



# Dakota County

## Community Services Committee of the Whole

### Agenda

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Tuesday, February 11, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 3A, Administration Center, Hastings

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If you wish to speak to an agenda item or an item not on the agenda, please notify the Clerk to the Board via email at [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us)

#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Note: Any action taken by this Committee of the Whole constitutes a recommendation to the County Board.

#### 2. Audience

Anyone in the audience wishing to address the Committee on an item not on the Agenda or an item on the Consent Agenda may send comments to [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us) and instructions will be given to participate during the meeting. Verbal comments are limited to five minutes.

#### 3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

##### 3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

#### 4. Consent Agenda

##### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on January 14, 2025

#### 5. Regular Agenda

##### 5.1 *Social Services-Children and Family Services* - Update On Youth Placement Workgroup

#### 6. Community Services Director's Report

#### 7. Future Agenda Items

#### 8. Adjournment

##### 8.1 Adjournment

For more information please call 651-554-5742.  
Committee of the Whole agendas are available online at  
<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/BoardMeetings/Pages/default.aspx>  
Public Comment can be sent to [CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us](mailto:CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us)



# Community Services Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-4228

**Agenda #:** 3.1

**Meeting Date:** 2/11/2025

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Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)



# Community Services Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-4229

**Agenda #:** 4.1

**Meeting Date:** 2/11/2025

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Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on January 14, 2025



# Dakota County

## Community Services Committee of the Whole

### Minutes

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Tuesday, January 14, 2025

1:00 PM

Conference Room 3A, Administration  
Center, Hastings

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#### 1. Call to Order and Roll Call

**Present:** Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Chairperson Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman, Commissioner Holberg and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Also in attendance were David McKnight, Deputy County Manager; Lucie O'Neill, Assistant County Attorney; Marti Fischbach, Community Services Division Director; and Jeni Reynolds, Sr. Administrative Coordinator to the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by the Chair, Commissioner Laurie Halverson.

The audio of this meeting is available upon request.

#### 2. Audience

Chair, Commissioner Laurie Halverson, asked if there was anyone in the audience who wished to address the Community Services Committee on an item not on the agenda or an item on the consent agenda. No one came forward and no comments were submitted to CountyAdmin@co.dakota.mn.us.

#### 3. Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

##### 3.1 Approval of Agenda (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

Ayes: 7

#### 4. Consent Agenda

##### 4.1 Approval of Minutes of Meeting Held on November 19, 2024

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Ayes: 7

##### 4.2 Authorization To Accept Additional Grant Funds From Minnesota Department Of Health For Children And Youth With Special Health Needs Program And Execute Grant Amendment

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of a

community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County Public Health has provided follow-up services for children and youth with special health needs since 2011; and

WHEREAS, follow-up services include providing consultation, resources, and education to families who have a child with suspected or confirmed hearing loss, or a child with an identified birth defect that is known to hinder growth and development; and

WHEREAS, children enrolled in this program are identified through newborn screening with the goal being to detect disabling conditions early allowing for early intervention; and

WHEREAS, follow-up services are funded through the Children and Youth with Special Health Needs grant (CYSHN) from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-584 (December 17, 2021), the County Board of Commissioners approved grant funds from MDH for the CYSHN program in the amount of \$125,000 effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County Public Health has provided early intervention services through the Follow Along Program (FAP) since 2002; and

WHEREAS, FAP is a program that identifies young children at risk for developmental and social-emotional concerns through screening and provides connections to developmental activities and appropriate resources and services to support overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, FAP services are currently funded through the Title V Social Security Act; Maternal and Child Health Block grant; and

WHEREAS, effective October 1, 2024, the FAP grant funding is being moved from the Title V Social Security Act; Maternal and Child Health Block grant to the CYSHN grant; and

WHEREAS, MDH is allocating additional grant funds for the CYSHN program in the estimated amount of \$31,725, effective October, 1 2024 through December 31, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to accept

the grant funds in the amount of \$31,725 and execute the Children and Youth with Special Health Needs grant amendment for the period of October 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That unless the grant program requirements change, the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend the grant to extend the grant term up to two years after initial expiration date, accept additional grant funds, and continue grant-funded full-time equivalents, consistent with County contracting policies, and inclusion of grant funds in future yearly Recommended and Approved Budgets, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 7

**4.3** Authorization To Accept Minnesota Department Of Health Cannabis And Substance Use Prevention Grant Funds, Execute Grant Agreement, Add 1.0 Grant-Funded Full-Time Equivalent, And Amend 2025 Public Health Budget

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of, a community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, during the 2023 legislative session, local and tribal public health agencies in Minnesota were allocated ongoing funding focused on cannabis prevention beginning in state fiscal year (SFY) 2025 (Chapter 121 - MN Laws; Article 1); and

WHEREAS, when the cannabis conference report passed, it contained language changing how local and tribal cannabis funding could be spent (Chapter 121 - MN Laws; Article 3); and

WHEREAS, eligible uses of the funds include prevention of use of other substances, including cannabis; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, Public Health was notified by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) of a Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention (CSUP) grant allocation of \$283,568 for the period of November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, these grant funds were awarded to all Community Health Boards throughout the state to create prevention, education, and recovery programs

focusing on substance misuse prevention and treatment options, with the main focus on primary prevention of substance use/misuse; and

WHEREAS, Public Health plans to utilize these grant funds to support the salary and benefits of a 1.0 grant-funded full-time equivalent Substance Use Prevention Specialist; and

WHEREAS, in addition, these grant funds will support 0.5 of the 1.0 full-time equivalent Public Health Supervisor for Substance Use Prevention that was approved through the 2025 budget process; and

WHEREAS, these positions will create infrastructure to support a substance use prevention program that can respond to the growing needs in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to accept the grant funds and execute the Cannabis and Substance Use Prevention grant agreement for the period of November 1, 2024 through October 31, 2025, for a total grant amount of \$283,568, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to add a 1.0 grant-funded, full-time equivalent (FTE) position; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That unless the grant program requirements change, the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend the grant to extend the grant term up to two years after initial expiration date, accept additional grant funds, and continue grant-funded full-time equivalents, consistent with County contracting policies, and inclusion of grant funds in future yearly Recommended and Approved Budgets, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2025 Public Health Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Expense**

Staff Expense 1.0 FTE	\$130,631
Program Expense	<u>\$ 46,796</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$177,157</b>

**Revenue**

Public Health Grant	(\$80,632)
Fund Balance (Indirect)	(\$25,779)
Substance Use Prevention Grant	<u>\$283,568</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$177,157</b>

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 7

**4.4** Authorization To Execute Joint Powers Agreement With Intermediate School District 917 For Smoke-Free Mentoring Cohort

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of, a community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County Public Health (Public Health) has over a decade of working with local school districts in Dakota County through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP); and

WHEREAS, SHIP supports community-driven solutions to expand opportunities for active living, healthy eating, commercial tobacco-free living, and preventing chronic disease; and

WHEREAS, one effective strategy supported by SHIP is collaborating with school districts to develop smoke-free peer mentoring programs; and

WHEREAS, Public Health contracts with the Minnesota Tobacco Free Alliance (TFA) to oversee these peer-mentoring cohorts, train youth in vaping prevention best practices as part of school engagement tactics, and work on school policies that positively impact student health; and

WHEREAS, TFA supports youth in being empowered to take ownership in preventing vaping among their peers and practice leadership skills in the community; and

WHEREAS, under Minn. Stat. §471.59, subd.1, two or more governmental units may enter into an agreement to cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting Parties, and one of the participating governmental units may exercise one of its powers on behalf of the other governmental units; and

WHEREAS, staff is requesting to enter into a JPA with Intermediate School District 917 for Smoke-Free Mentoring Cohort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of



Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a joint powers agreement with Intermediate School District 917 for the purpose of the Smoke-Free Mentoring Cohort for the term upon execution of the joint powers agreement through October 31, 2025.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 7

**4.5** Authorization To Apply For Minnesota Department Of Human Services Community Living Infrastructure Grant Funds For Dakota County And Regional Metro Counties, Accept Grant Funds, Execute Grant Agreement, Execute Contracts With Vendors, And Amend 2025 Social Services Budget

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Minnesota Legislature added language to the Minnesota Housing Support Act (Chapter 256I) to increase opportunities for Minnesotans with disabilities to live in the community; and

WHEREAS, the housing package included grant funding aimed at developing and supporting Community Living Infrastructure (CLI) throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the funding covers initiatives in three categories: 1) Outreach services to connect homeless individuals to housing, medical supports, employment and community resources; 2) Housing Resource Specialist services to assist individuals with obtaining required documentation so they can access housing; and 3) Administration and monitoring of the Housing Support program in order to monitor quality of services, increase efficiencies and build capacity to expand; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 21-261 (May 18, 2021), the County Board approved the two renewal applications to the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) for the grant period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023, in the amount of \$310,580 for Dakota County and \$379,415 for the Metro Area Housing Coordinating Board (MAHCB) and the two contracts were executed with Ally Supportive Services, LLC for street outreach services and with Mental Health Resources (MHR) on behalf of MAHCB for administration of the Housing Support Program in the Regional Metro Counties; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-280 (June 20, 2023), the County Board authorized an amendment to the current Dakota County grant agreement by adding CLI grant funds to Dakota County in the amount of \$231,966 for a total not to exceed amount of \$542,546 and extending the term of the grant agreement to June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends authorization to apply for CLI grant funds from DHS on behalf of Dakota County and MAHCB, and if received, accept grant funds from DHS on behalf of Dakota County and MAHCB, execute grant

agreements, execute contracts, and amend the 2025 Social Services Budget in a combined amount up to \$870,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the submission of the Community Living Infrastructure grant application to the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) on behalf of Dakota County, and if awarded, authorizes the Community Services Director to accept Community Living Infrastructure grant funds and execute the grant agreement for Dakota County in an amount up to \$400,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the submission of the Community Living Infrastructure grant application to DHS, and if awarded, authorizes the Community Services Director to accept Community Living Infrastructure grant funds and execute the grant agreement on behalf of the Metro Area Housing Coordinating Board in an amount up to \$470,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That unless the grant program requirements change, the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend the grant to extend the grant term up to two years after initial expiration date, accept additional grant funds, and continue grant-funded full-time equivalents, consistent with County contracting policies, and inclusion of grant funds in future yearly Recommended and Approved Budgets, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to contract with selected vendors in a not to exceed combined total contracts amount of up to \$870,000 for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend said contracts, consistent with the amount budgeted, to alter the contracts amount and the contracts term up to one year after initial expiration date, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contracts shall contain a provision that allows the County to immediately terminate the contracts in the event sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2025 Social Services Budget is hereby

amended as follows:

**Revenue**

DHS CLI Grant	<u>\$870,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$870,000</b>

**Expense**

DHS CLI Expense	<u>\$870,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$870,000</b>

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 7

**4.6** Authorization To Submit Grant Application To Minnesota Housing Finance Agency For Family Homelessness Prevention And Assistance Program Funds, Accept Grant Funds, Execute Grant Agreement And Related Contracts, And Amend 2025 Social Services Budget

Motion: Mike Slavik

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature established Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) in 1993 to assist families with children, youth and single adults who are homeless or are at imminent risk of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, by Minn. Stat. § 462A.204, FHPAP grant funding must be administered by counties in the metro area who, in turn, may sub-grant some or all funds to other entities; and

WHEREAS, funding is awarded through a competitive grant application process with predetermined criteria in four categories: planning, project design, program capacity/performance and need; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute also requires the establishment of an advisory committee to assist in preparing the project proposal and the design, implementation and evaluation of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Dakota County Affordable Housing Coalition (AHC) acts as the FHPAP Advisory Committee and a community-based subcommittee has been established by the AHC to help inform project direction and priorities; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County has received these grant funds for the past 20 years; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-164 (April 25, 2023), the Dakota County Board of Commissioners approved submission of an application for a FHPAP

grant in an amount up to \$5,200,000, and, if awarded, authorized subcontracting with three vendors for a combined total of up to \$5,200,000 for Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Partnership Agency (CAP) and with 360 Communities for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a request for proposals for subcontractors was issued on February 7, 2023, as required by county procurement policies; and

WHEREAS, three responses were received and three subgrantees, CAP, 360 Communities and the YMCA were selected to serve homeless and at-risk families, single adults and youth; and

WHEREAS, for the upcoming biennium, staff requests authorization to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for the FHPAP grant in the amount up to \$4,500,000; and

WHEREAS, this amount includes a combined total up to \$4,500,000 for the three recommended contracted subgrantees and up to 15 percent for administrative costs for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, if awarded, staff recommends execution of contracts with the YMCA, CAP and 360 Communities for a combined total amount not to exceed \$4,500,000, for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the submission of a Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) grant application to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency in the amount of \$4,500,000 for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if awarded, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to accept grant funds and execute a grant agreement with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency in the amount awarded for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That unless the grant program requirements change, the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend the grant to extend the grant term up to two years after initial expiration date, accept additional grant funds, and continue grant-funded full-time equivalents, consistent with County contracting policies, and inclusion of grant funds in future yearly Recommended and Approved Budgets, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if awarded, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute contracts with the Young Men’s Christian Association, the Scott-Carver-Dakota Community Action Partnership Agency, and with 360 Communities in a combined total not to exceed \$4,500,000 for the period of October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2027, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend said contracts, consistent with the amount budgeted, to alter the contract amounts and the contract terms up to one year after initial expiration date, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contracts shall contain a provision that allows the County to immediately terminate the contracts in the event sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, if awarded, the 2025 Social Services Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**Expense**

Social Services Budget	<u>\$4,500,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>

**Revenue**

FHPAP Grant	<u>\$4,500,000</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 7

**5. Regular Agenda**

**5.1 Authorization To Execute A Contract With Lionheart Wellness And Recovery Using Opioid Settlement Funds**

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

Coral Ripplinger, Public Health Director, and Erin Carder, Public Health Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of, a

community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota was part of a multi-state \$46.6-billion-dollar lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County will receive \$9,127,527.20 in the first settlement and \$7,429,374.49 in the second settlement over a 19-year period; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-277 (June 13, 2023), the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorized the formation of the Opioid Response Advisory Committee (ORAC) to assist in distributing part of the Opioid Settlement Funds; and

WHEREAS, this committee includes 17 voting members, including 7 appointed members with lived experience, 4 members from local government, 3 members from the healthcare field, and 3 members from community organizations; additionally, 4 non-voting Dakota County Staff attend meetings regularly; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the ORAC created a subcommittee to assist with the writing and scoring of the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project Request For Proposal (RFP); and

WHEREAS, this subcommittee included 1 member from healthcare, 2 members with lived experience, 2 members from community partners and 1 member from local government; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2024, the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project RFP was posted for 29 days, which resulted in nineteen proposals received from vendors with a variety of the abatement strategies listed in the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Exhibit A, including Treatment, Prevention and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee reviewed and scored the proposals and selected vendors to contract with at the amounts listed in the Resolution for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2024, the ORAC approved the subcommittee's RFP process and affirmed the decision to ask the Dakota Board of Commissioners to authorize each of the five contracts with the selected vendors; and

WHEREAS, advisory committee member Tiffany Neuharth is employed by Lionheart Wellness and Recovery and did not participate on the subcommittee and abstained from the committee vote; and

WHEREAS, the ORAC recommends that the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorize a contract with the following vendor based on the following:

### **Lionheart Wellness and Recovery**

- **Proposed Strategy:**
  - Expand trauma-responsive, evidence-based, co-occurring treatment for adolescents.
  - Increase accessibility to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder for adolescents.
  - Provide holistic support to adolescents with Opioid Use Disorder and/or Mental Health conditions and their families.
- **MOA Exhibit A Strategies: A.1, A.3, and A.6**
  - **A.1:** Expand availability of treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (“OUD”) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health (“SUD/MH”) conditions, including all forms of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (“MOUD”) approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, including by making capital expenditures to purchase, rehabilitate, or expand facilities that offer treatment.
  - **A.3:** Expand telehealth to increase access to treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including MOUD, as well as counseling, psychiatric support, and other treatment and recovery support services.
  - **A.6:** Provide treatment of trauma for individuals with OUD (e.g., violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or adverse childhood experiences) and family members (e.g., surviving family members after an overdose or overdose fatality), and training of health care personnel to identify and address such trauma.
- **Not to Exceed Dollar Amount:** \$75,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a contract with Lionheart Wellness and Recovery in a contract not to exceed amount of \$75,000, for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, to expand trauma-responsive, evidence-based, co-occurring treatment for adolescents, to increase accessibility to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder for adolescents, and to provide holistic support to adolescents with Opioid Use Disorder and/or Mental Health conditions and their families in accordance with the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement Exhibit A strategy items A.1, A.3, and A.6, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend said contract, consistent with the amount budgeted, to alter the contract amount and the contract term up to one year after initial expiration date, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contract shall contain a provision that allows the County to immediately terminate the contract in the event sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Chairperson Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Commissioner Holberg

**5.2** Authorization To Execute A Contract With Gateway Recovery Center Using Opioid Settlement Funds

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mary Hamann-Roland

Coral Ripplinger, Public Health Director, and Erin Carder, Public Health Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of, a community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota was part of a multi-state 46.6-billion-dollar lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County will receive \$9,127,527.20 in the first settlement and \$7,429,374.49 in the second settlement over a 19-year period; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-277 (June 13, 2023), the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorized the formation of the Opioid Response Advisory Committee (ORAC) to assist in distributing part of the Opioid Settlement Funds; and

WHEREAS, this committee includes 17 voting members, including 7 appointed members with lived experience, 4 members from local government, 3 members from the healthcare field, and 3 members from community organizations; additionally, 4 non-voting Dakota County Staff attend meetings regularly; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the ORAC created a subcommittee to assist with



the writing and scoring of the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project Request For Proposal (RFP); and

WHEREAS, this committee included 1 member from healthcare, 2 members with lived experience, 2 members from community partners and 1 member from local government; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2024, the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project RFP was posted for 29 days, which resulted in nineteen proposals received from vendors with a variety of the abatement strategies listed in the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Exhibit A, including Treatment, Prevention and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee reviewed and scored the proposals and selected vendors to contract with at the amounts listed in the Resolution for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2024, the ORAC approved the subcommittee's RFP process and affirmed the decision to ask the Dakota Board of Commissioners to authorize each of the five contracts with the selected vendors; and

WHEREAS, advisory committee member Michael Beltowsky is employed by Gateway Recovery Center and did not participate on the subcommittee and abstained from the committee vote; and

WHEREAS, the ORAC recommends that the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorizes a contract with the following vendor based on the following:

**Gateway Recovery Center**

- **Proposed Strategy:**
  - Provide transportation services for individuals with limited access to care at withdrawal management facilities.
- **MOA Exhibit A Strategies:** Items A.7 and B.7
  - **A.7:** Support detoxification (detox) and withdrawal management services for people with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health (SUD/MH) conditions, including but not limited to medical detox, referral to treatment, or connections to other services or supports.
  - **B.7:** Provide or support transportation to treatment or recovery programs or services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
- **Not to Exceed Dollar Amount:** \$32,293.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a contract with Gateway Recovery Center in a not to exceed contract amount of

\$32,293 to provide transportation services for individuals with limited access to care at withdrawal management facilities in accordance with the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement Exhibit A strategy items A.7 and B.7, for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend said contract, consistent with the amount budgeted, to alter the contract amount and the contract term up to one year after initial expiration date, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contract shall contain a provision that allows the County to immediately terminate the contract in the event sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Chairperson Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Commissioner Holberg

**5.3 Authorization To Execute A Contract With Thrive! Family Recovery Services Using Opioid Settlement Funds**

Motion: Liz Workman

Second: Mike Slavik

Coral Ripplinger, Public Health Director, and Erin Carder, Public Health Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of, a community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota was part of a multi-state \$46.6-billion-dollar lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County will receive \$9,127,527.20 in the first settlement and \$7,429,374.49 in the second settlement over a 19-year period; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-277 (June 13, 2023), the Dakota Board of

Commissioners authorized the formation of the Opioid Response Advisory Committee (ORAC) to assist in distributing part of the Opioid Settlement Funds; and

WHEREAS, this committee includes 17 voting members, including 7 appointed members with lived experience, 4 members from local government, 3 members from the healthcare field, and 3 members from community organizations; additionally, 4 non-voting Dakota County Staff attend meetings regularly; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the ORAC created a subcommittee to assist with the writing and scoring of the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project Request For Proposal (RFP); and

WHEREAS, this committee included 1 member from healthcare, 2 members with lived experience, 2 members from community partners and 1 member from local government; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2024, the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project RFP was posted for 29 days, which resulted in nineteen proposals received from vendors with a variety of the abatement strategies listed in the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Exhibit A, including Treatment, Prevention and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee reviewed and scored the proposals and selected vendors to contract with at the amounts listed in the Resolution for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2024, the ORAC approved the subcommittee's RFP process and affirmed the decision to ask the Dakota Board of Commissioners to authorize each of the five contracts with the selected vendors; and

WHEREAS, the ORAC recommends that the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorize a contract with the following vendor based on the following:

**Thrive! Family Recovery Services**

- **Proposed Strategy:**
  - Establish a family resource center to support families impacted by Opioid Use Disorder.
- **MOA Exhibit A Strategies:** Items A.6, B.1, B.2, B.5, and B.10
  - **A.6:** Provide treatment of trauma for individuals with Opioid Use Disorder ("OUD") (e.g., violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or adverse childhood experiences) and family members (e.g., surviving family members after an overdose or overdose fatality), and training of health care personnel to identify and address such trauma.
  - **B.1:** Provide comprehensive wrap-around services to individuals

- with OUD and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health (“SUD/MH”) conditions, including housing, transportation, education, job placement, job training, or childcare.
- **B.2:** Provide the full continuum of care of treatment and recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions, including supportive housing, peer support services and counseling, community navigators, case management, and connections to community-based services.
  - **B.5:** Provide community support services, including social and legal services, to assist in deinstitutionalizing persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions.
  - **B.10:** Engage non-profits, faith-based communities, and community coalitions to support people in treatment and recovery and to support family members in their efforts to support the person with OUD in the family.
- **Not to Exceed Dollar Amount:** \$93,707.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a contract with Thrive! Family Recovery Services in a contract not to exceed amount of \$93,707, for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, to establish a family resource center to support families impacted by Opioid Use Disorder in accordance with the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement Exhibit A strategy items A.6, B.1, B.2, B.5, and B.10, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend said contract, consistent with the amount budgeted, to alter the contract amount and the contract term up to one year after initial expiration date, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contract shall contain a provision that allows the County to immediately terminate the contract in the event sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Chairperson Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Commissioner Holberg

**5.4** Authorization To Execute A Contract With Minnesota Recovery Connection  
Using Opioid Settlement Funds

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Joe Atkins

Coral Ripplinger, Public Health Director, and Erin Carder, Public Health Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of, a community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota was part of a multi-state \$46.6-billion-dollar lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County will receive \$9,127,527.20 in the first settlement and \$7,429,374.49 in the second settlement over a 19-year period; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-277 (June 13, 2023), the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorized the formation of the Opioid Response Advisory Committee (ORAC) to assist in distributing part of the Opioid Settlement Funds; and

WHEREAS, this committee includes 17 voting members, including 7 appointed members with lived experience, 4 members from local government, 3 members from the healthcare field, and 3 members from community organizations; additionally, 4 non-voting Dakota County Staff attend meetings regularly; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the ORAC created a subcommittee to assist with the writing and scoring of the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project Request For Proposal (RFP); and

WHEREAS, this committee included 1 member from healthcare, 2 members with lived experience, 2 members from community partners and 1 member from local government; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2024, the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project RFP was posted for 29 days, which resulted in nineteen proposals received from vendors with a variety of the abatement strategies listed in the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Exhibit A, including Treatment, Prevention and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee reviewed and scored the proposals and selected vendors to contract with at the amounts listed in the Resolution for the period of

January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2024, the ORAC approved the subcommittee's RFP process and affirmed the decision to ask the Dakota Board of Commissioners to authorize each of the five contracts with the selected vendors; and

WHEREAS, the ORAC recommends that the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorize a contract with the following vendor based on the following:

**Minnesota Recovery Connection**

- **Proposed Strategies:**
  - Provide culturally appropriate long-term behavioral health and wellness for the Latine population suffering from Opioid Use Disorder.
  - Provide harm reduction education in accordance with Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate (CLAS) standards.
- **MOA Exhibit A Strategies: B.13 and H.3**
  - **B.13:** Create or support culturally appropriate services and programs for persons with Opioid Use Disorder ("OUD") and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health ("SUD/MH") conditions, including but not limited to new Americans, African Americans, and American Indians.
  - **H.3:** Training and education regarding naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses for first responders, overdose patients, patients taking opioids, families, schools, community support groups, and other members of the general public.
- **Not to Exceed Dollar Amount:** \$89,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a contract with Minnesota Recovery Connection in a contract not to exceed amount of \$89,000, for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, to provide culturally appropriate long-term behavioral health and wellness for the Latine population suffering from Opioid Use Disorder and to provide harm reduction education in accordance with Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate standards, in accordance with the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement Exhibit A strategy items B.13 and H.3, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend said contract, consistent with the amount budgeted, to alter the contract amount and the contract term up to one year after initial expiration date, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contract shall contain a provision that

allows the County to immediately terminate the contract in the event sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 6

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Chairperson Halverson, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Commissioner Holberg

**5.5 Authorization To Execute A Contract With Wayside Recovery Center Using Opioid Settlement Funds**

Motion: Joe Atkins

Second: Mike Slavik

Coral Ripplinger, Public Health Director, and Erin Carder, Public Health Deputy Director, presented on this item and stood for questions.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.04, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners is, and performs the duties and exercises the powers of, a community health board under Minn. Stat. ch. 145A, and is required to govern and administer those functions as fully as other Dakota County functions, including the responsibility to prevent disease and to promote and protect the public health of Dakota County residents; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota was part of a multi-state \$46.6-billion-dollar lawsuit against opioid manufacturers and distributors; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County will receive \$9,127,527.20 in the first settlement and \$7,429,374.49 in the second settlement over a 19-year period; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 23-277 (June 13, 2023), the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorized the formation of the Opioid Response Advisory Committee (ORAC) to assist in distributing part of the Opioid Settlement Funds; and

WHEREAS, this committee includes 17 voting members, including 7 appointed members with lived experience, 4 members from local government, 3 members from the healthcare field, and 3 members from community organizations; additionally, 4 non-voting Dakota County Staff attend meetings regularly; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2024, the ORAC created a subcommittee to assist with the writing and scoring of the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project Request For Proposal (RFP); and

WHEREAS, this committee includes 1 member from healthcare, 2 members with lived experience, 2 members from community partners and 1 member from local government; and

WHEREAS, on August 22, 2024, the Dakota County Opioid Epidemic Response Services Project RFP was posted for 29 days, which resulted in nineteen proposals received from vendors with a variety of the abatement strategies listed in the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) Exhibit A, including Treatment, Prevention and Other Strategies; and

WHEREAS, the subcommittee reviewed and scored the proposals and selected vendors to contract with at the amounts listed in the Resolution for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, on December 3, 2024, the ORAC approved the subcommittee's RFP process and affirmed the decision to ask the Dakota Board of Commissioners to authorize each of the five contracts with the selected vendors; and

WHEREAS, the ORAC recommends that the Dakota Board of Commissioners authorize a contract with the following vendor:

**Wayside Recovery Center**

- **Proposed Strategy:**
  - Support individuals who are involved in or transitioning out of the criminal justice system in Dakota County through case consultation, comprehensive assessment, care coordination, and linkage to treatment.
- **MOA Exhibit A Strategies:** Items D.4 and D.5
  - **D.4:** Provide evidence-informed treatment, including Medication for Opioid Use Disorder ("MOUD"), recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with Opioid Use Disorder ("OUD") and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health ("SUD/MH") conditions who are incarcerated in jail or prison.
  - **D.5:** Provide evidence-informed treatment, including MOUD, recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH conditions who are leaving jail or prison or have recently left jail or prison, are on probation or parole, are under community corrections supervision, or are in re-entry programs or facilities.
- **Not to Exceed Dollar Amount:** \$100,000

; and

WHEREAS, while Commissioner Laurie Halverson ("Commissioner Halvorson"),



Community Corrections Director Suwana Kirkland (“Director Kirkland”), and Employment & Economic Assistance Director Nadir Abdi (“Director Abdi”) are board members of Wayside Recovery Center, Commissioner Halverson abstained from voting on the resolution and the contract will not be under the purview of Director Kirkland or Director Abdi for any decision-making.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a contract with Wayside Recovery Center in the not to exceed amount of \$100,000, for the term of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 to support individuals who are involved in or transitioning out of the criminal justice system in Dakota County through case consultation, comprehensive assessment, care coordination, and linkage to treatment, in accordance with the Opioid Memorandum of Agreement Exhibit A strategy items D.4 and D5., subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Community Services Director is hereby authorized to amend said contract, consistent with the amount budgeted, to alter the contract amount and the contract term up to one year after initial expiration date, consistent with County contracting policies, subject to approval by the County Attorney’s Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the contract shall contain a provision that allows the County to immediately terminate the contract in the event sufficient funds from county, state, or federal sources are not appropriated at a level sufficient to allow payment of the amounts due.

This item was approved and recommended for action by the Board of Commissioners on 1/21/2025.

Ayes: 5

Commissioner Slavik, Commissioner Atkins, Commissioner Droste, Commissioner Workman and Commissioner Hamann-Roland

Nay: 1

Commissioner Holberg

Abstain: 1

Chairperson Halverson

## 6. Community Services Director's Report

Marti Fischbach, Community Services Division Director, referred the Committee to the written report that was provided and highlighted the Homelessness Point in Time Count taking place on January 22. Emily Schug, Director of Social Services, informed the Board that, as stated in Director Fischbach's report, the Board has been identified as stakeholders for the Community Assessment as part of the Communities for All initiative and they can expect a request from the contracted vendor for an interview.

**7. Future Agenda Items**

Chair, Commissioner Laurie Halverson, asked the Committee if anyone had a topic they would like to hear more about at an upcoming Community Services Committee of the Whole meeting. No topics were brought forth.

**8. Adjournment**

**8.1 Adjournment**

Motion: Mary Hamann-Roland

Second: Mike Slavik

On a motion by Commissioner Mary Hamann-Roland, seconded by Commissioner Mike Slavik, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Ayes: 7

Respectfully submitted,

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Colleen Collette, Administrative Coordinator  
Community Services Division

DRAFT



# Community Services Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

Item Number: DC-4117

Agenda #: 5.1

Meeting Date: 2/11/2025

**DEPARTMENT:** Social Services-Children & Family Services

**FILE TYPE:** Regular Information

### TITLE

**Update On Youth Placement Workgroup**

### PURPOSE/ACTION REQUESTED

Receive an update on the Regional County Youth Placement Workgroup including regional continuum of care framework and associated policy and legislative funding proposals.

### SUMMARY

A Regional County Youth Placement Workgroup was established in October 2024 to develop a plan to address placement options for county-connected youth with complex needs. The workgroup includes representation from Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, Ramsey and Washington counties in the metro, as well as St. Louis, Olmsted, and Stearns counties. A regional approach allows counties to work together to address the needs of our youth, instead of competing for limited resources such as providers, services, and staffing. Counties can leverage their individual and collective strengths and capacities to create a continuum of care that supports youth with complex mental health needs and their families.

The workgroup has developed a preliminary report that includes initial recommendations and legislative policy and funding proposals (Attachment: Preliminary Report).

Staff will summarize the preliminary report, plans for future work, and potential impact for Dakota County youth.

### OUTCOMES

None.

### RECOMMENDATION

Information only; no action requested.

### EXPLANATION OF FISCAL/FTE IMPACTS

None.

- None
- Current budget
- Other
- Amendment Requested
- New FTE(s) requested

### RESOLUTION

Information only; no action requested.

**PREVIOUS BOARD ACTION**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment: Preliminary Report

Attachment: Presentation Slides

**BOARD GOALS**

A Great Place to Live

A Successful Place for Business and Jobs

A Healthy Environment

Excellence in Public Service

**CONTACTS**

Department Head: Nikki Conway

Author: Nikki Conway

# Serving youth with complex mental health needs: A regional approach

## I. Background

A small but significant population of county-connected youth have unmet needs due to complex mental health diagnoses, behaviors, and trauma. Available mental health services include community, crisis, and residential settings and programming. The current system is fragmented, however, with gaps and barriers affecting families' access to services.

In addition, youth with complex needs may be involved with multiple systems, including human services and juvenile justice systems. Minnesota separates licensing, certification and funding of placement options from programming, which means youth can't always access needed services.

These barriers disproportionately impact youth and families of color. Leaving youth in inappropriate settings causes more harm, and poor outcomes across health, education, justice and other domains.

Fundamental structural reform is needed. At this time, there is interest in a metro-wide plan to enhance and improve the continuum of care, serving county-connected youth with a whole-person, cross-system approach. This plan is built on state-wide research and findings and will include the voice of the youth and families most impacted.

### Scope of this document

On October 1, 2024, Hennepin County Board Action 24-0402 endorsed a workgroup to develop a plan that addresses placement options for county-connected youth with complex needs. Included in that board action were two deliverables:

1. A preliminary report with recommendations and legislative proposals by January 7, 2025
2. A final report with recommendations by April 1, 2025

This document serves as the first deliverable.

### Summary of work completed in October-December 2024

Following Hennepin County Board approval on October 1, an internal project team was established to support this body of work. See list of members in Appendix A.

**The Youth Services Advisory Workgroup** met twice to review data and proposals of a larger regional county group, providing guidance and insight on the preparation and direction of the recommendations. This workgroup was chaired by retired Judge Lucy Wieland. See list of members in Appendix A.

**The Regional County Youth Placement Workgroup** met five times as a large body, with four subcommittees meeting additionally to develop the draft legislative proposals for review. This workgroup included county social services and corrections leaders. See list of members in Appendix A.

## II. 2023-2024 Legislative workgroup

### Context

Established by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023, the Working Group on Youth Interventions was tasked with evaluating the out-of-home placement options for Minnesota youth adjudicated to be either a child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) or delinquent, with specific focus on therapeutic and rehabilitative services and on the racial disparities that exist within that landscape. The working group met for six months and issued a final report to the Minnesota Legislature in February 2024.

In fall 2024, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners affirmed the work of the Working Group on Youth Interventions in promoting best practices and improving the system of care through a regional continuum of services.

### Recommendations

The [Working Group on Youth Interventions Report to the Legislature \(PDF\)](#) made recommendations on the design of a regional system of care for youth interventions in six overarching categories:

1. Building a regional system of care throughout the state, that will keep youth closer to home and maximize connection, contact, and support for both youth and family.
2. Continued study of facility licensing and certification and evaluation of accountability, governance and oversight.
3. Fiscal strategies to support and retain existing staff and providers, increase access to programs for youth and family, improve reimbursement for providers, as well as support infrastructure changes needed in many facilities.
4. Improving data collection, data sharing, and data analysis, to ensure transparency and better data driven decisions.
5. Improving the programming offered in out-of-home placement facilities and across the entire continuum of care for system involved youth to better comply with best practices.
6. Addressing the workforce development needs that are impacting our system providers and community providers, including hiring, retention, training, salary, and wellness.

### Informing our work

The recommendations of the working group emphasize the benefits of establishing a regional approach.

The actions and legislative proposals outlined in the rest of this document are consistent with the Working Group on Youth Intervention's recommendations, and advance those recommendations in observable, actionable changes in Hennepin County and across the metro region.

### III. Hennepin County’s response

As previous efforts have shown, more work is needed in Minnesota to develop a system that can address overlapping justice and human services needs of juveniles. The statewide issues are well known and documented.

Hennepin County is advancing the coordination of a regional continuum of care, through an immediate response of establishing a youth crisis stabilization center. This effort includes legislative policy and funding proposals, as well as focused planning for future phases of work.

For many years, the county has invested at every level of the mental health continuum – early intervention, crisis response, and deep-end services – to serve more youth and families and achieve better outcomes for all. Those efforts are critical to our overall success and must be sustained.

The system remains complex and fragmented, however, resulting in resource, programming, and support availability based on a youth’s involvement in the justice or human service systems. When we provide programming and services based on individual youth and their families’ needs instead of responding to their system involvement, we support youth as well as community safety.

Hennepin County has chosen an equity-centered approach that is within our scope to create effective change right now, while advancing the longer-term changes that will require state and legislative action.

#### A. Regional continuum of care framework

##### A regional approach

Instead of competing for limited resources a regional approach allows counties to work together to better address the needs of youth. Counties can leverage their individual and collective strengths and capacities to create a continuum of care that supports youth with complex mental health needs and their families.

Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Scott, Ramsey and Washington counties in the metro, plus St. Louis, Olmsted, and Stearns counties in out-state Minnesota, are collaborating to pool resources and create a continuum of services, facilities and care. While this may not form a geographically contiguous region, it does address shared needs, interests, and values for serving youth and families.

Leaders and staff from participating partner counties will jointly identify actionable reforms, innovative solutions and broad strategies to fill the gaps in the care continuum. Working together, member counties can help drive sustainable improvements through those collective efforts, increasing their impact and raising their voice.

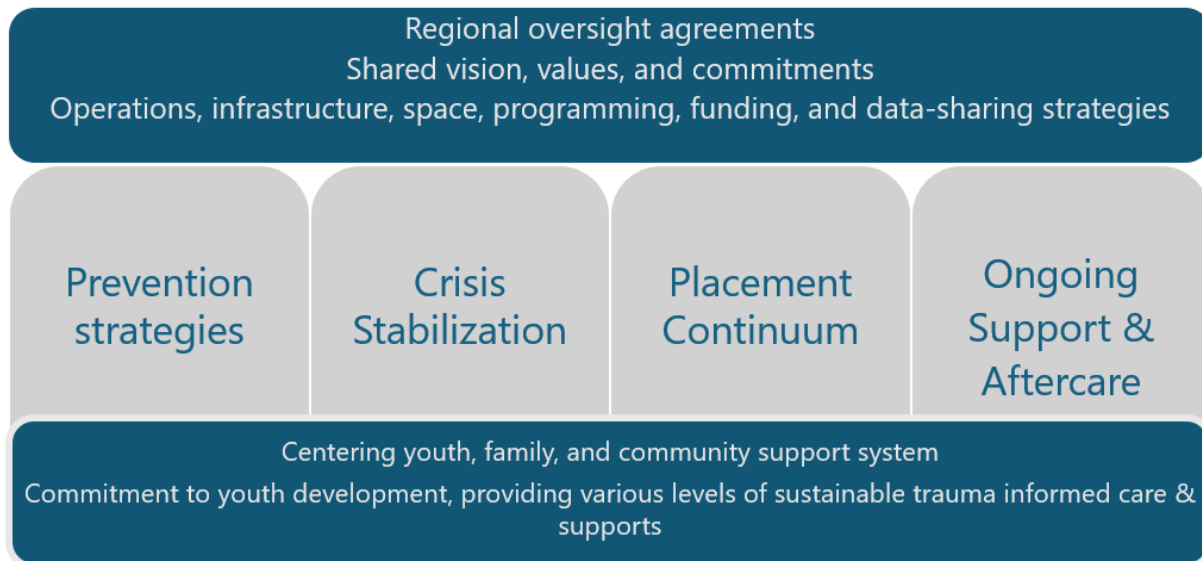
We are committed to this approach across counties and recognize that serving youth in their communities is critical to improving outcomes – including when their needs require placement outside of their home. As we build this regional framework, we will prioritize efforts that will serve youth close to home.

## A continuum of care framework

A continuum of care framework provides structure to the regional approach. A broad continuum of services and supports advances our shared vision and commitment to youth with complex mental health needs.

This framework spans the spectrum of needs, including prevention, crisis stabilization, the entire placement continuum, and community support or aftercare.

We know youth of color are disproportionately represented in human services and juvenile justice systems. We also know these youth commonly have underlying trauma and unmet mental health needs. With this framework, we're imagining a system that acknowledges root causes and develops a continuum of services for youth within family systems.



Participating counties, with significant input from community and professional stakeholders, will define and agree what should be included in the continuum, as well as common definitions and processes for which services and programs are appropriate based on the level of care needed.

The counties may decide to use a regional governance and funding model, internal staffing with outside project planning and initial implementation support. The level of collaboration and participate is yet to be determined.

## B. Immediate action: crisis stabilization

### Context

To address one of the most acute gaps in services, Hennepin County is funding and opening a youth crisis stabilization center at our Behavioral Health Center at 1800 Chicago Avenue in Minneapolis.

The center will serve county-involved youth with complex mental health and behavioral needs, regardless of which system they enter.

Within Minnesota's existing placement options, functional capacity is severely restricted, and in some cases, it is completely unavailable. This creates delays in connecting youth to the services they need. Extended time in the wrong settings and without access to appropriate care often worsens youth's conditions.

Residential crisis stabilization services fill this critical gap. During short-term stays of 30-45 days, youth will have access to treatment and therapeutic supports while triage, assessment, and planning take place with families.



## Target population and services

- Youth with complex behavioral health needs, regardless of which system they enter
- Residential crisis stabilization for youth who cannot remain safely at home: treatment and therapeutic supports while triage, assessment, and planning take place with families
- Culturally responsive services delivered by a community agency, intended to reduce the deep racial disparities concentrated in this part of the system
- 10-15 beds for short-term stays of 30-45 days

Consistent with current protocol, all youth referred for residential treatment shall undergo an assessment by a mental health professional with involvement from the parent or guardian to determine the appropriate level of care and to authorize the use of public funds to pay for the treatment services. This is also referred to as the “screening team.” The level of care assessment and recommendation shall determine whether the proposed treatment is necessary, appropriate to the youth’s individual treatment needs, cannot be effectively provided in the youth’s home and provides a length of stay as short as possible consistent with the individual youth’s needs.

## Facility design and environment

Leveraging an existing Hennepin County-owned building means these critical residential crisis stabilization services can be available more quickly. A \$15 million Hennepin County capital investment will transform the current space and create an environment specifically designed to support these new services.

- Non-institutional
- Secure perimeter
- Comprehensive approach to safety

Youth and family engagement sessions are planned to help shape the facility design now as well as the programming development in the months to come.

As part of the service provider contract, an ongoing family and youth advisory group will be established. The contract also includes a requirement for cultural consulting to shape services.

## Timeline

We are quickly advancing this work to address pressing system gaps.

- April 2024: Requested proposals for youth residential crisis stabilization services
- October 2024: Hennepin County Board approval
- December 2024: Youth and family engagement sessions begin
- Late 2024-early 2025: Planning, design and construction
- July 2025 (tentative): Youth crisis stabilization center opens

This effort runs parallel to the regional approach planning and development and legislative policy and funding proposals as outlined in sections III-C and III-D of this document.

## Within the regional approach

Crisis stabilization is a key piece of the service continuum within the regional approach. As described above, residential crisis stabilization services fill a pressing gap in the current system.

While the youth crisis stabilization center will be in a Hennepin County-owned building and will serve eligible Hennepin County youth, county-connected youth who are residents of counties within the region may also be eligible, as determined by the screening team.

The creation of this center can serve as a model for how the regional approach will positively impact youth across the participating counties.

## C. Regional framework: Planning, development, and engagement

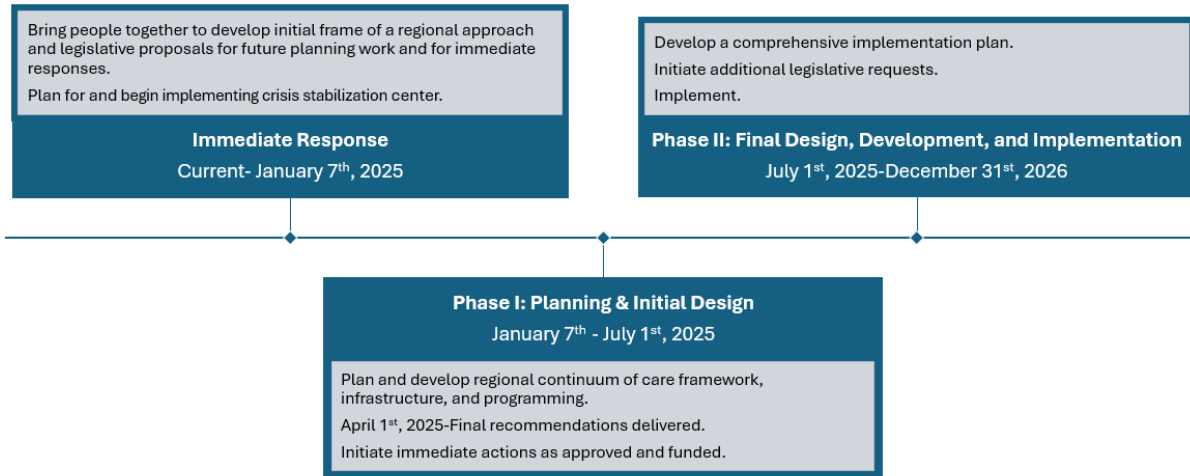
### Context

Building out the regional continuum of care framework will take place in two structured phases, with intentional involvement of residents, providers, and county participants. The framework will also be informed by the recommendations put forth by the Legislative Working Group on Youth Interventions.

In addition to planning, design, and implementation, this approach will take advantage of immediate opportunities to stand up supportive services or innovative changes whenever possible.

## Phase I: Planning and Initial Design

January 2025-June 2025



The first phase of work and participation involves planning and design of the framework between January 2025 and July 1, 2025.

Initial stakeholder and community participation and engagement in this phase, as outlined later in this document, will support the development of a shared understanding of youth and family needs, a vision, values, and a philosophy. While this phase continues to July 2025, a proposed oversight structure, funding model, and recommended further plan of action will be formed by April 1, 2025, as requested by the Hennepin County Board.

During Phase I, the participating counties will create a steering committee to guide the decision making, staffed by a planner/project manager or shared county staff. Subcommittees will work on:

- a) Regional framework, including the governance structure, funding model and data sharing
- b) Programs and operations inventory, planning, and data sharing
- c) Facilities inventory and planning

Outside stakeholders, including members of the Youth Services Advisory Workgroup and community members, will be asked to participate in the committees. The participating counties will draft the agreed upon continuum of services, identifying what is missing and where the priority needs are.

From April 1-June 30, 2025, the steering committee, informed by the subcommittees, will draft and finalize the Phase II initial implementation plan.

## Phase II: Final design, development, and implementation

July 1, 2025-December 31, 2026

The goal of this phase will be to develop, fund and put into effect a comprehensive and graduated implementation plan based on Phase I recommendations. Implementation will continue in 2027 and beyond.

### Engagement

Underpinning the proposed regional approach is our recognition that for true change, those most impacted need to be involved in the planning and implementation. Done well, community engagement will foster a sense of belonging and shared responsibility, paving the way for collective action. This engagement plan complements the efforts addressed in the Crisis Stabilization section above.

The regional engagement process must be structured, intentional and inclusive. The proposed process will have a tested structure that has worked well in other initiatives, shifting how the county, residents, and providers work with one another.

Our engagement approach will:

- Build relationships, as we know an environment of trust impacts how we engage as well as service delivery.
- Invite a variety of perspectives to participate in planning and design. These perspectives will include residents with lived experience, mental health experts, providers, tribal representation, and people with judicial and county work experience.
- Know and name when we are informing, seeking input, or making shared decisions, always with a value for collaboration.
- Fund local people and organizations to help lead facilitation, planning, and engagement.
- Lean into existing community and youth groups where relationships and knowledge already exist.

In addition to the intentional involvement of relevant stakeholders, youth engagement will be structured into the process. A new Youth Services Council will include youth with lived experience in the mental health system or juvenile justice system, from all the participating counties, with the goal to provide input and guidance on planning and implementation at every phase of the implementation process. The process will be intensive and intentional, similar to how the youth crisis stabilization center is being developed.

Each county will also be developing its own community engagement process, guided by the common values listed above, to inform its work within the continuum. The information gathered will be shared with the entire region as part of the governance process.

# D. Legislative policy and funding proposals

## Overview

The goal of this new approach is to create a continuum of care which addresses the individual youth's needs, no matter how they enter the system. In addition to coordinating resources at the county level, creating a regional continuum of care framework will require identifying policy gaps, addressing systemic shortcomings and maximizing resources.

As this effort begins, we have identified several legislative policy changes which would have an immediate impact on maximizing capacity and getting care for the young people who need it. We are also proposing longer-term efforts which must be undertaken to make lasting change.

## Summary of policy proposals

*See Appendix B for background, context and more detailed proposal descriptions.*

### *Licensing and certification proposals*

- Establish a legislative task force including the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Corrections (DOC), Direct Care and Treatment (DCT), counties, providers and community members to provide specific licensing standards for unique levels of care, for children's residential mental health facilities covered under Minn. R. 2960.0580 to 2960.0690. DHS to submit a report to the legislature on progress made by July 1, 2026.
- Allow an exception to the current moratorium on youth beds to expand capacity of licensed child foster residence settings, adding placement options for least restrictive treatment options (disability waiver system).
- Modify Minn. R. 2960.0710 regarding training for restrictive procedures licenses to be trauma-responsive and include culturally appropriate and responsive practices.
- Revise MN Stat. §245.4874 to ensure juvenile-justice involved youth receive mental health screening as early as possible.

### *Medicaid benefit policy proposals*

- Inmate Exclusion/Reentry Waiver  
Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to prioritize full implementation of the federal direction under the Consolidated Appropriation Act (CAA), requiring states to provide certain health care services for eligible youth incarcerated in correctional institutions.
- Crisis Stabilization Benefit  
Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to expedite the implementation of the benefit "residential crisis stabilization for children."

### *Reimbursement rate structure proposals*

- Require DHS to begin phased implementation of the 2023 non-residential rate study recommendations by July 1, 2025.
- Require DHS to conduct a review of the financial model for residential children's facilities by July 1, 2026.
- Create a temporary fund for the existing 7 children's residential treatment facilities until the financial review offers guidance for the administration by host counties.

### *Multi-disciplinary team proposal*

- Amend Minn. Stat. §260E.02 regarding Multi-Disciplinary Teams to allow creation of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for youth with complex mental health needs.

# Funding the Regional Continuum of Care

See Appendix B for additional information about potential funding proposals.

The participating counties are each committed to partnering in the continuum of services. To fill the most pressing gaps and shortages, we are seeking some immediate short-term funding to narrow service gaps, offer critical programming and support the build out of the regional framework. Areas of identified need include:

- **Staffing stabilization:** Incentives, training, rate increases and support for critical front-line and clinical staff.
- **Programming/services:** Funding for community provider programming in juvenile detention centers or shelters, as well as care coordination with community mental health for transitions out of care.
- **Facilities/providers:** Maximizing capacity and effectiveness in existing facilities, supporting temporary rate increase for children’s residential facilities.
- **Build-out of regional continuum of care framework:** Framework planning and development of implementation road map, data sharing model.

### Request

Authorize up to \$20,000,000 to fund staffing, programs, services (short and long-term) and facilities in the regional continuum of care, to be spread across the participating counties, including planning and implementation costs for the build out of the regional framework.

	2025	2026	2027	Total
Staffing stabilization	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
Programming/services	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
Facilities/providers	\$2,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$8,000,000
Buildout of regional framework	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$20,000,000</b>

# Appendix A – Workgroup membership

## Youth Advisory Workgroup

Category	Member	Title	Organization
Chair	Hon. Lucy Wieland	Judge (ret).	
Metro counties representatives	Suwana Kirkland	Director, Community Corrections	Dakota County
	Suzanne Arntson	Deputy Director, Public Health & Social Services	Scott County
Expertise in co-occurring conditions ( <i>mental and behavioral health needs, developmental and intellectual disabilities, and substance use disorders</i> )	Larry Tucker	Executive Director	Kente Circle
	Steven Dahl/Jeremy Mork	Directors, Community Based Services, and Child & Adolescent Services, Direct Care & Treatment	Minnesota Department of Human Services
Lived experience/family member representatives	Dorothy Bode		
	Charles Osugo		
Hennepin County 4 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District	Hon. Todd Fellman	Chief Judge	Hennepin County Juvenile Court
County Attorney representative	Sarah Davis	Deputy County Attorney, Director – Children & Families Division	Hennepin County Attorney's Office
Public Defender representative	Andre Morant	Senior Attorney	Hennepin County Public Defender's Office
State of Minnesota agency representative	Natasha Merz	Assistant Commissioner of Aging and Disability Services	Minnesota Department of Human Services
Providers and other experts	Kirsten Andersen	Executive Director	AspireMN
	Elliot Butay	Senior Policy Coordinator	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Minnesota
	Malaiika Eban	Executive Director	Legal Rights Center

## Hennepin County internal project team

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name/title</b>
Director	Lisa Bayley, Director, Safe Communities
Manager - Juvenile justice expertise	Jerald Moore, Manager, Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR)
Manager - Project management	Michelle Eveslage, Senior Administrative Manager, Internal Services
Admin support	Geniene Layne, Administrative Assistant, Intermediate, Children and Family Services
Communications	Lauren Kewley, Principal Communications Specialist
Data collection and analysis	Alex Trembley, Data Analytics and CQI Strategy Manager
Manager - Juvenile developmental disabilities and co-occurring conditions expertise	Deborah Ackerman, Manager, Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS)

## Hennepin County leadership

<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>
County Administrator	David Hough
Deputy County Administrator, Health and Human Services	Jodi Wentland
Director, Behavioral Health	Leah Kaiser
Assistant County Administrator, Law, Safety and Justice	Chela Guzman-Wiegert
Acting Director, Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	Mary Ellen Heng



## Regional County Youth Placement Workgroup

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>County</b>
Alexandra Kotze	Interim Deputy County Manager, Health and Wellness	Ramsey
Anna Hewitt	Manager, Social Services	Ramsey
Monica Long	Director, Community Corrections	Ramsey
Amira Carter	Planning Specialist, Social Services	Ramsey
Kim Stubblefield	Deputy Director, Adult Probation	Ramsey
Linnea Mirsch	Director, Community and Human Services	St. Louis
Leah Kaiser	Director, Behavioral Health	Hennepin
Jerald Moore	Division Manager, Juvenile Health	Hennepin
Mary Ellen Heng	Acting Director, Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation	Hennepin
Neerja Singh	Area Manager, Behavioral Health	Hennepin
Geniene Layne	Administrative Specialist	Hennepin
Wanda Cannon	Public Policy Manager	Hennepin
Lauren Kewley	Communications	Hennepin
Debbie Ackerman	Human Services Manager, Long Term Services and Supports	Hennepin
Michelle Eveslage	Senior Administrative Manager / Planner	Hennepin
Lisa Bayley	Director, Safe Communities	Hennepin
Jodi Wentland	Deputy County Administrator, Health and Human Services	Hennepin
Nick Henderson	Human Services Director, Family and Children's Division	Stearns
Melissa Huberty	Administrator, Human Services	Stearns
Barb Dahl	Director, Health and Human Services	Scott
Chris Harder	Quality Improvement Manager	Scott
Molly Bruner	Director, Community Corrections	Scott
Suzanne Arntson	Deputy Director, Health and Human Services	Scott
Nikki Hallberg	Supervisor, Social Work	Scott
Heather Goodwin	Director, Health and Human Services	Carver
Eric Johnson	Director, Probation Services	Carver
Kate Probert	Deputy Director, Health and Human Services	Carver
Dylan Warkentin	Director, Community Corrections	Anoka
Cindy Cesare	Chief Officer, Human Services	Anoka
Sarah Amundson	Division Manager, Children's Services	Washington
Ren Clinton	Deputy Director, Community Corrections	Washington
Jennifer Castillo	Director, Community Services	Washington
Marti Fischbach	Director, Community Services	Dakota
Suzanne Tuttle	Deputy Director, Social Services	Dakota
Suwana Kirkland	Director, Community Corrections	Dakota
Sarah Reetz	Field Services Deputy Director, Community Corrections	Dakota
Lawrence Dickens	Deputy Director, Social Services	Dakota
Nikki Conway	Director, Children's and Family Services	Dakota

Amy Rauchwarter	Deputy Administrator, Health, Housing, and Human Services	Olmsted
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# Appendix B – Legislative policy and funding proposals

## Proposed policy changes

### *Licensing and certification policy proposals*

#### *Context*

State licensing and certification are required for government and community providers. The process is unduly complex and creates confusion, raises barriers and delays funding and services. A more streamlined process which meets actual regulatory needs while also supporting a continuum of services would better serve the youth, their families and community.

- Establish a legislative task force including the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), Department of Human Services (DHS), Department of Corrections (DOC), Direct Care and Treatment (DCT), counties, providers and community members to provide specific licensing standards for unique levels of care, for children's residential mental health facilities covered under Minn. R. 2960.0580 to 2960.0690, "Licensure and Certification Programs for Children." DHS to submit a report to the legislature on progress made by July 1, 2026.
- Allow an exception to the current moratorium on foster care residential settings to expand capacity of licensed child foster residence settings, adding placement options for least restrictive treatment options (disability waiver system).
- Modify Minn. R. 2960.0710 regarding training for restrictive procedures licenses to be trauma-responsive and include culturally appropriate and responsive practices.
- Revise MN Stat. §245.4874 (c) to ensure juvenile-justice involved youth receive mental health screening as early as possible.

### *Medicaid benefit policy proposals*

#### Context

To support sustainability of the regional continuum of services, a more robust set of Medicaid reimbursement strategies will offer greater opportunities for revenue and enhanced services.

#### Inmate Exclusion/Reentry Waiver

- Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to implement regulations outlined in Section 5121 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, which imposes new limits on the inmate exclusion policy and requires states to provide certain health care services for eligible youth incarcerated in correctional institutions including but not limited to juvenile justice facilities and detention facilities. The services should include a range of behavioral health screening/diagnostic services and targeted case management services, 30 days prior to release and at least 30 days post-release. State Medicaid Agency-DHS will produce a draft of the Medicaid and CHIP state plan amendment (SPA) for the counties and providers to respond to, no later than May 30, 2025.

#### Crisis Stabilization Benefit

- Direct the State Medicaid Agency -DHS to provide an update to the legislation on the implementation of the benefit "residential crisis stabilization for children" no later than February 25, 2025.
- Direct the State Medicaid Agency-DHS to share a draft of the proposed criterion with the counties, for the residential crisis stabilization services under Minnesota Statutes section, 256B.0625 subdivision 72, including but not limited to ; (1) eligibility criteria; (2) clinical and service requirements;(3) provider standards;(4) licensing requirements; (5) reimbursement rates for residential crisis stabilization for children;(6) additional

reimbursement rates for room and board; draft legislation with statutory changes necessary to implement the recommendations of the commissioner in clauses (1) to (6), no later than January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.\*

\*DHS is already legislatively mandated to share this report with the legislative committees no later than January 6, 2026. Counties have not received any draft of the report to comment.

#### *Reimbursement rate structure proposals*

- Require DHS to begin phased implementation of the 2023 non-residential rate study recommendations by July 1, 2025.
- Require DHS to conduct a review of the financial model for residential children’s facilities by July 1, 2026.
- Create a temporary fund for the existing 7 children’s residential treatment facilities until the financial review offers guidance for the administration by host counties.

#### *Multi-disciplinary team proposal*

- Amend Minn. Stat. §260E.02 regarding Multi-Disciplinary Teams to allow creation of Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) for youth with complex mental health needs.

### Funding the Regional Continuum of Care Framework

The following are some of the potential initiatives in each of the funding categories which could be enacted now and have an immediate impact across the participating counties:

#### *Staffing stabilization*

- Hiring and retention incentives
- Funds to hire county therapists—experienced therapists with culturally responsive skills, insurance/billing, HIPPA, clinical supervision.
- A regional “on-call” mobile pool of experienced, culturally responsive staff who can support attending to various sites for emergency/crisis stabilization, pooling resources, filling short term gaps, directing resources/skills where needed.
- Post-degree supervision, including supervision support for psychiatric providers to work with youth with complex mental health needs.

#### *Programming/services*

- Programming and services in Juvenile Detention Centers and non-secure shelter programs.
- Crisis response available for families (culturally specific), using in-person community-based services, especially after hours.
- Community Family Resource Centers (prevention).
- Care coordination with Community Mental Health, for community providers to see youth or triage care when a youth is incarcerated, assisting with transition.
- Traditional or culturally specific practices such as healing circles, sweat lodges (pilot).

#### *Facilities/providers*

- Infrastructure: relocating Scott County Juvenile Alternative Facility; Dakota/Washington County Aspen House remodel.
- Providers: Funds available to new providers for start-up costs, training, etc. prior to getting licensed and providing services.

*Buildout of regional continuum of care framework*

- Funds to develop regional approach: inventory available facilities, services, programs; share information and data re: what beds are available, create implementation and funding plan.
- Create data sharing plan for information sharing between participating counties.
- Project manager/facilitator, professional services.



## Regional Youth Placement Continuum

Nikki Conway, Director Social Services  
Suwana Kirkland, Director Community Corrections

February 11, 2025

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## Agenda



- Background
- Regional Approach
- Regional Framework
- Legislative Policy and Funding Requests
- Dakota County Impact

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# Headlines



## Minnesota struggles to treat young, violent offenders who have nowhere to go

By Paul Blume | Published October 20, 2024 9:40pm CST | Crime and Public Safety | FOX 9 | [↗](#)

## Minnesota spends millions sending troubled youth out-of-state for treatment

By Paul Blume | Published November 24, 2024 10:30pm CST | Minnesota | FOX 9 | [↗](#)

### NEWS & POLITICS

## Minnesota kids forced to cross the country for mental health help

Kids with complex needs have gone to Massachusetts, Texas and other states for care. County officials say far-flung placements are costly and traumatic.

By Jessie Van Berkel  
The Minnesota Star Tribune  
NOVEMBER 2, 2024 AT 7:00AM

### LOCAL

## Reducing juvenile crime in Minnesota will take more counselors, treatment options, panel tells lawmakers

The Legislative Working Group on Youth Interventions, made up of local leaders and law enforcement officials from across the state, recommends broad reforms to combat rising crime.

By Christopher Mogan  
The Minnesota Star Tribune  
FEBRUARY 24, 2024 AT 12:00PM

### NEWS & POLITICS

## Minnesota kids with mental health needs cycle through juvenile justice system, often without options

Youth ruled incompetent to stand trial cannot legally be housed in juvenile detention centers, but they frequently can't find beds at residential treatment facilities.

By Jessie Van Berkel and Liz Sawyer  
The Minnesota Star Tribune  
OCTOBER 19, 2024 AT 8:43AM

### INVESTIGATIONS

## KARE 11 Investigates: Judge puts Hennepin County on notice for illegally holding kids in jail

Judge Todd Fellman blasts Hennepin County for "insufficient urgency and effort" to solve the lack of mental health treatment for aggressive kids with mental illness.

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# Background



Unmet placement needs

Small but significant number of County connected youth

Involved in multiple systems

Disproportionately affects youth and families of color

Working Group on Youth Interventions (Feb 2024) recommended regional system of care

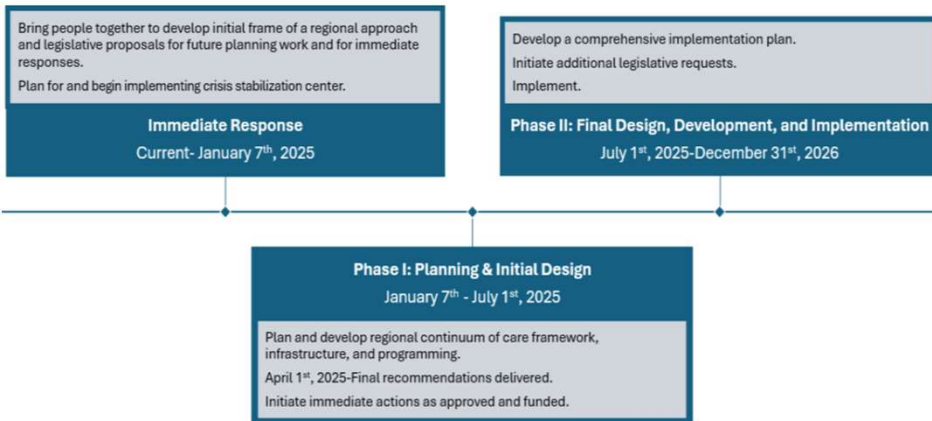
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# Regional Approach



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# Regional Framework



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## Legislative Policy and Funding Asks



- Legislative policy proposals in four areas:
  - Licensing and certification
  - Medicaid benefit policy
  - Reimbursement rate structure
  - Multi-disciplinary team
- Funding the Regional Continuum of Care

	2025	2026	2027	Total
Staffing stabilization	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
Programming/services	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$5,000,000
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Buildout of regional framework	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$20,000,000</b>

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## Dakota County Impact



Regional approach



Alleviate internal system pressure



Prevention and Intervention emphasis



Cross-departmental collaborative approach



Aspen House

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## Dakota County Impact



- From 2019 to date in 2024, Community Corrections placed four youth in out-of-state programs, with a total cost of \$132,873.91.
- From 2019 to date in 2024, Social Services placed two youth in out-of-state programs, with a total cost of over \$30,000

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## Future



- Youth Services Advisory Workgroup
- Development of regional facilities as well as other placement options

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Questions?



# Community Services Committee of the Whole

## Request for Board Action

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**Item Number:** DC-4230

**Agenda #:** 8.1

**Meeting Date:** 2/11/2025

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Adjournment