
Sponsor: Social Services

Meeting Date: 10/8/2024

Title: Grant Agreement with Substance Abuse Mental Health and Services Administration for Mental Health Urgent Care

File Number: 2024-431

Background and Rationale:

Children and youth who are experiencing a mental health crisis are often unable to find care. Unless they are a danger to themselves or others, they are not assigned to an open bed that may be needed for “critical care” patients. The shortage of beds for those who need intensive care leaves many waiting in the emergency room for hours or winding up in jail.

The 2022 Legislature passed a bill that required the commissioner of human services to establish a pilot project that would address emergency mental health needs for youth who experience a mental health crisis. Ramsey County was given the right-of-first-refusal to receive funding and operate the pilot project.

Ramsey County accepted the pilot project opportunity and has developed a detailed plan of services that will be provided, and the staffing required to provide them, as well as estimated costs for the pilot project.

Proposed services will be provided at 402 University Avenue, a building that currently houses Ramsey County’s crisis services for adults, youth and children. The pilot project will add services targeting African American males ages 13-18 to improve mental wellness by providing timely assessments, triage and supportive interventions that are culturally responsive and family centered. Program staff will partner with family and community members to determine the appropriate level of care and immediate intervention option.

The Minnesota Department of Human Services originally provided \$1,000,000 for the pilot project that ran through June 30, 2024; however, this was extended through June 30, 2025. The pilot project will provide an opportunity for the county to determine the level of community need and use of extended services for youth, the demographics of those served and whether the target population is served, and the actual cost of operations. A program evaluation at the close of the pilot project will determine actual revenues and costs and the feasibility of continuing operations without continued grant funding.

In August of 2024, the Mental Health Urgent Care (MHUC) began accepting clients. This was included an extension of hours into the evening and open hours into the evening. It also included a build out of the Children’s Crisis Stabilization Services. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) grant will help sustain the MHUC pilot.

Recommendation:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for Mental Health Urgent Care.
2. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the period upon execution through September 29, 2025, in the amount of \$1,000,000 with three additional one-year renewals.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to execute amendments to the grant agreement in the form approved by the County Attorney's Office.
5. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to the agreement in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of grant funding.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Frethem, seconded by Commissioner Xiong.
Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, McGuire, Moran, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Xiong

By: 

Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board