



# Detox and Withdrawal Management Closure Update



May 19, 2026

## Presenters

- Sophia Thompson, Director of Social Services
- Jim Langer, Human Services Manager, Social Services

## Agenda

- Brief History
- Detox closure
- Goals and successes
- Moving forward
- Other resources

# Thank you

To all the dedicated staff who have served our clients over the years



# Brief History

- The Ramsey County Detox and Withdrawal Management program was first licensed to provide detox services in **1989**.
- In **2015**, the State of Minnesota expanded detox programs to include clinically managed and medically monitored withdrawal management services, recognizing the need for medical oversight and structured withdrawal support.
- The Ramsey County Detox/Withdrawal Management program became dually licensed for withdrawal management services in **2022**, which allowed enhanced clinical and medical care.

Minnesota Statute, section 254A.08 states

- *Every county board shall provide detoxification services for any person incapable of self-management or management of personal affairs or unable to function physically or mentally in an effective manner because of the use of a drug, including alcohol. **The board may utilize existing treatment programs and other agencies to meet this responsibility.***

## Closure December 31, 2025

- Ramsey County aligned with best practices to meet evolving community needs through a change in the way detox/ withdrawal management services are offered.
- These services, which are currently provided by the county, will be transitioning to qualified community-based providers, who have the infrastructure and expertise to deliver high-quality, medically appropriate care.
- Right sizing county services.



**Ramsey County Detoxification and Withdrawal Management program is now closed and no longer offering services.**

Please call **651-266-4009** for immediate assistance and help finding an alternate service provider or visit **[RamseyCountyMN.gov/DetoxClosure](https://www.RamseyCountyMN.gov/DetoxClosure)** to review options online.



# It's Been a Team Effort

- October 2025, an interdisciplinary team met frequently, including
  - Social Service, Public Health, Safety and Justice, Housing Stability, Race and Health Equity Administrator, Compliance and Ethics, Communications, Health and Wellness Service Team, Sheriff's Office, Evaluation Team, Purchasing and Contracting, Legal
- Goals were
  - Communicate with clients, staff, partners to ensure smooth transition
  - Respond to how to best serve clients seeking services
  - Winddown of building, services and operation logistics at 402 location
  - Create agreements through lease of current 402 space and detox and withdrawal management services provided by community providers through capacity building grants

## Communication Plan

- GovDelivery, updated website, frequent partner communication, signage, internal emails
- Working with partners, staff and other departments to keep them informed

## Bridge Plan, Phase 1

- Ensure those with most critical need had support
- Onsite Navigation Support and others to assist in navigation and referrals
- Created work procedures to assist in streamlined process
- Worked with Sheriff's Dept for transportation

## Operations Closure

- How to physically close the detox location
- Stop contract services, licensure notification and other staff processes
- Donate medical supplies where appropriate

## Contracting

- Lease for new community provider
- Detox services within Ramsey County boundaries to be provided
- Second Request for Proposals (RFP) for another local entity to provide services

# Continuing to Serve Clients Through Bridge Plan, Phase 1

January 2026-April 2026

- Staff contracts were extended to provide Onsite Navigation Support for those still coming to 402 for overnight and weekend hours, during the most critical times over the winter
- Recovery Corp staff were assisting clients seeking care during Crisis Hours at 402
- Sheriff's Office were providing transportation to local facilities
- Local providers were sending open bed counts daily so staff could assist and provide navigation support to get people where they needed to go

## Clients Served Since Detox and Withdrawal Management Closure

Month	Total Served	Phone Calls	Face to Face	RCSO transports
January 2026	91	77	14	2
February 2026	66	58	8	0
March 2026	27	26	1	0
April 2026	34	32	2	0

## Moving Forward: Phase Two Bridging (May 1-TBD)

- As of **April 30**, onsite support navigators stopped providing services due to end of current staff agreements.
  - If there are walk-ups during times the building is open for Adult Crisis programming, those seeking detox services will be given information and can call 651-266-4900 for assistance.
- **Embedded Social Works (ESW)**, as part of Appropriate Response Initiative (ARI), will continue to answer the Detox phone number indefinitely to serve those calling for services.
  - The ARI staff will continue to check voicemails and will provide follow up
  - The staff will also receive emails on local bed openings for continued referrals
- The sheriff's office will not provide transportation to local detox facilities.
  - Some facilities will continue to provide transportation support.

# Moving Forward: Contracting for Continued Services

Community and local providers will continue to provide services and referral points

- **Ramsey County Capacity Building Grants**
  - Local community provider is in negotiations for the lease of current 402 space (Request for Board Action is next week through Property Management)
  - This will allow the provider to seek licensure through DHS
    - Can be a 6-month timeline to receive licensure, but need a lease in hand
  - Same local providers will provide detox and withdrawal management services in the 402 location (estimated January 2027)
- Reissue of Capacity Building Grant (Estimated release date of May 19)
  - Allow more support of other entities wanting to provide services within Ramsey County geographical boundaries

# Moving Forward: Communication Plan

- Updated signage to refer people to the phone number and website.
- Communication will be cascaded through the website, gov delivery and other mechanisms to keep community, providers and partners updated with the changes.
- Hospital systems, who are continuing to refer clients, will have another communication push to update about the closure.
- Talking points will be cascaded to staff.



# Additional Resources for Those Who Need Support

Additional Ramsey County substance use education and navigation in community will be provided through the following initiatives:

- **The Safe and Strong University Avenue initiative** brings together law enforcement, service providers, and city and county prosecutors in an innovative new partnership where service providers will also be active along the corridor and guiding people to resources, including addiction treatment and housing services.
- **Syringe Service Program** - services include anonymous syringe exchange and disposal, wound care, Naloxone and overdose training, Fentanyl and Xylazine testing strips with harm reduction education, and connections to community resources.
- **Adult Crisis and Mobile Crisis Team** provides stabilization services, de-escalation, crisis intervention, mental health assessments, and initial crisis plans.
- **Co-Occurring Recovery (CORe) Program** supports adults with substance use and mental health recovery. The CORe team is made up of mental health providers, alcohol and drug counselors, peer recovery specialists. The program also provides access to nursing and psychiatric care.



**Thank you**

Questions?

