



JOE PARISI
DANE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Dane County **Department of Human Services**

Director – Lynn Green
1202 Northport Drive, Madison, WI 53704-2092
PHONE: (608) 242-6200 FAX: (608) 242-6293

January 23, 2019

Jim O'Keefe
City of Madison

Dear Jim:

I am writing to summarize the actions the Dane County Department of Human Services is taking to assure the service needs of the Southeast Asian population in Dane County are met, in particular those formerly served by Kajsiab House.

As you may know, the only funds that were in this program previously were from Medical Assistance (Medicaid) revenue. Since the time Journey Mental Health Center gave its notice to cease operations of Kajsiab House effective October 2018, the Dane County Board of Supervisors was committed to continuing these services. Jamie Kuhn, Chair of the Health and Human Needs Committee, introduced a resolution to add funds to prevent any lapse in services by enlisting the services of the Catholic Multicultural Center and the Hmong Institute. This resolution was passed by the full County Board.

In the last quarter of 2018, our Department contracted with the Hmong Institute to provide a supportive social setting that included an afternoon meal and light case management. The Catholic Multicultural Center agreed to provide space in its building for these daily services to take place. These agreements have continued into 2019. This year's obligations include \$50,000 that is designated for the Hmong Institute and \$8,000 that funds a space-sharing agreement with the Catholic Multicultural Center. In addition, our Department entered into a contract with Anesis Center for Marriage and Family Therapy to provide case management for those who qualify for crisis stabilization services, specifically to those who are of Southeast Asian descent. This contract will reimburse claims up to a maximum of \$460,000. The agreements with these three agencies are the only ones our Department has to specifically to serve the population formerly served by Kajsiab House.

All programming funds that our Department has in contracts are put out to open bid at least every five years. It is likely the earliest these services provided by the Hmong Institute and the Catholic Multicultural Center would go through the Request for Proposals (RFP) process is 2023 for contracts in 2024.

There are some individuals with ongoing mental health needs that may not qualify for crisis stabilization services. Those individuals may be able to be served through our Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program. Participants in this program are able to choose the agencies they work with but many of those in Hmong Kajsiab and in CCS are working with Anesis. Anesis also has a contract with Dane County as a CCS provider. The funds that Anesis receives from this work come by way of Medicaid reimbursement for provision of billable services such as case management and therapeutic activities. The amount of funding a CCS agency received is dependent on the amount of billable activity that can be generated.

Our commitment to serving the Southeast Asian community remains strong. We are pleased that the City of Madison feels the same way. In order for our funds to be most effective, it is crucial that the City and the County pool our resources. This will assure that there is a strong continuity of services to this part of our community.

Please do not hesitate to share this letter with policymakers at the City as you see fit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lynn Green".

Lynn Green
Director