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

**Date:** Feb. 6, 2018  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following actions were taken at the Feb. 6, 2018, Washington County Board of Commissioners meeting at the Government Center in Stillwater, Minnesota

#### **Board appoints residents to Mental Health Advisory Council, Workforce Development Board**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners made two appointments to county advisory groups Feb. 6.

Catherine Bauer was appointed to the Mental Health Advisory Council as the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) representative to a first term expiring Dec. 31, 2020. The advisory committee is established by state law. It reviews, evaluates, and make recommendations regarding the local mental health system; annually arranges for input from the regional treatment center review board regarding coordination of care between the regional treatment center and community-based services; annually arranges for input from the local system of care providers regarding coordination of care between services; and identifies for the County Board the individuals, providers, agencies, and associations to receive information on where mental health services are available in the county, and how to access the services.

Jeffrey Klemmer was appointed to the Workforce Development Board as the small business representative to a partial term expiring June 30, 2020.

It is the responsibility of the Workforce Development Board to determine the most effective designation of administrative entities, grant recipients, and program operators for the Workforce Service Area. It also jointly plans for collaboration, and provides for on-site review and oversight of

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program performance. It also selects local priorities for service and target populations for supplemental programming within the Workforce Development Board.

**Contact: Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Manager, 651-430-6026**

### **Canvas Health will continue to provide mental health services to residents**

Canvas Health will continue to provide adult and children's mental health services, family services, and after-hour services to Washington County residents after the County Board approved a contract of \$1.72 million with the non-profit agency Feb. 6.

Canvas Health provides services to children, adolescents, adults, the elderly, and families who struggle with aging, crises, chemical and mental health, and domestic and sexual abuse.

The county has worked with Canvas Health for many years to provide state-mandated mental health services and other services to county residents. The services include information, referral, and client outreach; diagnosis and psychiatric testing; outpatient treatment, day treatment, medication management, and Independent Living Skills training; case management for Seriously Emotionally Disturbed children; and family-based services, parenting assessments, and after-hours emergency social services.

After reviewing data on services for 2016 and 2017, a number of services in the Canvas Health contract were identified as those now funded by health plans for a large number of Washington County residents. Subsequently, adjustments have been made over the past few years to the county contract with Canvas Health.

For the 2018 contract, there is a decrease of \$60,000 in the funds given to the psychiatry program due to the very low numbers of uninsured clients who were served in 2017. In addition, the funds for the uninsured clients are adjusted to reflect what the county is being invoiced.

Several areas of service will receive a 2 percent increase. These include adult day services, abuse response services, the family treatment program, and the therapeutic learning center.

The overall contract is a 2.6 percent, or a \$52,772, decrease for 2018.

**Contact: Kathy Mickelson, Community Services Division Manager, 651-430-6532**

### **Residents will be able to use community room in Lake Elmo Library during non-business hours**

Residents will have access to the Lake Elmo Library Community Room during non-business hours after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the City of Lake Elmo Feb. 6.

Lake Elmo community groups have requested access to the Lake Elmo Library Community Room during non-business hours. The agreement provides the City of Lake Elmo a non-exclusive license to use the Community Room. Community groups will submit requests to the City of Lake Elmo for use of the room during non-business hours.

**Contact: Bethany Venable, Communications Specialist, 651-275-8504**

### **Lockridge Grindal Nauen will continue to provide federal relations services for county**

The firm Lockridge Grindal Nauen will continue to provide federal relations services to Washington County, after the County Board extended the firm's contract Feb. 6.

The firm provides federal relations services and works directly with county staff to devise and implement a federal strategy to maximize opportunities to secure resources. Federal funding is a key component of Washington County's transportation capital program and is necessary to deliver critical transportation improvements in Washington County. The county's continued presence in Washington, D.C., will be important to ensure future projects are successful in obtaining federal funding.

The renewed contract for \$60,000 runs to March 31, 2019. During 2017, the firm coordinated meetings with the Minnesota delegation for the Minnesota Fly-in in June and the Gold Line project in September, and worked directly with congressional staff to obtain approval from the Federal Transit Administration for the Gold Line to advance into the project development phase.

**Contact: Jan Lucke, Public Works Planning Director, 651-430-4316**

### **Sheriff's Office will continue to receive violent crime enforcement grant**

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will continue to receive funds for the Violent Crime Enforcement Teams from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs, after the County Board approved an extension of the grant agreement through 2018.

“I am looking forward to a continued partnership with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs as we work with our law enforcement partners throughout the state to combat the dangers that illegal substances pose to our communities,” said Sheriff Dan Starry.

The Sheriff's Office was awarded the 2017 Violent Crime Enforcement Teams grant for \$100,000 for funding the Washington County Drug Task Force in 2017. The grant agreement is extended to Dec. 31, and provides additional funding of \$100,000 for 2018. These funds reimburse the Sheriff's Office for personnel expenses of the Drug Task Force officers.

**Contact: Commander Andrew Ellickson, 651-430-7814**

### **County Board proclaims February as American Heart Month in county**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners proclaimed February as American Heart Month in Washington County Feb. 6, to raise awareness of heart disease and increase knowledge about prevention.

About 80 percent of cardiovascular disease can be prevented by:

- not using tobacco;
- being physically active;
- eating a healthy diet;
- maintaining a healthy weight; and
- controlling blood pressure, cholesterol and blood glucose levels.

In Washington County, heart disease is the second leading cause of death behind cancer. Chronic disease prevention is a top health priority for Washington County. Living Healthy in Washington County is part of the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) across Minnesota to make long-lasting economic and health impacts. By working with communities, employers, schools, and health care providers, the initiative strives to inspire and support residents to live longer, healthier lives through actions that increase opportunities for physical activity and healthier food options, and decrease tobacco use and exposure.

**Contact: Shannon Eisentrager, Communications Specialist, 651-430-6672**

### **Roadway study will study traffic patterns, appropriate jurisdictions for roadways**

WSB & Associates, Inc., will conduct a St. Croix Valley Roadway Jurisdictional Study, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$363,971 contract with the firm Feb. 6. The St. Croix River Crossing opened to traffic between Minnesota and Wisconsin in August 2017. Traffic patterns on local and regional transportation systems in Washington County have already started to change. In addition, the current local, county, and state roadway jurisdictions have gaps, stub segments, and are based on obsolete traffic patterns.

With this study, Washington County is taking a proactive approach to evaluating traffic pattern impacts and engaging partner agencies to identify guidelines for future roadway jurisdiction discussions that will ultimately improve efficiency in operating the transportation system. The study area extends north from the St. Croix Crossing slightly past Highway 96, to just west of Manning Avenue, and just north of 10<sup>th</sup> Street or County Road 10.

The study's goals will be to:

- collect data on existing roadways;
- analyze the current system and determine new traffic patterns;
- perform stakeholder engagement and education; and
- set guidelines for future discussions with local agencies.

The study will be paid for with highway state aid.

The study will begin this spring. Workshops with cities and townships will be conducted this summer, and a technical review will be conducted of potential jurisdictional transfers in the fall. The final report is expected next winter, which will provide guidelines for further discussions with local agencies in 2019.

**Contact: Frank Ticknor, Design Engineer, 651-430-4319**