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

Date: Jan. 16, 2018
Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager
Phone: 651-430-6026, after hours 952-807-3723
E-mail: yvonne.klinnert@co.washington.mn.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Jan. 16, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

County will receive funds for children's mental health screening, crisis response services

Washington County will receive two grants from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), after the County Board accepted them Jan. 16, a \$53,600 grant for children's mental health screening and \$235,000 to support the delivery of crisis response services.

Children's mental health screening and adult and children's crisis response services are mandated by state law.

One DHS grant provides state funds to support children's mental health screening, assessment, and mental health services to children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. The grant has been made available to the county in the past; funds received for 2017 were \$57,820. The grant amount varies each year as it is based on reimbursement for the number of children's mental health screenings completed in the prior year.

The 2018 Children's Crisis Response Services grant supports the delivery of crisis response services to residents, including a 24-hour telephone screening and triage, mobile crisis response teams, face-to-face crisis assessment and/or intervention, community stabilization, and crisis clinic psychiatry services.

Children's Crisis Response Services in Washington County are provided through a contract with Canvas Health and the grant dollars will be passed through to Canvas Health. The total amount of

A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow

increase for 2018 is \$82,220, allowing Canvas Health to add an additional full-time staff person to provide crisis response services. In addition to the increase in funding, DHS has allocated an additional \$35,000 to cover under-insured individuals, in addition to the uninsured individuals who the county has served in the past.

Contact: Sarah Amundson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6597, and Kathy Mickelson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6532

County will continue household hazardous waste collections in communities

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements with county communities Jan. 16 to allow the county to conduct household hazardous waste collections in those communities during 2018.

Eight satellite weekend household hazardous waste collections are planned for 2018, in spring and fall. Satellite collections bring the services offered at the Washington County Environmental Center closer to residents, making it more convenient and practical for them to recycle and dispose their household hazardous waste and electronics. 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 21, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo;
- at the Mahtomedi Community Education Building, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, April 28, 1520 Mahtomedi Ave., Mahtomedi;
- at the Cottage Grove Public Works Garage, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 5, 8635 W. Point Douglas Road S., Cottage Grove;
- at Lily Lake Ice Arena in Stillwater 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 19, 1208 S. Greeley St. Stillwater;
- at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, June 2, 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. 8, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway;
- at the Forest Lake Transit Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 15, 19955 Forest Road N.; enter at Headwaters Parkway;
- at the Hugo Public Works Garage, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Oct. 6, 6900 137th St. N., Hugo.

Confidential document shredding will be available at all events.

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

- Wednesday, April 18;
- Wednesday, June 6;
- Wednesday, July 11;
- Wednesday, Sept. 19; and
- Wednesday, Nov. 7.

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 8 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 accepts sex trafficking investigation, training grant for task force, approves agreements with other agencies

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a 2018 Sex Trafficking Investigations and Training grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs Jan. 16.

The grant is for \$313,000 to be used through Dec. 31, 2019.

Also Jan. 16, the board approved a joint powers agreement between the Oakdale Police Department, the Woodbury Public Safety Department, and Washington County to form the East Metro Trafficking Task Force.

Task force members will work together to identify and investigate sex trafficking crimes in the east metro area.

The task force operations will be governed by a board comprised of the county sheriff, county attorney, and the chief of police from each of the cities. The board shall determine overall task force priorities, budgets, and operational policies and procedures. The board will ensure the task force activities are carried out in accordance with the rules and guidelines contained in the grant contract that provides funding for the task force.

The grant will fund personnel assigned to the east metro task force to combat sex trafficking, paying for training, equipment, travel, and program expenses.

At its Jan. 9 meeting, the County Board also approved the addition of a sergeant to the staff of the Washington County Sheriff's to work with the East Metro Sex Trafficking Task Force.

The sergeant is needed to direct investigations and supervise the seven individuals who comprise the task force. The task force will employ a collaborative and proactive approach to sex trafficking interdiction throughout the metro area.

Contact: Sheriff Dan Starry, 651-430-7601

County will continue to work with BI, Inc., for home monitoring services

BI, Inc., will continue to provide electronic home monitoring services for Washington County, after the County Board approved a \$150,000 with the company Jan. 16 for 2018.

The electronic home monitoring (EHM) services provided by BI, Inc., include Global Positioning Satellite Tracking, and electronic alcohol monitoring called Sober Link, used by both juvenile and adult offenders.

In 2017, the county had a 36 percent increase in the number of offenders using electronic monitoring. As a result, the 2018 contract is for \$50,000 more than in 2017. The number of adults receiving conditional release supervision in the county in 2018 is projected to be 1,690. Of those, 70 percent are on alcohol monitoring, and 30 percent are on a global positioning system.

The county is increasing its use of electronic monitoring overall to provide pretrial services and after offenders are sentenced. It enhances supervision in the community, and is a cost-effective use of public funds as the per day cost of electronic monitoring cost is less than jail services.

Contact: Terry Thomas, Jr., Community Corrections Deputy Director, 651-430-6951

County Board hires architectural firm to begin improvements on Valley Branch library

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$44,810 contract with Hagen, Christensen & McIlwain Architects for architectural design and community engagement services to do improvements to the county's Valley Branch Library.

The Valley Branch Library has been in its current location in Lakeland for close to 30 years. The current location needs physical improvements for energy efficiency, accessibility, and to address general wear and tear of the building. The library space needs improvements due to age, increasing community expectations, and the changes occurring in library services.

The architectural firm will work with the community and the library to identify programming needs and space plans. This funding will allow for the implementation of the plans developed.

Community engagement will occur in March and April, and designs will be developed during May and April, and will be presented to the board in June.

The final design should be complete by fall 2018, and construction is scheduled for 2019.

Contact: Greg Wood, Building Services Director, 651-430-6225