
Sponsor: County Manager's Office

Meeting Date: 4/16/2024

Title: Agreement with Regions Hospital for Bedside Violence Intervention

File Number: 2024-094

Background and Rationale:

The American Medical Association has declared U.S. gun violence a public health crisis. Nationally, African American men make up 6% of the U.S. population, but account for 51% of all homicide victims. Gun homicides are concentrated in cities; half of all gun homicides took place in just 127 cities, which represented nearly a quarter of the U.S. population. The homicide rate for African Americans in all 50 states is, on average, eight times higher than that of whites.

Gun violence disproportionately impacts our community as well, as disparities exist by race, gender, geography, and income. Census Bureau data reveals that in July 2017, there were 306,621 residents in Saint Paul and only 15.5% were African American, yet in 2017, 68% of 155 people shot in Saint Paul were African American (including African immigrants). The disparity increased in 2018, and as of November 7, 2018, 76% of 130 people shot in Saint Paul were African American. Males bare the overwhelming brunt of gun violence. In 2017, 84% of gunshot victims were male and in 2018, 93% of gunshot victims were male. In addition, African Americans have poorer health outcomes and face more barriers accessing health care; 33% are cost-burdened compared to 25% of whites, and median household income is \$25,517 compared to \$70,900.

The 2018 problem analysis conducted by the National Network for Safe Communities indicates that less than 0.1% of our county's population (0.26% of Saint Paul's population) is involved with group gun violence, which represents about 40% of non-fatal shootings and is concentrated in select neighborhoods.

Authorizing a service agreement between Regions Hospital and Healing Streets Project will allow staff to provide hospital-based bedside support to individuals impacted by group/gun violence. In addition, Healing Streets staff will have access to patients and their families throughout the duration of their hospital stay. Healing Streets bedside work includes Individual/Family case management, conflict resolution, connection to resources, mediation, and wrap-around supportive services. The goal for staff to work with patient and their families to create a wellness plan beyond their hospital length of stay.

Intentional outreach to individuals who have caused harm will allow staff to build relationships with those individuals, understand their barriers to success and wellness, provide needed support, and give them alternatives instead of continuing to cause harm to community. Critical to an effective outreach program will be the development of hospital programming designed to begin building relationships with people affected by gun violence shortly after the violent incident that resulted in their hospitalization.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Approve an agreement with Regions Hospital (640 Jackson St, Sanit Paul, MN 55101) for bedside violence intervention for the period upon execution through April 1, 2025.
2. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.
3. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to agreements in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office.

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