
Our Mission: Providing quality services through responsible leadership, innovation and the cooperation of dedicated people

Date: Jan. 24, 2017
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Jan. 24, 2017, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County receives additional funds to fight sex trafficking

Washington County will receive a \$184,672 grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, to continue to fight sex trafficking in the county after the County Board accepted the grant Jan. 24.

The grant funds will be added to the current 2016-2017 Sex Trafficking Investigations and Training grant to allow for the creation and funding of three additional positions, project manager, legal assistant, and a part-time law clerk, as well as training and equipment for the County Attorney's Office.

Contact: Pete Orput, County Attorney, 651-430-6124

Agency will provide residential treatment for those in facility, provide group residential housing

Thrive Behavioral Network III, LLC, will provide intensive residential treatment services and residential crisis stabilization for underinsured and uninsured residents at a facility in Lake Elmo, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with the agency Jan. 24.

The board also approved a two-year group residential housing agreement with the agency.

The Thrive Behavioral Network III, LLC, (formerly Rule 36 Limited Partnership of Duluth III) intensive residential treatment services (IRTS) contract will help to provide access for the small

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population of clients that cannot access IRTS or crisis bed services due to being uninsured for these services through Medicare only, or have no current insurance due to pending insurance status, or, in rare circumstances, are civilly committed and carry private insurance that does not include these benefits.

The Thrive Behavioral Network III, LLC, facility, Willow Haven in Lake Elmo, offers treatment programs for clients with mental illnesses. Once service needs are determined and authorized by the county, uninsured consumers will be able to access treatment services and receive room and board at the facility.

Willow Haven provides two services under this contract:

- Intensive Residential Treatment Services, which are short-term treatment stays of less than 90 days that focus on medically necessary treatment that assists consumers in stabilizing symptoms of mental illness, learning new skills, and connecting with community-based resources. There are 12 beds available for this service.
- Residential Crisis Stabilization Treatment Services, which are crisis stays of approximately one week that assist consumers with immediate psychiatric crises. These services prevent a hospital stay and allow consumers to return to independent living in the community. There is one bed available for this service.

Group Residential Housing (GRH) is a state-funded income supplement program that pays for room and board costs for low-income adults with a disabling condition who have been placed in a licensed or registered setting that holds a formal agreement with the county. The current rate for GRH is \$891 per person per month, which is set by the state. GRH providers may offer an array of services, but, at a minimum, they must include housing, utilities, household furnishings, toiletries, and food.

Contact: Therese Gilbertson, Social Services Supervisor, 651-430-4129

People, Inc., will provide case management support to residents

People, Inc., will provide case management and basic needs services to families participating in the Parent Support Outreach Program (PSOP) in Washington County, after the County Board approved a 2017 contract with the agency Jan. 24.

Washington County receives an annual allocation from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) to fund the program, which will be \$130,000 in 2017.

PSOP services were provided to 40 eligible families in 2016, family-centered services for those not meeting the criteria for child protection services, but needing resources and supports to improve the child/family well-being and reduce the risk of future maltreatment.

County staff determine family eligibility and interest in the voluntary program, then refer the case to People, Inc., to provide the ongoing PSOP services. People, Inc.'s, staff members have been providing PSOP case management and basic needs services in other metro area counties for many years. People, Inc. will monitor each family's progress and service use and report to the county.

Contact: Nissa Knutson, Social Services Supervisor, 651-430-4111

County will continue household hazardous waste collections in communities

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements with county communities Jan. 24 to allow the county to conduct household hazardous waste collections in those communities during 2017.

Eight satellite weekend household hazardous waste collections are planned for 2017, in spring and fall. A spring event has been added from previous years at the Mahtomedi Community Education Building. The agreements allow the county to use sites owned by others to conduct household hazardous waste collections.

Events planned for spring are:

- at the Hugo Public Works Garage, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 22, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo;
- at the Mahtomedi Community Education Building, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 29, 1520 Mahtomedi Ave., Mahtomedi;
- at the Cottage Grove Public Works Garage, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 6, 8635 W. Point Douglas Road S., Cottage Grove;
- at Lily Lake Ice Arena in Stillwater 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 20, 1208 S. Greeley St. Stillwater;

- at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 3, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway.

Fall events are:

- at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 9, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway;
- at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 16, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway;
- at the Hugo Public Works Garage, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 14, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo.

Confidential document shredding will be available at all events.

In addition to the satellite collection events, four dates have been set for confidential paper shredding at the Washington County Environmental Center, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.:

- Wednesday, April 19;
- Wednesday, June 14;
- Wednesday, Sept. 6; and
- Wednesday, Nov. 8.

In addition to remote-site collections, the Washington County Environmental Center, 4039 Cottage Grove Drive in Woodbury, provides residents with a free and convenient disposal option for household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables all year round.

It is open Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The center accepts household hazardous waste, electronics, and recyclables. The center also has a Free Product Room, in which residents may browse the shelves and take home previously-owned products such as paint, stain, automotive supplies, household cleaners, and other products. All items taken to the Environmental Center are inspected to determine if they are usable products.

Contact: Adam Frederick, Public Health and Environment Environmental Coordinator, 651-430-6702

County Board continues public hearing to rename lake to Sylvan Lake

The Washington County Board of Commissioners opened a public hearing to rename a lake in Forest Lake to Sylvan Lake Jan. 24, and then continued the hearing to March 14 to allow notice to be given to the City of Scandia.

Two residents and representatives from the Department of Natural Resources and the City of Forest Lake spoke at the hearing.

A petition signed by registered voters in the City of Forest Lake was received by the City of Forest Lake asking for the renaming of a lake in the city. The official name of the lake is Halfbreed Lake, but has been known as and referred to as Sylvan Lake for quite some time. The petitioners request is to officially change the name to Sylvan Lake.

By law, the petition must be signed by 15 registered voters. The county verified that the petition meets the requirement. A letter was sent to the City of Forest Lake and the state Department of Natural Resources notifying them of the petition and public hearing, and asking them to provide any comments on the proposed name to the county prior to the public hearing.

A representative of the petitioners provided written testimony to the board.

During the hearing, it was noted that the lake is on the border between Forest Lake and Scandia, and that Scandia had not been given notice of the hearing. Commissioners also asked that additional historical information on the lake name be gathered before the hearing continues March 14.

Contact: Kevin Corbid, Deputy Administrator, 651-430-6003

County Board conducts public hearing on waste designation

The Washington County Board conducted a public hearing on implementing the Ramsey and Washington counties Joint Waste Designation Plan Jan. 24.

No one spoke at the hearing.

Waste designation allows counties to enact an ordinance that requires all or a portion of solid waste to be delivered to a designated waste management facility. The process of waste designation is outlined in state law, and includes several steps that occur over a period of 18 months. Ramsey and Washington counties have prepared a Joint Waste Designation Plan through the Recycling & Energy Board (R&E Board), which has been approved by the commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

The next step in the process was to conduct a public hearing on designation.

Designation determines what happens to waste after it is collected, not who collects the trash or when. Designation is central to the decision of Ramsey and Washington counties to purchase the Recycling & Energy Center in Newport, as it would direct solid waste to the center and assure that the waste is processed.

The county has engaged stakeholders in the development of the waste designation plan and implementation steps. In June 2016, email notices were sent to city and township administrators and recycling coordinators, and waste and recycling haulers, notifying them of the waste designation process and requesting input into the draft waste designation plan. A presentation was provided at a city and township recycling coordinators meeting June 14, 2016, to provide information and obtain input.

A summary of the questions and comments received on the draft plan was compiled, along with responses, and emailed to stakeholders in July 2016. In addition, the county was host to an information meeting with haulers Jan. 19.

The Ramsey and Washington Counties Joint Designation Plan and other information regarding waste designation and waste management in Washington and Ramsey Counties is available at www.morevaluelesstrash.com.

Next, the MPCA will review contracts and ordinances relevant to the plan, which the County Board would approve in the fall before designation would be implemented in December.

Contact: Judy Hunter, Senior Environmental Program Manager, 651-430-4031

County Board declares public health week, establishes achievement awards

The Washington County Board named April 3-9 as Public Health Week, and established an annual Public Health Achievement Award Jan. 24.

The awards will recognize and honor residents who devote time, energy, and talents to improve the public health of individuals, families, communities, and environments in Washington County.

National Public Health Week is celebrated during the first full week of April and is part of an initiative to create the healthiest nation in one generation. Each year, the event aims to highlight

public health achievements and improve the general health of residents by educating the public about health issues.

Awards are to be presented in conjunction with National Public Health Week and made in the categories:

- Youth Award – an individual 18 years or younger at time of nomination;
- Individual Award – an individual 19 years or older at time of nomination; and
- Community Group Award – community coalitions, partnerships, or organizations regardless of age.

Expenses for the program will be fully reimbursed from the Local Public Health Grant, provided to help the County Board, serving as the Community Health Board, to address the areas of public health responsibility outlined in state law. Duties include promoting healthy communities and healthy behavior through activities that improve health in a population, such as providing information and education about healthy communities or environments that promote positive health.

In addition, the final report from the Public Health Accreditation Board site visit recommends the county increase efforts to engage with residents and community stakeholders involved in promoting public health and environment. Annual public health awards will help recognize the citizen leaders who work to promote, protect, and improve health and the environment in Washington County.

Contact: David Brummel, Public Health and Environment Deputy Director, 651-430-6662

County Board reviews funding sources to complete Point Douglas Regional Trail

The Washington Board of Commissioners reviewed funding sources Jan. 24 to complete the Point Douglas Regional Trail pedestrian bridge planned for the southern portion of the county.

The trail is a 2.5-mile shared-use trail to provide pedestrian access to vistas along the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers, as well as a pedestrian link between the historic downtowns of Prescott, Wis., and Hastings. It is also a link between planned trail corridors and cities in the region.

The trail is 70 percent complete and connects Point Douglas Park with Highway 61. The trail is planned for completion in August. However, funding is falling short because the Legislature did not

pass a bonding bill during the last session, which would have provided the money to complete the trail.

As it stands, not completing the trail presents safety issues, as walkers and bikers will use the shoulder of Highway 61 to move through the area if a trail is not provided.

The next step in completing the project is building a pedestrian bridge over railroad tracks in the area. The design is complete, and an agreement with the railroad company is pending. There is a funding gap in the \$5.238 million project of \$1.5 million, which the county had originally requested from the state. However, expected state bonding bills did not fully fund the project.

The County Board made the decision to use \$1 million from the remaining budget for the county's rebuilt North Shop Public works building, to complete the project. The North Shop was built with money received from the state when the state turned over Highway 5 to the county, along with funds to manage the highway. In addition, the county will request that the Metropolitan Council reallocate \$500,000 from an existing grant to finish the Point Douglas Trail project.

Money for the project thus far has come from federal aid, Metropolitan Council grants, and state bonds, as well as the Highway 5 funds.

Contact: Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director and County Engineer, 651-430-4339