

**LA CROSSE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LETTER OF AGREEMENT**

AGREEMENT NUMBER «**ContractID**»

**I. PARTIES:**

This Agreement is made and entered into this «**EffectiveDatePhrase**», by and between La Crosse County, a Wisconsin municipal body corporate represented by the La Crosse County Department of Human Services, hereinafter referred to as Purchaser, and «**VendorName**», hereinafter referred to as Provider. This agreement is to be effective for the period «**EffectiveDate**» through «**TerminateDate**».

**II. CONTACT PERSONS AND AGREEMENT ADMINISTRATORS:**

Purchaser's employee responsible for administration of this Agreement will be Jason Witt, whose principal business address is 300 4th Street N, La Crosse, WI 54601. Provider's employee responsible for administration of this Agreement is «**AdministratorName**», whose principal business address is «**StreetAddress**», «**CityName**», «**StateID**» «**ZipCode**». If either party changes its contract administrator, it will notify the other party of the name and address of the new contact person in writing within 10 days of the change.

**III. PURPOSE:**

It is understood that Purchaser has entered into contracts with various departments of the State of Wisconsin. The purpose of this contract is to formalize the terms and conditions of the Provider's services to eligible clients receiving authorized services.

**IV. STATUS OF PARTIES:**

- A. Purchaser and Provider agree that each acts in an independent capacity in the performance of this Agreement and not as an employee or agent of the other. Provider acknowledges responsibility for collection and payment of social security and other payroll taxes and expenses associated with contracting services with Purchaser.
- B. Nothing contained in this Agreement shall constitute or be construed to create a partnership or joint venture between the Purchaser and its successors or assigns and Provider or its successors or assigns. In entering into the Agreement and in acting in compliance herewith, Provider is at all times acting and performing as an independent Provider, duly authorized to perform the acts required of it hereunder.
- C. The Provider shall ensure that staff providing services are properly supervised and trained and that they meet all of the applicable licensing and certification requirements.

**V. PAYMENT FOR SERVICE:**

Purchaser agrees to pay Provider for the services provided in accordance with this agreement at the rate(s) specified in Appendix 1. Payment for Medicaid state plan services (as specified in s. 49.46 (2) Wis. Stats. and DHS 1.07 Wis. Admin. Code) for Medicaid recipients who are covered clients will occur through the Medicaid program in accordance with the Medicaid program policies and procedures.

- A. Provider agrees to bill Purchaser by the 5th of each month, but no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the time the services were provided, unless parties agree to a longer period of time **For the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program, payment of bills will be denied permanently unless received within 90-days from the time services were provided.** All billings and/or report of outstanding expenses shall be submitted to Purchaser no later than January 31st of the following year to be considered for payment.
- B. Provider agrees to bill Wisconsin Physicians Services (WPS) Health Insurance for services funded through Children's Long Term Support Waiver (CLTSW) Program as outlined in Appendix 12.
- C. Claims will be submitted on forms deemed appropriate by Purchaser as documentation of services provided. If applicable, Provider agrees to bill and collect payment from other third party payers

(Medicare, insurance, other health liability) prior to submitting bills to Purchaser. Purchaser will in this case be the payer of last resort. **This is not applicable to services authorized by the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program. With CCS, Purchaser is responsible for billing all third party payers and Provider should only bill Purchaser.**

- D. For services performed under this contract and provided to an eligible client, the Provider agrees to accept payments made by the Purchaser and/or any third party payers as payment in full and will not bill clients, Department of Workforce Development(DWD), Department of Health Services(DHS) or the Department of Children and Families(DCF) for amounts not fully paid by the Purchaser. This provision continues in effect even if the Purchaser becomes insolvent.
- E. Purchaser shall reject any claim that does not include the elements of a clean claim. Purchaser shall send the rejected claim back to the Provider for correction.
- F. Clean claims are those claims that are submitted to the Purchaser which are completely and correctly filled out, and do not require correction, editing or resubmission by the claiming agency (Provider). Elements of a clean claim are as follows:
  - 1. Client Name
  - 2. Number of units of service provided by day or by month.
  - 3. Total fee
  - 4. Amount paid by third party payer (if applicable)
  - 5. Net fee
  - 6. Dates of Service (one calendar month on an invoice)
  - 7. If applicable, PPS item codes (this number is listed as the SPC Code on the Service Authorization).
  - 8. Contract Rate

## VI. FALSE CLAIMS AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION

- A. La Crosse County has adopted a False Claims and Whistleblower Protection Education Policy for certain Purchaser and Provider employees. The purpose of this policy is to provide information to employees and Providers of Purchaser regarding certain federal and state laws that concern the submission of false and fraudulent claims for payment to the government.
- B. False Claims:
  - 1. Providers, their agents, employees or subcontractors shall not make fraudulent or false claims related to health care programs.
  - 2. Rule violations may result in the imposition of penalties under state and federal law.
  - 3. Rule Violations. The following conduct is prohibited:
    - a. Knowingly making false statements on a cost report.
    - b. Knowingly falsifying records such as treatment plans to maximize payments.
    - c. Falsifying certificates of medical necessity or billing for services not medically necessary.
    - d. Unlawfully giving health care providers inducements in exchange for services or referrals.
    - e. Knowingly submitting bills for services never performed.
- C. Whistleblower Protections:
  - a. A variety of state and federal statutes protect an employee who opposes an illegal act, files a complaint or report with a governmental agency, cooperates in a governmental investigation, or testifies in a legal proceeding. Commonly referred to as *whistleblower or anti-retaliation statutes*, these laws generally prohibit employers from discharging or otherwise discriminating against an employee who engages in such conduct.
  - b. For example, employees who report false or fraudulent claims violations are protected under state and federal law from any retaliation for doing so.
  - c. Individuals within an organization who observe activities or behavior that may violate the law in some manner and who report their observations either to

management or to governmental agencies are provided protections under the Federal False Claims Act (FCA); Wisconsin Statutes section 146.997; and La Crosse County Policy governing Retaliation Protection Law for Health Care Workers.

**VII. RECORDS AND REPORTING:**

- A. The Provider shall maintain such records and financial statements as required by Local, State and Federal laws, rules and regulations.
- B. Individuals shall have access to their records in accordance with applicable state or federal law. Provider shall use its best efforts to make records available to eligible clients or their authorized representatives within ten (10) working days of the record request.
- C. Provider shall have procedures to provide for the prompt transfer of records and exchange of information to Purchaser and other providers for the purposes of managing the eligible client's medical and long term care and providing referral services.
- D. The use or disclosure, as well as access to, any information by any party concerning eligible clients who receive services from Provider for any purpose not connected with the administration of Provider's and Purchaser's responsibilities under this contract is prohibited except with the informed, written consent of the person or their legal guardian.
- E. The Provider shall comply with the reporting requirements of Purchaser. All reports shall be in the format specified by the Purchaser.
- F. Provider shall maintain and, upon request, furnish to Purchaser any information requested by Purchaser relating to the quality and quantity of services covered by this contract.
- G. Provider shall maintain written description of care and service verification, including the dates of services performed for all the purchased services rendered, as specified by Purchaser. Provider shall maintain clearly identified and readily accessible documentation of costs supported by properly executed payrolls, time records, invoices, contracts, vouchers or other official documentation evidencing in proper detail the nature and propriety of the services provided.
- H. Provider agrees to maintain and preserve its accounting and other financial management records pertaining to this contract in a form and manner consistent with all applicable state and federal laws and principles of proper accounting and financial management.
- I. If the Provider subcontracts any part of this Contract, the Provider is responsible for fulfillment of the terms of the Contract and shall give prior notification of such subcontracting to the Purchaser for approval.
- J. Provider agrees to provide a copy of any record produced or collected as a result of this Contract to the Purchaser, upon request, to enable Purchaser to comply with any request under the Wisconsin Public Records Law.
- K. Provider agrees that there shall be no charge to Purchaser for any requested copies of records produced or collected as a result of this Contract.

**VIII. CLAIMS DISPUTE, APPEALS AND GRIEVANCES:**

- A. If Provider wishes to dispute a claim denial or claims payment, it may request that the Purchaser reconsider its action by filing a written request with Purchaser's Financial Manager within sixty (60) days of Purchaser action. Provider may appeal Purchaser's reconsideration decision or failure of the Purchaser to respond within forty-five (45) days of a reconsideration request, by filing a written request to the DHS, DCF or DWD within sixty (60) days of the Purchaser's final decision or failure to respond. In filing a request for reconsideration or appeal, Provider shall clearly mark it as an "appeal" and indicate the Provider's name and address, date of service, date of billing, date of rejection, and reasons for Provider's request for reconsideration or appeal.
- B. If Provider wishes to dispute a CLTSW claims denial or claims payment, Provider will need to submit a claims resolution form to the Purchaser with supporting documentation (i.e. copy of Explanation of Benefits) and a reason for the request. When the review is completed, Purchaser will notify Provider of the result.

- C. Purchaser shall be notified in writing of all written complaints filed against the Provider related to services performed hereunder. Provider agrees to fully cooperate with Purchaser in researching and resolving complaints and grievances regarding Provider's services. Such cooperation will include furnishing information to Purchaser within fifteen (15) working days of its request. If the Provider does not meet the fifteen (15) working day requirement, the Provider must explain why and indicate when the records will be provided. Purchaser shall inform the Provider in writing with their understanding of the resolution of the complaint.

IX. ACCESS TO SERVICES, PREMISES AND RECORDS:

- A. Provider must not create barriers to access of necessary services by any requirements it imposes. At Purchaser's request, Provider will submit to Purchaser any policies and procedures it develops that are material to providing services so that Purchaser is able to assure that barriers are not created.
- B. Provider certifies that services will be conducted in compliance with federal and state Civil Rights Compliance regulations. The United States Department of Justice and/or the State of Wisconsin retain the right to seek the enforcement of these regulations.
- C. Provider shall allow duly authorized representatives of the Purchaser, State of Wisconsin, or Federal Government, during normal business hours, access to its premises to inspect, audit, monitor or otherwise evaluate the performance of Provider and its subcontractors, if any.
- D. In the event access is requested, Provider shall make staff available to assist in the audit or inspection effort and provide adequate space on the premises to reasonably accommodate personnel. All inspections and audits will be conducted in a manner that will not unduly interfere with the performance of the Provider's activities.
- E. Purchaser and duly authorized state and federal representatives shall have the right upon request to inspect, examine, or copy records, including individual records, pertaining to this Agreement and maintained by the Provider.
- F. Provider shall permit appropriate representatives of the Purchaser to have timely access to the Provider's records and financial statements as necessary to review Provider's compliance with contract requirements for the use of the funding.

X. WITHHOLDING:

- A. Purchaser may withhold any payments otherwise due to Provider if Provider fails to perform in accordance with this Agreement, and may hold the payments until Provider corrects its failure to perform.
- B. Purchaser may withhold any new authorizations and/or admissions if Provider is found to be in violation of this Agreement

XI. LIABILITY OF PURCHASER:

Purchaser and Provider acknowledge that Purchaser has legal liabilities under its contract with various State and Federal agencies and that nothing herein shall relieve, or be construed to relieve, Purchaser of its obligations under those contracts. Any term in this Agreement that is later determined to be inconsistent with Purchaser's obligations under its contract with the above stated agencies, or that in any way terminates Purchaser's legal liability to the above stated agencies, shall become null and void.

XII. LICENSURE AND CERTIFICATION:

- A. If applicable, Provider shall maintain required licensure, certification, and/or accreditation during the term of this contract and provide evidence of such to Purchaser upon execution of this contract. If Provider fails to provide this to Purchaser, sanctions in Section X. Withholding will apply.
- B. Provider shall immediately notify Purchaser of any changes or threatened changes to its Medicaid certification/licensure or other certification or accreditation.

XIII. EXCLUSION FROM STATE AND FEDERAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS:

Both parties represent and warrant that Provider and Purchaser and their owners and employees are not excluded from participation, in any Federal health care programs, as defined under 42 U.S.C. S. 1320a-7b(f), or any form of state Medicaid program, and to each party's knowledge, there are no pending or threatened governmental investigations that may lead to such exclusion. Each party agrees to notify the other party of the commencement of any such exclusion or investigation within seven (7) business days of first learning of it. Both parties shall have the right to immediately terminate this contract upon learning of any such exclusion and shall be kept apprised by the other party of the status of any such investigation.

XIV. INDEMNIFICATION:

- A. The Provider agrees to the fullest extent permitted by law, to indemnify, defend and hold harmless, the Purchaser, and its agents, officers and employees, from and against all loss or expense including costs and attorney's fees by reason of liability for damages including suits at law or in equity, caused by any wrongful, intentional, or negligent act or omission of the Provider, or its (their) agents and/or subcontractors which may arise out of or are connected with the activities covered by this Agreement. Provider shall indemnify and hold Purchaser harmless from any award of damages and costs against Purchaser for any action based on U.S. Patent or Copyright infringement regarding computer programs involved in the performance of the tasks and services covered by this Agreement.
- B. Purchaser agrees that it shall be responsible for any losses or expenses (including costs, damages, and attorney's fees) attributed to the acts or omissions of its respective officers or employees as they relate to this Agreement.

XV. INSURANCE

- A. Provider agrees that in order to protect itself as well as Purchaser and La Crosse County, its officers, Boards, and employees under the indemnity provisions set forth in the paragraph above, Provider will at all times, during the terms of this Agreement, keep in force insurance policies issued by an insurance company authorized to do business and licensed in the State of Wisconsin. Unless otherwise specified in Wisconsin Statutes, the types of insurance coverage and minimum amounts shall be as follows:
  - i. Workers' Compensation: minimum amount statutory
  - ii. Comprehensive general liability: \$1,000,000 per occurrence and in aggregate for bodily injury and property damage
  - iii. Auto Liability (if applicable): \$1,000,000 per occurrence and in aggregate for bodily injury and property damage
  - iv. Professional Liability (if applicable): minimum amount \$500,000
  - v. Excess Liability Coverage: \$1,000,000 over the General Liability and Automobile Liability Coverages.

The Purchaser shall be given thirty (30) days advanced written notice of any cancellation or non-renewal of insurance during the term of this Agreement.

- B. Upon execution of this contract, the Provider shall furnish Purchaser with written verification of the existence of such insurance. If Provider does not furnish written verification, sanctions in Section X. Withholding will apply. The Purchaser shall be given thirty (30) days advanced written notice of any cancellation or non-renewal of insurance during the term of this contract. Provider may list Purchaser as additional insured on the insurance policy.
- C. In the event of any action, suit, or proceedings against Purchaser upon any matter herein indemnified against, Purchaser shall within five (5) working days cause notice in writing thereof to be given to Provider by certified mail, addressed to its post office address. Purchaser shall cooperate with Provider and its attorneys in defense of any action, suit or other proceeding.

XVI. ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS FOR RECIPIENTS OF SERVICES:

Provider and Purchaser understand and agree that the eligibility of individuals to receive the services to be purchased under this Agreement from Provider will be determined by Purchaser. An individual is entitled to the right of an administrative hearing concerning eligibility and the Purchaser shall inform individuals of this right.

XVII. CONDITIONS OF THE PARTIES OBLIGATIONS:

- A. This contract is contingent upon authorization of Wisconsin and United States laws and any material amendment or repeal of the same affecting relevant funding or authority of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Department of Children and Families and Wisconsin Department Workforce Development shall serve to terminate this contract, except as further agreed to by the parties hereto. This contract is not assignable by Provider either in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of Purchaser.
- B. Provider must be in compliance with the provisions and requirements of Title 2 CFR Part 200 [http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=2:1.1.2.2.1&rgn=div5#\\_top](http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?node=2:1.1.2.2.1&rgn=div5#_top).
- C. Nothing contained in this contract shall be construed to supersede the lawful powers and duties of either party.
- D. It is understood and agreed that the entire contract between the parties is contained herein, except for those matters incorporated herein by reference, and that this contract supersedes all oral agreements and negotiations between the parties relating to the subject matter thereof.
- E. It is further understood, that if this contract was awarded pursuant to a Request For Proposal or Preferred Provider Solicitation Package, that the requirements in those solicitations, along with proposal from the Provider, shall be considered a part of this contract.
- F. Providers of services that are funded through grants, where the Purchaser is the fiscal agent, agree to abide by the Purchaser's travel policy's reimbursement rate structure.

XVIII. CONTRACT SANCTIONS, REVISIONS, RENEWAL, AND/OR TERMINATIONS:

- A. In the event that Purchaser is audited and found to be in non-compliance with auditors' requirements relating to actions of the Provider (i.e. inadequate documentation, background checks, training hours, etc.), the Provider shall be held financially responsible for any cost to Purchaser as a result of auditors findings.
- B. Failure to comply with any part of this Agreement may be considered cause for revision, suspension or termination.
- C. Revision of this Agreement must be agreed to by Purchaser and Provider by an Addendum signed by the authorized representatives of both parties.
- D. This Agreement may be terminated or suspended due to deficiencies in quality or quantity of services. Provider shall notify Purchaser whenever it is unable to provide the required quality or quantity of services. Upon such notification, Purchaser shall determine whether such inability will require a revision or early termination of this Agreement.
- E. If Purchaser finds it necessary to terminate the Agreement prior to the agreement expiration date for reasons other than non-performance by the Provider, the Purchaser may compensate the Provider for an amount determined by mutual agreement of both parties.
- F. This Agreement can be terminated by 60-day written notice by either party.
- G. In the event that the Agreement is terminated or not renewed by either Purchaser or Provider, Provider agrees to cooperate in transitioning services provided to eligible clients under this agreement to Purchaser or to another Provider designated by Purchaser.
- H. This Agreement, or any part thereof, may be renegotiated in the case of 1) increased or decreased volume of services; 2) changes required by Federal or State law or regulations or court action; 3) monies available affecting the substance of this Agreement.

- I. The Purchaser reserves the right to cancel any contract in whole or in part without required notice and without penalty due to non-appropriation of funds by the State of Wisconsin, County of La Crosse or any other funding source.
- J. Chapter 50.03(14), Wis. Stats., governs the closing of a Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF). It states that, upon DHS approval of the facilities plan to relocate its residents (or the imposition of such a plan by the DHS), the facility must establish a closing date not earlier than 90 days from the date of DHS approval or imposition of the relocation plan when 5 to 50 residents will be relocated. This same statute also requires a minimum of 120 day period when more than 50 residents will be relocated.
- K. Annual rate adjustments for multi-year agreements will be made automatically following the July Consumer Price Index for Urban Regions (CPI-U).
  - 1. The rate will be determined from tables from the U.S Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Midwest Urban region for areas of 50,000 or more.
  - 2. Should the CPI-U ever be less than 0%, the provider rates will stay the same as the current year. Should the CPI-U be more than 3%, Provider rates will go up 3%.
  - 3. Automatic Rate Adjustments exclude services that are purchased at Retail Price, MA rates and reimbursement rates set by the State (i.e. children's group homes/residential care centers, autism, etc.) Also excluded are contracted rates that include a total \$ amount not to exceed during the contract period.
  - 4. Rates agreed upon for more than one year will appear in Appendix 1, if agreed upon at the onset on the contract period, or will be done through an addendum to the contract at the time the current period is ending.
  - 5. If Purchaser and Provider fail to agree to these automatic rate changes, the Agreement will terminate at the end of the current period.

#### XIX. HIPAA COMPLIANCE

- A. The Provider agrees to comply with the federal regulations implementing the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) to the extent those regulations apply to the services the Provider provides or purchases with funds provided under this contract.
- B. If Provider is considered to be a "Business Associate", as determined by the Purchaser, the Provider will receive a Business Associate Agreement under separate cover.

#### XX. SOCIAL MEDIA, PICTURE TAKING, VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING

- A. Provider is prohibited from publishing any written articles, pictures or video of any client that receives services under this contract unless Purchaser specifically approves of the intended written information or pictures to be released. The provider is prohibited from publishing any written articles, pictures or video of any client, client belongings or client activities whether the client is identified or not. All reference to clients of the La Crosse County Department of Human Services is strictly prohibited. Further the Provider is prohibited from publishing any written articles, pictures or video of any client family member or person visiting the client that receives services under this contract unless Purchaser specifically approves of the intended written information or pictures to be released. Provider is prohibited to publish any anonymous article(s) that could be linked back to a specific client, client family member or person visiting the client that receives services under this contract.
- B. Publishing or image creation in any form of social media is prohibited. Prohibited publishing of written information or images includes, but is not limited to newspaper, newsletters, Facebook, Twitter, Caring Bridges, Blogs, any internet websites, any social media. Prohibited publishing and image sharing includes any form of electronic exchange, personal camera, cell phones, internet websites, social media and any websites, media or social media that is not listed or websites or media forms created in the future.

XXI. APPENDICES

The following Appendices are attached and considered part of this Agreement:

- Appendix 1 – Reimbursement for Authorized Services
- Appendix 2(1) – Family and Children’s Section Authorization Procedures
- Appendix 2(2) – Integrated Support and Recovery Services Section Authorization Procedures
- Appendix 2(3) – Justice Support Services (Driver’s Safety Plan Only) Service Authorization Procedures
- Appendix 3 – Audit Requirements (**due 180 days after Provider Year End**)
- Appendix 3(1) – Audit Requirements for Non-Profit and Governmental Entities
- Appendix 3(2) – Audit Requirements for Hospitals and Clinics
- Appendix 3(3) – Audit Requirements for For-Profit Entities
- Appendix 4 – Civil Rights Compliance Requirements
- Appendix 4(1) – Civil Rights Compliance Letter of Assurance (**complete & return**)
- Appendix 4(2) – Certification of Non-Discrimination Practices (**sign & return**)
- Appendix 5 – Certification Regarding Debarment and Suspension (**sign & return**)
- Appendix 6 – Certification Regarding Lobbying (**sign & return**)
- Appendix 7 – Caregiver Background Check (**sign & return**)
- Appendix 8 – Business Continuity Plan and Disaster Plan (**complete & return**)
- Appendix 9 – Integrated Support and Recovery Services Confidentiality Contract
- Appendix 10 – Community Recovery Services (CRS) Requirements (**complete & return**)
- Appendix 11 – Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program Information (**complete & return**)
- Appendix 12 – Children’s Long Term Support Waiver (CLTSW) Requirements (**complete & return**)

XXII. SIGNATURES:

- A. This Agreement is agreed upon and approved by the authorized representatives of La Crosse County Department of Human Services and «VendorName».
- B. The parties in execution of this Agreement certify that each has lawful authority to enter the Agreement and that each has read and agreed to abide by all of its terms.
- C. If Provider does not return a signed copy of this contract within 45 days of Purchaser’s signature date, Purchaser will withhold payment until it is received.

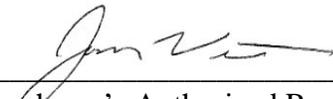
\_\_\_\_\_  
«VendorName»  
«ContractID»  
Provider’s Authorized Representative  
Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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Purchaser's Authorized Representative  
County Board Chair

«PublishDate»  
Date

  
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Purchaser's Authorized Representative  
Human Services Director

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