
Sponsor: Social Services

Meeting Date: 8/9/2022

Title: Detox Services Per Diem Rate Adjustments

File Number: 2022-458

Background and Rationale:

Ramsey County has 40 detoxification beds at the Ramsey County Detoxification Center located at 402 University Avenue East in Saint Paul. This facility provides sub-acute detoxification and detoxification commitments hold services. Sub-acute detoxification services require immediate attention but may not need extremely high levels of medical care. Detoxification commitments hold services require short-term medical services on a 24-hour-a-day basis. The Detox Center is co-located with Ramsey County Urgent Care and Crisis Stabilization for adult mental health, substance use and mental health assessment services and case management services to provide a more integrated approach to health and wellness.

As part of Social Services department's mental health & crisis suite of services, Ramsey County offers chemical health services that provide drug and alcohol assessments for Ramsey County residents and provides people who are chemically dependent treatment or connects them to other community programs.

The financial responsibility for detoxification services falls to the county in which the client is physically present when the need for professional services and/or intervention is first identified. While it is the intention of the county to recover costs through per diem rates, it is not always practical to do so. There are fixed-costs associated with managing the facility whether the county has federal or out-of-county clients. These fixed costs include building depreciation, maintenance, personnel and administrative costs. The uncompensated care reimbursement for services provided to detox patients by medically licensed providers and counties of financial responsibility create budget gaps that this action will help minimize.

As part of its revenue generation initiatives the Health and Wellness Service Team (HWST) seeks to update the per diem rate to a rate which is consistent with the rates of the surrounding counties. The current detox per diem rate is \$258 and are proposing to increase that rate to \$395. This rate change, coupled with a revision of the detox intake processes and procedures, should provide the county an opportunity to increase revenue. The Detox leadership team consulted with state officials at the Minnesota Department of Human Services and other not-for-profit entities, including participating in walk-throughs of detox programs operated by neighboring counties.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

Approve adjustments to the detox services per diem rate, from the current rate of \$258 to the proposed rate of \$395, effective upon board approval, or shortly after.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Motion passed.

Aye: - 7: Carter, Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

By: Mee Cheng
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board