COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Behavioral Health Division Administration
Inter-Office Communication

DATE: July 1, 2013

TO: Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairperson, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Héctor Colón, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Prepared by Kathie Eilers, Interim Administrator, Behavioral Health Division

SUBJECT: **Report on the Status of the Programs Funded Through the 2013 Planning Council Contract Related to the Mental Health Redesign Initiative and Requesting Authorization to Allow the Planning Council to Release $200,000 in funding for Additional Supportive Housing Units**

Issue

In October 2012, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Behavioral Health Division (BHD) received authority from the County Board (File 12-709) to enter into a professional services contract with Planning Council for Health and Human Services starting November 1, 2012 through December 31, 2013 for $1,114,290 to provide specific programs related to the Mental Health Redesign Initiative. The programs were Peer Pipeline Initiative, Step-Down Housing Alternative, Case Management Expansion, Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment and Supportive Housing Units. BHD is now returning to the Board to provide an informational update on the progress of each program and to request that $200,000 in funding be released for additional supportive housing units.

Discussion

The BHD and the Division of Housing have worked with providers and The Planning Council to address the items that were approved for funding by the County Board of Supervisors related to the activities approved as part of the Community Reinvestment and Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force. To date the following activities have been completed or are planned for completion during 2013 in support of the approved action by the Board.

1. **Peer Pipeline Initiative**: In March 2013, BHD brought a report to the Board (File 13-202) to dedicate $200,000 in funding for the Peer Pipeline Initiative. BHD, in partnership with various stakeholders including the State Department of Health Services, provider organizations, advocacy groups, and Certified Peer Specialists is working directly with Horizon Healthcare, Inc., Office of Consumer Affairs to implement the Certified Peer Specialist Pipeline Program including the following activities:
    a. Conducting multiple training sessions for individuals in becoming certified peer specialists, including a specialized training for bi-lingual Spanish speaking peers.

b. Continuing education training for certified peer specialists to complete their ongoing training requirement.
c. Creation of a website to be used as a clearinghouse for employment opportunities for job seekers and a central location for employers to post job opportunities.
d. Hosting a summit to specifically train employers on the newly created Employer Tool Kit. The tool kit was developed by Access to Independence (ATI) to address concerns and strategies for hiring and employing CPS' from the employer's perspective.
e. Instituting the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) developed by Mary Ellen Copeland and delivered by the Copeland Institute in Milwaukee County.

2. **Case Management Services:** In March, BHD requested $100,000 in funding for Bell Therapy/Phoenix Health Care for Targeted Case Management (TCM) Level I services (File #13-206). The contract with Bell Therapy/Phoenix Healthcare created an additional 50 slots for TCM Level I care. In addition, BHD also requested $25,000 for Milwaukee Mental Health Associates for Recovery Case Management to pilot a less intensive level of TCM called Recovery Case Management for individuals who require case management services as a condition of their residential living arrangement such as shelter plus care, permanent supported housing or a supported apartment. Both of these programs have clients enrolled and are up and running in the community. Also requested (File #13-517), but not yet approved by the Board, as part of the Case Management appropriation is $275,000 for Community Recovery Services start-up costs for care coordination and related services.

3. **IPS (Individual Placement and Support):** IPS is an evidence-based practice approach that was developed by Dartmouth University to help promote the recovery of people who have serious mental illness through competitive jobs related to their employment preferences. There have been 16 randomized controlled trials (the gold standard in medical research) for IPS supported employment. In those trials, people who received IPS services were almost three times more likely to work in competitive employment than those who received other types of vocational services. The Community Linkages Action Team of the Mental Health Redesign and Implementation Task Force is currently reviewing a request for proposal to be released for agencies that desire infrastructure start-up to make IPS supported employment available at their agency. This RFP will be released in July 2013 and has $175,000 available for funds.

4. **Step-Down Housing Alternative:** In January 2013, The Division of Housing brought a report to the Board regarding the Pathways to Permanent Housing program (File #13-83). As part of that initiative, $104,937 has been spent on capital improvements for the units including furniture purchases for consumers as well as the final rehab of the common space. Final purchases and related invoices will be completed by the end of June.

To date, including all of the programs listed above, the Board has approved, or is pending approval of, a total of $879,937 in funding to be released from the original allocation for specific services.

The final program included in the original funding allocation is the addition of supportive housing units. BHD – Wraparound program and the Housing Division are working together on a joint initiative to develop a new supportive housing program for individuals aging out of foster care. BHD and the Division of Housing are now requesting $200,000 for the acquisition and rehab of housing units dedicated for these individuals. The development will include on-site supportive services such as peer specialists and case management. Applications from vendors are being accepted until June 24th and a panel will decide on funding. The contract will be awarded in early July. DHHS is asking that the funds be released now to ensure services will be available as soon as possible and funds will be expended this year. The specific vendor information will be available at the July committee meetings.

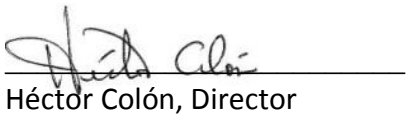
Fiscal Effect

The Housing Division will oversee the supportive housing units contract to ensure that the vendor adheres to the performance measures and contract administration requirements required by the Department of Health and Human Services. The total funds allocated to the Planning Council include $200,000 for this initiative therefore there is no tax levy impact. 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 allow the Planning Council to enter into an agreement with the specified vendor for $200,000 for the acquisition and rehab of housing units dedicated for individuals aging out of foster care for the time period of August 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,



Héctor Colón, Director
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