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**Sponsor:** Public Health

**Meeting Date:** 9/21/2021

**Title:** Grant Award from Minnesota Department of Human Services to  
Provide Opiate Treatment and Care Coordination for African  
American and American Indian Residents

**File Number:** 2021-498

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**Background and Rationale:**

Public Health took the lead in a grant application to work in collaboration within the Health and Wellness Service Team to apply for a Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) grant to continue the work of providing a culturally responsive Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT) for African American and American Indian residents with opioid use disorder. Public Health was awarded the grant, in the amount of \$446,995, for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 29, 2022.

The goal of this funding is to continue work to initiate culturally responsive MAT for African American and American Indian residents with opioid use disorder. In Ramsey County between 2007 and 2017, opioid-related deaths increased more than 80%. From 2016-2018, the opioid mortality rate was 6.2 per 100,000 county residents, and there were 23 opioid overdose deaths in 2018. While there was a decline in opioid overdose mortality in 2018, the emergency room visit remained relatively steady with 406 visits in 2017 and 380 in 2018.

Funding received from DHS in 2020 allowed for building infrastructure and relationships to provide services to county residents who suffer from opioid use disorder in the community and in our correctional system. Ramsey County connected residents to culturally responsive MAT service. Within the Health and Wellness Service Team, Corrections, Social Services and Public Health departments collaborated and worked in partnership with My Home, Inc. to provide comprehensive MAT services and support for residents undergoing treatment for opioid use disorder. The focused population continues to be the African American community. In addition, this team plans to build relationships with the American Indian community to determine the opportunities for expansion of MAT services to include targeted interventions in partnership with this community.

Opioid addiction is a challenge for people entering the county's correctional facilities. In 2020, the ADC conducted 925 Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale assessments. The RCCF conducted 60 Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale assessments during 2020. In terms of substance use in Detox, 81% report using alcohol, in addition to other substances. Four percent report using opiates. Only 2% of Detox clients report that they are actively in MAT. These data support the approach to serve people while incarcerated.

The service design includes three components: Corrections-based treatment, community-based treatment, and care coordination. Corrections-based treatment will be available to people with substance use disorder who enter the Adult Detention Center and the Ramsey County Correctional Facility while they are going through withdrawal. Community-based treatment will be provided to those referred from community partners, correctional facilities, Ramsey County mental health services, Ramsey County syringe exchange services and Detox. Our partner, My Home Inc., will provide robust and culturally responsive to African American history and culture counseling and support case management using experienced social workers and chemical dependency counselors,

and an additional 12-week curriculum that will support clients on their road to recovery. In addition, My Home, Inc., provides the use of reSET-O PDT, a phone-based prescription digital therapeutic technology that provides around-the-clock access to video, audio and reading that supports in-person cognitive behavioral therapy and that aids in retention in the program. Ramsey County, in collaboration with My Home, Inc., will provide continued care coordination and community follow up to improve treatment continuity outcomes and prevent recidivism.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Ratify the submittal of the grant application to the Minnesota Department of Human Services in the amount of \$446,995 to provide opiate treatment and care coordination for African American and American Indian residents.
2. Accept a grant award and approve a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Human Services to provide opiate treatment and care coordination for African American and American Indian residents for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 29, 2022, in the amount of \$446,995.
3. Authorize the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the grant agreement.
4. Authorize the County Manager to enter into agreements and execute amendments to agreements in accordance with the county's procurement policies and procedures, provided the amounts are within the limits of the grant funding.

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

Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Frethem, MatasCastillo, McDonough, McGuire, Ortega, and Reinhardt

Absent: - 1: Carter

By:   
Mee Cheng, Chief Clerk - County Board