City of Milwaukee

Equity Impact Statement

1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution.

This is the annual grant renewal for the Newborn Hearing Program under the Family and Child Health Division of the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD). This grant is through the Wisconsin Division of Public Health and the grant cycle runs from January 1st through June 30th, 2025. The grant period is January 1, 2025 through June 30th, 2025; there will be a merging of Newborn Hearing and Congenital Disorders contracts into one effective July 1st that will capture a revised budget/scope for the bridging of the Newborn Screening programs. The purpose of the Wisconsin Sound Beginnings Newborn Hearing Screening Program is to ensure every infant born in Southeastern Wisconsin has access to hearing screening as well as timely and individualized diagnostic and intervention services.

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

This grant will achieve various positive impacts. While infants are often covered by insurance, accessing and navigating proper medical care is often difficult for families. MHDs role is to work with any infant in Southeastern Wisconsin who requires initial or repeat hearing screening and ensure they receive appropriate care. The major activity of this grant is to assist families in accessing and obtaining timely medical and audiological care for their infants. This program provides education to clients/families and professionals about the importance of newborn hearing screening and follow-up care, and establishing a medical home for ongoing care. In addition to hearing screening case management, the Newborn Hearing program also aims to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of children through educating families on safe sleep practices and

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

Newborn Hearing services are offered to all southeastern Wisconsin families regardless of ethnicity, race, gender, sexual identity, legal status, language or disability and can accommodate language, socioeconomic, housing, transportation needs as the services are built to support family's needs. All southeastern Wisconsin families assigned to the Newborn Hearing Screening Program Coordinator for case management will be positively impacted through these services as mentioned in question #2.

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4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

While Newborn Hearing services can be provided to all Southeastern WI families, infants are case managed only upon assignment of referrals from Wisconsin Sounds Beginnings. The Newborn Hearing Program Coordinator works closely with audiology clinics and healthcare providers throughout the area and has developed a partnership with the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's Audiology and Aurora Program in order to ensure that infants have increased access to specialty care and a decrease in infants lost to follow up. The Coordinator also attends community events to educate Milwaukee families on the importance of Newborn hearing screening and follow up services as well as establishing a primary care provider.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

This program serves as a safety net, monitoring data, providing support services through screening and early intervention. The Milwaukee Health Department tracks the number of infants ' case managed who receive hearing screening, have a healthcare provider, are diagnosed with hearing loss and referred to early intervention, as well as those who may be lost to follow-up. Also documented is the number of Pack N Plays distributed and Safe sleep education completed. Wisconsin Sound Beginnings (WSB) is the State ' s Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program; WSB monitors, manages and measures Wisconsin ' s hearing screening, diagnosis and early intervention referral, and lost-to-follow-up, rates through its web-based data system, WE-TRAC (Wisconsin EHDI-Tracking Referral And Coordination).

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

The Newborn Hearing Program Coordinator case manages all incoming referrals and assesses and monitors infants' needs for hearing screening and/or related follow up. Troubleshooting barriers to establishing a medical home, insurance issues and outreaching to other resources in order to best meet families' needs are other ways in which the program positively impacts equity. The Program coordinator will ensure to use language line, in house interpreters, and educational materials in the client's language. Collaboration with medical providers, specialty care providers, and families occur on a continual basis until the infant has either completed screening follow up care or is deemed lost to follow-up after multiple communication and outreach measures have been utilized.

Name: **Marcella Miller**

Signature: Marcella Miller Digitally signed by Marcella Miller Date: 2024.10.10 11:31:25 -05'00'

Date: **10/10/2024**