
Sponsor: Public Health

Meeting Date: 11/12/2024

Title: Amendment to the Grant Agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for Sexual Assault Services

File Number: 2024-484

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. This grant supports clients served by Public Health's SOS program for these services.

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.

SOS has engaged in multiple outreach activities with a diverse array of disciplines including multiple private and public schools, Public Health, Ramsey County Social Services, shelters for people experiencing homelessness, libraries, the National Guard, clinics, and other community-based programs. Since 2019, in partnership with the RCAO, local law enforcement and medical providers, SOS has been providing training to every new and/or current patrol officer in Ramsey County from all nine law enforcement agencies and to all new Emergency Communication Center staff. This continues to occur on a bimonthly basis. SOS is also a standing member of the Ramsey County Children's Multidisciplinary Team and the Ramsey County Adult Protection Multidisciplinary Team with input in cases where there is a risk of sexual violence and exploitation. Additionally, SOS supported the Minnesota Department of Human Services in developing statewide training for nursing homes and elderly care facilities in identifying signs of sexual violence, mitigating risks, and supporting survivors.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve an amendment to the 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, 2025, in the amount of \$347,314.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the amendment.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the grant agreement in the form approved by the County Attorney's Office.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner Frethem.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 4: Frethem, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

Absent: - 2: McGuire, and Moran

By: 

Jason Yang, Interim Chief Clerk - County
Board