicated to the empowerment of families and individuals by providing collaborative strength based services designed to improve their quality of life. Families Moving Forward (FMF) will ensure that consumers receive holistic enhanced quality care from our agencies using a collaborative network that will result in a healthier Milwaukee.

BHD is requesting that $178,100 be allocated to M&S Clinical Services, serving as the fiscal agent for the various FMF members, as noted below, to provide the following services and programs to the Milwaukee community:

1. INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Empathetic Counseling is proposing a partnership with the Wisconsin Alliance for Infant Mental Health to disseminate information to new parents regarding the social and emotional development of infants and young children. The goal of infant mental health is for infants and young children to reach their fullest potential through nurturing and consistent relationships within the context of family, community, and their culture.

2. MENTORING PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN

WINGS International, Inc. (Working to Inspire, Nurture, and Grow for Service) provides supportive housing, violence prevention, and educational assistance for children who wish to earn their high school diploma. *WINGS International* is proposing an eight-week mentoring program for children ages 12 to 17 serving 50 children who are residing in their supported housing units. There will also be planned multi-cultural activities, emphasis on self-esteem, prevention of sexually transmitted disease, and HIV/AIDS prevention.

3. HEPATITIS C SCREENING AND AWARENESS PROGRAM

M&S Clinical Services in partnership with the Medical College of Wisconsin is proposing the development of a preventative health program to reduce the spread of Hepatitis C in the African American community. African Americans are twice as likely to be infected as Caucasians. The target areas for service delivery will be churches and other faith based institutions to offer the information and provide linkages to community health services for psycho-educational programs conducted by medical students.

4. THE SELF-REFLECTION PROGRAM

Urban DE Version, Inc., is proposing a violence prevention program by building emotional intelligence. The Self-Reflection Program will consist of self-awareness and regulation activities to promote mental wellness through positive social outlets, resources, and relationships. The evidence based Wise Guys and Master Game curricula will be used for personal development and serve as the building blocks for emotional intelligence.

5. F.U.T.U.R.E., INC.

Fathers Uniquely Thriving to Understand Responsibility and Education (FUTURE) Inc., is proposing to provide mentoring and supportive services to fathers between the ages of 18 – 25 who are currently on probation or parole so that they will become a financial, emotional and nurturing resource to their children. One of the primary goals of FUTURE is to enable young fathers to see the importance of the emotional needs of their children through attachment and bonding activities. There will be strong linkages to employment, housing, and behavioral health resources.

6. PREVENTING ABUSE/NEGLECT AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

West Care Wisconsin Harambee Community Center is proposing a 12-week violence prevention program that will serve 40 families and strive for whole family participation. There will be three program stages that include: health inner life, communication, and social skills; understanding children's emotional needs and appropriate responses; and, prevention of family and partner violence through conflict management and resolution strategies.

BHD is requesting a retroactive contract for M&S so that 2012 funds, which have been allocated for this within the BHD 2012 financials, can be allocated. All services will be provided to consumers and community members in 2013.

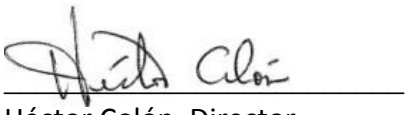
Fiscal Effect

Funds for this program have been allocated from the Mental Health Community Investment initiative in 2012. This is one-time funding as these funds have been allocated elsewhere for 2013. There is no net tax levy impact in 2013 as a result of this action. A fiscal note form is attached.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorize the Director, DHHS, or his designee, to issue a purchase of service contract to M&S Clinical Services to act as the fiscal agent and lead organizing agency for the Families Moving Forward Coalition for $178,100 retroactively for the time period of December 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,



Héctor Colón, Director
Department of Health and Human Services

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