
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 11/14/2023

Title: Grant Award from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety
for Sexual Assault Services

File Number: 2023-481

Background and Rationale:

Public Health's Sexual Offense Services (SOS) program receives annual state and federal grant funding from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs to provide 24/7 crisis advocacy, ongoing individual advocacy, counseling and support, community awareness, information, and education. In addition, the SOS program provides follow-up services to victims and secondary victims (those who are impacted by sexual violence such as family and friends of victims). Follow-up services are provided only when a client provides SOS permission. Follow-up may include information about medical and legal needs as well as a general check-in within the first week of the client contacting SOS.

SOS services have been provided in Ramsey County since 1976. SOS answers approximately 8,000 service calls for approximately 1,100 victims of sexual violence, annually. The services provided are in accordance with and by defined terms of the Minnesota Department of Safety Office of Justice Programs. These services include crisis intervention, emotional support, financial resources and support for emergency services, transportation and compensation claims, information and referrals regarding social/human resources services, medical advocacy, criminal and civil advocacy, and safety services.

Research and experience have shown sexual assault victims experience considerable short- and longer-term distress. Victims who worked with an advocate were less likely to blame themselves for the sexual assault and less reluctant to seek further help from community support systems. As a result of advocacy, victims were more likely to receive services from community professionals and to have better recovery outcomes

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, Crime Victim Services for sexual assault services for the period upon execution through September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$347,374.
2. Accept a grant award from and approve a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, Crime Victim Services for sexual assault services for the period upon execution through September 30, 2024 in the amount of \$347,374.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.

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

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

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board