
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 6/27/2023

Title: Amendment to the Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for the Expansion and Enhancement of a Continuum of Care for Opioid-related Substance Use Disorders

File Number: 2023-260

Background and Rationale:

In 2022, Public Health, in collaboration with Community Corrections and Social Services Mental Health Division, applied for and was awarded a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) to increase substance use disorder/mental health (SUD/MH) care coordination through a variety of initiatives for individuals both entering and leaving the correctional system. The program identifies and works from first point of contact through the judicial system, detox and probation. The goal is to continue to decrease involvement in the criminal justice system for offenses related to opioid use disorder (OUD) or other SUD concerns and probation violations that are also related to lack of compliance with treatment-based services. DHS wishes to extend the original term of the grant for an additional one-year period through June 30, 2024, and award additional funding in the amount of \$265,028. The new grant amount, as amended, is \$774,712.

This funding will allow the county to continue to offer mental illness and chemical dependency assessments for individuals who are both pre- and post- sentence and offer care coordination from peer support specialists or other chemical dependency case managers for persons that are seeking to get connected to services. Between 2019 and 2020, there was a 54% increase in opioid-related fatalities among Ramsey County residents resulting in 69 deaths in 2020. Many opioid-related overdoses result in either a hospital admission or a visit to an emergency department. There were 708 opioid-related visits made to hospitals among Ramsey County residents in 2020. The rate of hospital and emergency department visits continues to rise in the county from 0.6 visits per 1,000 population in 2016 to 1.3 visits per 1,000 in 2020, the second highest rate in the metro area.

The program's goal is to ensure that pre-sentence clients are offered assessment, access to culturally appropriate and responsive care and information about community services to navigate through treatment options regardless of health insurance status. This entails offering assessments that are easily accessible at any correctional facility in Ramsey County (Adult Detention Center, Ramsey County Correctional Facility and Juvenile Detention Center) and are inclusive of mental health considerations that might impact chemical use concerns. Ensuring access to the correct level of care follows Minnesota's movement toward direct access to treatment.

Corrections-based treatment will be available to people pre- and post-sentence, those incarcerated, and/or on probation with substance concerns who enter the Adult Detention Center, Ramsey County Correctional Facility, juvenile probation or the Juvenile Detention Center. Individuals living in the community will be offered care coordination. Correctional facility-based individuals will be offered mental health care through corrections-based services, social services (1919 University Ave) including dual diagnosis programming, services through Public Health such as naloxone at time of release and information from the syringe services program and Detox. The county will continue to provide care coordination and community follow up that improves treatment outcomes and prevents recidivism with community-based, culturally responsive counseling and support services as are currently offered through the Medicated Assisted Therapy initiative.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve an amendment to the agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Services for the expansion and enhancement of a continuum of care for opioid-related substance use disorders for the period upon execution through June 30, 2024 in the amount, as amended, of \$774,712.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the amendment.

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

Aye: - 7: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board