
Sponsor: Social Services

Meeting Date: 3/21/2023

Title: Joint Powers Agreement with the City of Saint Paul for the American Rescue Plan Act Innovation in Community and Safety Grant

File Number: 2023-107

Background and Rationale:

The Saint Paul Police Department approached Ramsey County to continue their partnership with the Community Outreach and Stabilization Team (COAST). The primary goal of COAST is to improve the quality of life and reduce unnecessary use of the emergency health care system by connecting people in crisis with the care they need, helping to significantly reduce mental-health-crisis-related arrests and repeat calls for service.

The team takes a proactive approach and is committed to assisting residents in crisis while helping individuals and their families navigate the healthcare system. Saint Paul Police Department initially approached Ramsey County in 2019 to embed two Social Workers within their unit.

The embedded social workers provide services including crisis assessments, follow-up with police reports of individuals in crisis; short term case management to help with stabilization for residents who are identified as high utilizers of emergency services and assisting residents who need mental health support but struggle to engage by connecting them with less restrictive community-based services. The goals of the embedded Social Worker partnership include reducing the amount of public safety resources needed to mitigate mental health and crisis-related incidents and to reduce the use of force and the number of adverse events.

Saint Paul Police Department was awarded \$97,200 in federal funding for the American Rescue Plan Act Innovation in Community and Safety (ARPAIC) grant which will be used toward investments to address the public health and mental health impacts of COVID-19 by permitting a co-responder team to connect with individuals experiencing severe and persistent mental illness who are disconnected from medical and social services.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve the Joint Powers Agreement with the city of Saint Paul from July 22, 2022, through April 30, 2023.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to approve and execute the Joint Powers Agreement

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner Reinhardt. Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McGuire, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 1: Moran

By: 
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board