



David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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County HR Director Admits Difficulty in Hiring Jail Doctors

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Human Resources Director Kerry Mitchell, in an e-mail to the Sheriff's office, acknowledged that she has been unable to find competent doctors to fill vacant positions that are at the heart of a court battle in which Milwaukee County is attempting to prevent Sheriff David Clarke from his constitutional authority to run the jail.

Legal Aid, a criminal defendant advocate, Dr Ronald Shansky and Candice Owley, the head of the nurses union, have indicated that failing to fill these position has created a crisis in delivery of medical care and have accused Sheriff Clarke of "dragging his feet" to fill the positions. Sheriff Clarke indicated the difficulty in finding competent doctors who want to toil in a correctional setting and, over one year ago, attempted to hire Armor Correctional Services as a vendor to solve the problem. Milwaukee County has twice obstructed this solution.

Now, according to HR Director Mitchell, since she has been unable to find competent doctors to fill the vacancies she wants to hire a firm out of St. Louis, Missouri to conduct a search.

Statement from Sheriff Clarke:

"This makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. This will prolong the delay in filling these critical positions. I know nothing about this firm in St Louis, or if they have any experience in hiring for a jail environment, and am not willing to participate in a process that will hire someone that I ultimately will be responsible for under the law.

Armor Correctional Services could have had these positions filled one year ago, and now Milwaukee County wants to further delay the filling of the positions. If Milwaukee County got out of the way and let me run the jail, which is my duty and responsibility and one that I was elected to do, we could have this solved by the end of the week."

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Text of email:

Inspector Schmidt -- just a quick update for you on the hiring process for the Inmate Medical leadership positions.

Our strategy of seeking a few locum tenens to temporarily fill these positions, so we can then focus on the permanent search, is not working. All of our leads in the area of locums are not panning out. We are switching gears and looking at hiring an executive search firm that specializes in these types of positions. We met with a firm this week (Enterprise Medical -- St. Louis area), that sounds very promising. We are connecting with them next week to hopefully negotiate a contract and move forward.

To what degree would you like to be involved in reviewing the contract details? Also, once we hire a firm, we will want them up here to meet with pertinent individuals to gain an in-depth understanding of what our needs are, so they can target the search. Please give some thought to who you would like to participate in that process. I will reach out as we get closer.

Thanks.

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Executive Director of Human Resources
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