

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, Rettman and Chair Parker – 7. Absent: None. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Darwin Lookingbill, Director, Civil Division, County Attorney's Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Carter moved approval of the Agenda of the September 22, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Ortega moved approval of the Minutes of the September 15, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0.

PROCLAMATION

Chair Parker read a Proclamation declaring Monday, September 28, 2009, as *Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children*.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – Property tax abatements

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-313)

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. Sec. 375.192, Subdivision 2, gives the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners final approval for abatements not delegated to the Department of Property Records and Revenue; and

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2007-297, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners has authority to grant final approval for abatements of amounts over \$10,000; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the reduction in taxes and any penalty and interest of abatements with reductions of \$10,000 or more as noted on the exhibit on file with the Chief Clerk; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, With regard to the abatements on the exhibit previously mentioned, members of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby disclose that they do not have a financial interest in any abatement therein, nor any familial relationship with any abatement applicant therein.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – One Application to cancel a 2009 Forfeiture

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-314)

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, Department of Property Records and Revenue, on behalf of the State of Minnesota, "Trust Exempt", has submitted one Application for Cancellation of Forfeiture for a property that forfeited to the State of Minnesota on August 1, 2009; and

WHEREAS, This property is located in the City of Saint Paul, County of Ramsey, and is legally described as follows:

Lot 15, Block 2, Elbra Division
PIN: 30-29-22-13-0098
Property Address: 968 Jackson St.
Commissioner District 3; and

WHEREAS, National Asset Management Group [NAMG] sent a wire transfer for payment of the delinquent property taxes on July 31, 2009, the last day of redemption prior to forfeiture; and

WHEREAS, The payment was received in a timely manner but set aside to process later due to missing information and was inadvertently misplaced; and

WHEREAS, On August 1, 2009, the property forfeited to the State of Minnesota, due to unpaid property taxes; and

WHEREAS, The unapplied payment was discovered, therefore the forfeiture should be canceled and the payment applied; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 279.33 and 279.34, when a parcel of land is listed on the Auditor's Certificate of Forfeiture and is forfeited due to a clerical error, the forfeiture may be cancelled and the property returned to the rightful owner; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Application for Cancellation of Forfeiture for the above-described property, PIN: 30-29-22-13-0098, and authorizes the Tax Forfeited Lands staff to complete and forward the application to the State of Minnesota, Department of Revenue, for final approval.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND REVENUE – One Application to cancel a 2009 Forfeiture

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-315)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, Department of Property Records and Revenue, on behalf of the State of Minnesota, "Trust Exempt", has submitted one Application for Cancellation of Forfeiture for a property that forfeited to the State of Minnesota on August 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, This property is located in the City of Saint Paul, County of Ramsey, and is legally described as follows:

Lot 25, Adam Gotzian's Sub. of Blk 84, Lyman Dayton's Addition to St. Paul.
PIN: 33-29-22-23-0116

(Continued)

Property Address: 901 Conway St.
Commissioner District 5; and

WHEREAS, Grace Fogelberg and her daughter, Dawn Grinols, were the owners of the above-described property; and

WHEREAS, Grace Fogelberg died leaving Dawn Grinols as sole owner of the property; and

WHEREAS, Dawn's step-brother, George, occupied the property and paid the property taxes until he suffered a stroke which forced him to live in a nursing home; and

WHEREAS, The property taxes became delinquent and notice was sent to Grace Fogelberg, who was deceased; and

WHEREAS, Notice of the pending forfeiture should have been sent to Dawn Grinols, rightful owner of the property; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, sections 279.33 and 279.34, when a parcel of land is listed on the Auditor's Certificate of Forfeiture and is forfeited due to a clerical error in the administration of the delinquent tax or tax-forfeiture proceedings, the forfeiture may be cancelled and the property returned to the rightful owner; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the Application for Cancellation of Forfeiture for the above-described property, PIN: 33-29-22-23-0116, and authorizes the Tax Forfeited Lands staff to complete and forward the application to the State of Minnesota, Department of Revenue, for final approval.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Department 2009 Deer Management Program – Additional Site

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-316)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approved the 2009 Cooperative Deer Management Program for Ramsey County parks and open space properties on May 5, 2009 (Resolution 2009-155); and

WHEREAS, The Cities of Little Canada and Maplewood are participants in the Cooperative Deer Management Plan and requested additional deer removals on Ramsey County properties after the original plan approval; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the addition of Kohlman Marsh Open Space to the Ramsey County Cooperative Deer Management Implementation Program for the fall of 2009.

(Continued)

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Licensed Family Child Care Provider Recognition Day

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-317)

WHEREAS, Children are one of our greatest resources and strengths; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is committed to the nurturing of children; and

WHEREAS, Licensed Family Child Care Providers provide a safe and healthy environment that fosters the physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of children; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has over 800 licensed family child care providers caring for 8,000 children; and

WHEREAS, Licensed Family Child Care Providers will be honored at the 32nd Annual Provider Recognition Event on October 8, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Twenty-two providers will receive five-year awards; thirty providers will receive ten-year awards; twenty-three providers will receive fifteen year awards; twenty-five providers will receive twenty-year awards; four providers will receive twenty-five year awards; eleven providers will receive thirty-year awards; and

WHEREAS, Mary Ksiazek and Elizabeth Vranjes will receive thirty-five year awards; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby declares October 8, 2009, as Licensed Family Child Care Provider Recognition Day and thanks all family child care providers for the love and care they provide to children.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to the Parks and Recreation Commission

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-318)

WHEREAS, In accordance with the County's Open Appointment Process, a press release was distributed seeking applicants to the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Parks and Recreation Commission is comprised of nine members; one from each Commissioner district and two at-large positions; and

WHEREAS, A vacancy currently exists in District 3; and

WHEREAS, One application was received, and Commissioner Rettman has recommended that the applicant be appointed to the Parks and Recreation Commission to represent District 3; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints the following individual to the Ramsey County Parks and Recreation Commission for a term beginning with the date of appointment and ending June 1, 2012:

APPOINTEE
Brian Tempas
1231 Como Blvd West
St. Paul, MN 55103

TERM EXPIRATION
June 1, 2012

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Recovery Act: Homeless Services – Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-319)

WHEREAS, The City of St. Paul has received \$3.3 million of funding from the federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRR) to support responses to the increase in emergency situations and the difficulty families face accessing stable and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, The Community Human Services Department, with the support and encouragement of the Family Homeless and Prevention Advisory Committee, submitted a proposal to utilize a small portion of this funding to create two financial worker positions to provide faster processing and response to emergency assistance applications; and

WHEREAS, The City has accepted the proposal and awarded \$228,573 dollars for this effort; and

WHEREAS, A significant new feature of our Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program will be the mass marketing of a central point of contact for families who are either homeless or find themselves in a housing crisis that threatens homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Many of these crises can be resolved through the Emergency Assistance program, which can be used to provide up to four months of rental or utility assistance; and

WHEREAS, In Ramsey County, the rapidly increasing number of applications for assistance, particularly for public medical insurance programs has resulted in financial worker caseload sizes averaging between 300 and 400; and

WHEREAS, Despite extra effort by Department staff, the time to respond to requests for emergency financial assistance is growing longer; and

WHEREAS, In a separate action to respond to families in crisis, the Minnesota Legislature committed up to \$25 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds in 2010 for the growth in the demand for emergency assistance funding; and

WHEREAS, Emergency assistance can be used for low income families with dependent children or pregnant women to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need that is not recurrent and will not extend beyond four months; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The additional money is being managed on a state-wide basis and counties who are positioned to access the dollars will be able to serve more of their families facing difficult times; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the award of \$228,573 from the City of St. Paul to support two financial workers to provide faster processing and response to emergency assistance applications; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves an increase in the complement of the Community Human Services Department of 2 FTE Financial Worker III positions. These positions will be starred and eliminated when the project funding ends; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve and sign agreements, in a form approved by the County Attorney's Office, to implement this effort; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board reaffirms its directive to the County Manager to minimize layoffs and to communicate all job postings and requirements and opportunities to applicable staff.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Adoption Opportunities Grant

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-320)

WHEREAS, The federal government awarded Ramsey County \$2 million over five years to increase the adoption rate for children and adolescents in the foster care system; and

WHEREAS, By Resolution 2008-322, the Board accepted this award and this project started in the fall of 2008; and

WHEREAS, The project has reached a point at which the work has expanded and the Community Human Services Department is requesting the addition of a social worker position to assist in implementing; and

WHEREAS, The original proposal that was submitted included a Social Worker III to:

- engage the community in recruiting and retaining foster and adoptive families, and
- ensure timely adoptions for children and adolescents; and

WHEREAS, Some of the specific activities will be building partnerships with local businesses and community leaders, assisting with designing materials for recruiting foster homes and families for adoption, and assuring compliance of these efforts with the federal Multi-Ethnic Placement Act; and

WHEREAS, This position will be funded from the Adoption Opportunities Grant dollars; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an increase in the complement of the Community Human Services Department of 1 FTE Social Worker III for the Adoption Opportunities Grant project. The position will be starred and eliminated when the project funding ends; and Be It Further

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Board reaffirms its directive to the County Manager to minimize layoffs and to communicate all job postings and requirements and opportunities to applicable staff.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT/PUBLIC HEALTH – Amendment to Lease for Environmental Health at 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Maplewood

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-321)

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2008, per Resolution 2008-222, the County Board approved a lease with Black Marlin Investments, Inc., for five years through September 30, 2013, for office space for Environmental Health in a portion of the building at 2785 White Bear Avenue North in Maplewood; and

WHEREAS, The Departments of Property Management and Public Health have negotiated an amendment to the current lease with Black Marlin Investments, Inc., for Environmental Health for an additional 1,906 square feet that has recently been vacated; and

WHEREAS, The Departments of Property Management and Public Health are requesting the County Board's approval of this amendment to the lease agreement; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the first amendment to the lease agreement with Black Marlin Investments, Inc., a Florida corporation, through its Managing Agent, Ted Glasrud Associates, Inc., whose principal place of business is 431 South Seventh Street, Suite 2470, Minneapolis, MN 55415, for 1,906 rentable square feet of office space from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2013, on the first floor of the building located at 2785 White Bear Avenue North, Maplewood, MN 55109, for Ramsey County Environmental Health, at the following rates:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Per Sq. Ft.</u>	<u>Monthly</u>
10/1/09 to 9/30/10	\$17.50	\$2,779.58
10/1/10 to 9/30/11	\$18.00	\$2,859.00
10/1/11 to 9/30/12	\$18.50	\$2,938.42
10/1/12 to 9/30/13	\$19.00	\$3,017.83

and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the first amendment to the lease agreement, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney, Budgeting and Accounting, and Property Management.

SHERIFF – Proposed Inmate Booking Fee

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-322)

(Continued)

WHEREAS, State statute authorizes a county board to require each person who is booked for confinement at a county jail to pay a fee to cover the costs incurred by the county in the booking of that person without specifying the amount of the fee; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office has never previously assessed a booking fee; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Sheriff's Association has provided guidelines for costs that should be considered by all Sheriff's Offices in setting their own booking fee, so that the process is uniform statewide and has recommended adoption of a booking fee equal to the actual cost of booking, or \$25.00, whichever is less; and

WHEREAS, Using these guidelines, the actual cost of booking an inmate is greater than \$25; and

WHEREAS, A booking fee would not be charged to book and release inmates, federal boarded inmates or other boarded inmates and will be repaid to inmates who are not formally charged, are acquitted of the charges, or have had the charges dismissed, and a process will be established for the required repayments; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County books approximately 27,000 inmates per year, and it is estimated that two-thirds of those booked will be assessed the booking fee; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office recommends the establishment of a \$25.00 inmate booking fee, effective October 2009; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an inmate booking fee of \$25.00, for the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, effective October 2009.

PUBLIC WORKS – Minnesota Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2011 Municipal Agreement Application for funding of the Trunk Highway 36/Rice Street interchange reconstruction

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-323)

WHEREAS, Traffic operations at the interchange of Minnesota Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street (CSAH 49) have deteriorated to unacceptable levels of service due to geometric deficiencies of the interchange; and

WHEREAS, The interchange bridge at Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street has deteriorated to a point where it is classified as structurally deficient; and

WHEREAS, In response to these deficiencies, Ramsey County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT), and the cities of Roseville, Maplewood, and Little Canada have developed preliminary plans for the reconstruction of the interchange at Trunk Highway 36 and Rice Street; and

WHEREAS, The final design of the interchange is underway and right of way acquisition has begun; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, The total cost of interchange reconstruction is estimated at \$25 Million; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Transportation has committed \$5 Million in State Bridge Funds toward the reconstruction of the interchange; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County has committed \$2.2 Million in County Turnback Funds toward the reconstruction of the interchange; and

WHEREAS, Under MN/DOT cost participation policies, \$9,041,885 of the total \$25 Million project cost can be attributed to the Trunk Highway; and

WHEREAS, MN/DOT's Municipal Agreement Program has funds available to fund up to \$550,000 per project for projects that benefit both the local road system and to Trunk Highways; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby supports efforts to obtain MN/DOT Municipal Agreement funds for the reconstruction of the Trunk Highway 36/Rice Street interchange and authorizes the County Engineer to submit a proposal requesting \$550,000 in Municipal Agreement funds for the reconstruction of the interchange.

BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING - Per Diem Rate Report – 2008

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-324)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board authorized the County Manager to approve per diem rates charged at County facilities for out-of-county and federal prisoners in accordance with Administrative Code 3.40.57a; and

WHEREAS, The County Manager is required to furnish a report annually to the County Board regarding the per diem rates in accordance with Administrative Code 3.60.00f; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Report for 2008 on the following County facilities:

- Law Enforcement Center
- Boys' Totem Town
- Juvenile Service Center/Detention
- Ramsey County Correctional Facility (Workhouse)
- Detox Center

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Appointment to the Workforce Investment Board (WIB)

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Commissioner Carter said she supports Janet Ludden to represent Economic Development on the Workforce Investment Board (WIB). With this appointment and another coming forward in the

(Continued)

Labor area, all the County appointments to the WIB will be filled. With a new requirement from the State, someone must be appointed from Higher Education to the WIB. A change may be needed in the construction of the WIB. The WIB recognizes the importance of having an appointment made from Higher Education. There is an education committee, comprised of members of the education environment whose work is integral to the work of the WIB. Revisions of the WIB may be needed because of the 51% business membership requirement. Work is in progress with the State on how to address that issue. This may mean a potential additional three appointments. Everyone worked hard to make sure the WIB was tailored to the membership required to do its work.

Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-325)

WHEREAS, The WIB has forwarded an application to the County and is recommending appointment of an individual to fill this opening; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints the following individual to the Workforce Investment Board for a term commencing on the date of appointment and ending on July 31, 2010:

To Represent Economic Development
Janet Ludden, Employer Solutions, Inc.

COUNTY MANAGER – Consultant Contract for Implementation of Strategic Management, Supervisory, and Communications Process Improvements for the County Emergency Communications Center

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Ortega.

Commissioner Rettman said she met with Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager. She remains consistent with the belief that an RFP should have gone out on this contract. Ms. Kleinschmidt felt it was critical to use someone who has had a contract with the Communications Center. She will support this, but if it resurfaces, she wants it to be consistent with the County's RFP process for a broader scope in giving an opportunity for others to bid.

Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-326)

WHEREAS, On December 16, 2008, by Resolution 2008-387, the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorized the County Manager to execute a contract with Winbourne & Costas, Inc. (Winbourne) for a Staffing Study of the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center (RCECC); and

WHEREAS, Winbourne's staffing and organizational review noted management and personnel challenges related to the consolidation of three emergency communication centers and recommended actions to improve the RCECC's staffing, organizational capacity, and teamwork in order to more fully realize the efficiencies of consolidation; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Emergency Communications, with the assistance of the Ramsey County Department of Human Resources, is conducting a strategic implementation of Winbourne's recommendations; and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Personnel Decisions International (PDI), a leading industrial organizational psychology firm with extensive knowledge in assessment, leadership development, coaching and performance management, is familiar with the organizational issues facing the RC ECC based on teambuilding exercises already provided to many RCECC frontline staff; and

WHEREAS, The Departments of Emergency Communications and Human Resources recommend building on this expertise by entering into a contract with PDI for assistance in the planning and implementation of the other Winbourne recommendations; and

WHEREAS, Under the terms of the proposed agreement, PDI will work with the RCECC management team to develop a vision and strategic plan for the Emergency Communications Department; conduct activities to improve internal communications among consolidated employee groups; enhance management/supervisory team development; assess skills for management development plans; produce a training curriculum for staff development, including evaluation criterion; increase conflict management skills; facilitate enhanced communications and alignment of managerial staff; and develop a candidate assessment process for a new management position, with a working title of Customer Service Manager; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the award of a contract to Personnel Decisions International, 33 South Sixth Street, Suite 4900, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, for consulting services to assist in the County's planning and implementation of strategic management, supervisory, and communications process improvements at the Emergency Communications Center, in a sum not to exceed \$92,435, inclusive of fees and reimbursable costs; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the use of available funds from the 2009 Ramsey County Emergency Communications Department operating budget for this contract; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute a contract with Personnel Decisions International, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and the Office of Budgeting and Accounting; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute amendments to the agreement with Personnel Decisions International for project services within the not-to-exceed contract maximum; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Amendments to the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance, First Reading

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Commissioner Rettman acknowledged the time and hard work by staff on the major updates and changes in the administrative and solid waste ordinances that impact the quality of life and the environment.

(Continued)

Commissioner Reinhardt agreed. The infrastructure is needed for guidance and to help people do the right thing. Public Health/Environmental Health staff have done a phenomenal job working toward an improved quality of life.

Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-327)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners adopted the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance on February 23, 1981 (Res. No. 81-166), and amended the Ordinance on September 17, 1991 (Res. No. 91-531), December 10, 1996 (Res. No. 96-521), and March 13, 2001 (Res. No. 2001-79); and

WHEREAS, The County Board wishes to amend the Administrative Ordinance to provide technical changes necessary to ensure that the Administrative Ordinance is consistent with State statutes, rules, and regulations, and to make necessary format changes, such as renumbering of sections to be consistent with other County ordinances and be in the preferred format of the court system; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.02 of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter requires that every proposed ordinance and amendment receive two full readings: the first at the time the amendment is presented and the second at the time of the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.02 of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter further provides that the full reading may be waived if a copy of the ordinance or amendment is supplied to each member of the County Board prior to its introduction; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby waives the first reading of the proposed amendments to the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby sets the second reading of the proposed amendments to the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance for October 13, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers of the Ramsey County Court House.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Set Hearing Date for Amendments to the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance

Commissioner Rettman introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-328)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners adopted the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance on February 23, 1981 (Res. No. 81-166), and amended the Ordinance on September 17, 1991 (Res. No. 91-531), December 10, 1996 (Res. No. 96-521), and March 13, 2001 (Res. No. 2001-79); and

WHEREAS, The County Board wishes to amend the Administrative Ordinance to provide technical changes necessary to ensure that the Administrative Ordinance is consistent with State statutes, rules, and regulations, and to make necessary format changes, such as renumbering of sections to be consistent with other County ordinances and be in the preferred format of the court system; Now, Therefore, Be It

(Continued)

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby sets a public hearing on amendments to the Ramsey County Administrative Ordinance for October 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers of the Ramsey County Court House.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Amendments to the Ramsey County Solid Waste Ordinance, First Reading

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-329)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County desires to continue to protect and ensure the public health, safety, welfare and environment of the County's residents and businesses through sound management of solid waste generated in the County; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners adopted the Solid Waste Ordinance on September 14, 1970 (Resolution #9-281), and has amended it 21 times, most recently on November 3, 2003 (Resolution #2003-371); and

WHEREAS, Amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance are necessary to ensure that the Solid Waste Ordinance is consistent with State rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.02 of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter requires that every proposed ordinance and amendment receive two full readings: the first at the time the amendment is presented and the second at the time of the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, Section 5.02 of the Ramsey County Home Rule Charter further provides that the full reading may be waived if a copy of the ordinance or amendment is supplied to each member of the County Board prior to its introduction; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby waives the first reading of the proposed amendments to the Ramsey County Solid Waste Ordinance; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby sets the second reading of the proposed amendments to the Ramsey County Solid Waste Ordinance for October 13, 2009, at the regularly scheduled meeting of the County Board in the Council Chambers of the Ramsey County Court House.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Set Hearing Date for Amendments to the Ramsey County Solid Waste Ordinance

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Rettman, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Parker – 7. Nays – 0. (2009-330)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County desires to continue to protect and ensure the public health, safety, welfare and environment of the County's residents and businesses through sound management of solid waste generated in the County; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners adopted the Solid Waste Ordinance on September 14, 1970 (Resolution #9-281), and has amended it 21 times, most recently on November 3, 2003 (Resolution #2003-371); and

(Continued)

WHEREAS, Amendments to the Solid Waste Ordinance are necessary to ensure that the Solid Waste Ordinance is consistent with State rules and regulations; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby sets a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Ramsey County Solid Waste Ordinance for October 13, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers of the Ramsey County Court House.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – General Assistance Medical Care

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations, County Manager's Office, said the purpose for the presentation is to update the Board on the impacts of reductions in General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC), and to provide a sense of what it would be like for the people living in this community from a variety of angles – the departmental angle for people working with Human Services, Corrections, and Public Health – from the community clinics angle – Regions Hospital. Individuals who have worked on this presentation are: Dave Haley and Nancy Houlton, Community Human Services; Jane Norbin, Public Health; Chris Crutchfield, Community Corrections; and Claudia Brewington, County Manager's Office. Ms. Houlton has been following this because she works with many people who are going to find themselves affected by this.

Ms. Houlton said she would provide a context to think about the GAMC population. Staff will continue providing the Board with information about what we know today about the impacts of GAMC. This is an emerging story. Staff were taken by surprise by the Governor's action -- GAMC is a huge safety net for our health care delivery system, and he slashed the bottom of that net. They are still finding additional impacts as they uncover information. She cited a grid in the packet, GAMC Population, on handwritten page 2. This is the framework used to talk about who is impacted. The GAMC population is not a homogeneous population.

There are four major categories to think about GAMC recipients. These categories are not equal in size or costs. This is a pictorial representation. The first of the four pictures is single episodes; individuals who have some kind of catastrophic health event – accident, traumatic event – a one-time event, not something anticipated for on-going treatment. Typically these would require high-levels of hospital care, they are very expensive, they are resolved, and people go on.

The second picture is on unemployed individuals, which also includes those people who have lost employer-based health care insurance because of their spouse losing health care, possibly a divorce, an adult child who has moved into an age where they are no longer qualified for their parents' insurance, and unemployed. This is a growing category within Ramsey County and the State of Minnesota.

The third picture indicates people who are beginning to look more disabled. In the near-disabled category, it is typically those individuals who have fairly chaotic lifestyles, those who don't cope well with life and struggle on a day-to-day basis, who make decisions that many of us find easy to make. They may be the relative who has moved from working to not working, to barely surviving day-to-day. They typically have some kind of health condition that is interfering with their ability to keep and maintain work, to keep and maintain stable housing.

The fourth picture indicates individuals who are very disabled. They will qualify for medical assistance but have not been able to complete applications; will likely need help in completing the application; will likely not be able to move all the way through the process without assistance.

Ms. Houlton said there are some areas of agreement with the Governor. We think that some of the GAMC population would qualify for MinnesotaCare and medical assistance. They have had questions about who would not fit into those categories and how much assistance they need in order to be able to qualify for those benefits.

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Commissioner Reinhardt thought there might be information in the presentation about how MinnesotaCare fits in, and cited a conversation with a constituent who tried to qualify for MinnesotaCare, but did not qualify. Someone had told this constituent not to worry about it because MinnesotaCare would be going away at the beginning of next year. Commissioner Reinhardt felt that MinnesotaCare was there to help fill the gap from GAMC. She would like to hear about how they fit together and about the changes.

Ms. Houlton said Mary Nelson, Community Human Services, would provide more details and background that would answer the question on what the impacts are between the different programs and anticipated changes in this unfolding story.

Commissioner Ortega said he has had the same constituent dialogue. Regarding those people who are off GAMC – do they not qualify under the new criteria for MinnesotaCare? We should be able to tell constituents that they have to look for alternatives rather than to go to MinnesotaCare to hear they won't be taken there either.

Ms. Nelson said there may have been a misunderstanding about which program was going away, but MinnesotaCare will not be going away on the first day of the year. In terms of being able to move from GAMC to MinnesotaCare, there is no reason to not assume that the vast majority of these folks would be able to do that. The difficulty is they have to pay premiums. It is only about a \$4 a month premium, but we are talking about people with extremely limited resources – the poorest of the poor – and assuming they would have both the monetary capability and the organizational ability to get those premiums in every month.

Commissioner Ortega suggested he and Ms. Nelson meet to discuss some specific case examples.

Ms. Nelson said she would be happy to meet with Commissioner Ortega. She is not an expert in MinnesotaCare because Ramsey County doesn't do that. A couple years ago, all those people who didn't have a qualifier, lost their ability to go on to GAMC, and they have been moved to MinnesotaCare. That is part of this population that has already been moved over. A majority has been eligible to go on to MinnesotaCare, but there may be specific circumstances. If somebody has been employed in a low income job and has access to some kind of medical care, they might not be eligible for MinnesotaCare.

A short video was presented for the viewing audience. Ms. Speiker said the video provided a 'face' to this discussion. There are a lot of questions about what this might mean to a neighbor, someone on the bus, or others, and how this might affect them. The Public Health Department has been looking at how the community clinics are looking at this. A connection will be shown between the community clinics and the work that Regions Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) are doing in trying to find a solution to the question about how people get or retain some kind of coverage.

Jane Norbin, Director, Health Policy & Planning, Public Health Department, said she would talk about how this would impact the community's health and all of us. People seeing this presentation might ask why they should care about it – it's someone else's problem, not mine, I've got insurance, I work hard for it and they should do the same. Every one of us needs to be concerned about this because of the impact on our whole community. What happens to these folks affects all of us.

There would be a financial impact on all of us. Eliminating GAMC will raise the cost of services to private payers who will be charged more to cover the cost of uncompensated care. That means that businesses, individuals, colleges, school districts, cities, counties, the State or anyone buying health insurance will likely pay more to fund these reductions. We are still going to pay for this but it is going to be in a different way. That clearly impacts the community's health. If premiums go up, more and more people find they have to drop their insurance coverage.

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We are likely going to see a service impact. The reduction will reduce our hospitals' ability to provide essential services – services we all need. The State anticipates over 7,000 related hospital jobs are at stake with this cut, and that will impact all of us.

We will also likely see detrimental effects on other social services such as an increase in suicide, homelessness, unemployment, crime and use of extensive emergency room care. We will all pay for those services that will be needed, but will pay for them in a different way.

We will see an impact on communicable disease control. All of us are at risk when we cannot find and control communicable diseases in our community. An individual with a cough and no source of health care will often put off seeking medical care until the problem is acute, will go into the emergency room, and possibly be diagnosed with tuberculosis. During that period of time, a whole lot of us were exposed and at risk. It could have been prevented if caught earlier. It is a lot less expensive to work with a small outbreak that is contained early, than after the fact when there has been a spread of a disease.

One of the biggest things to think about is the impact on community health. A positive reinforcing cycle begins when we take care of the health of all of our citizens. We start the cycle by measuring health indicators for states and cities; they are commonly published. Things such as rates for diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and many other measures are published, and comparisons are always being made -- Minnesota to another state, Ramsey County to Hennepin County. Many times health factors are factored in desirable places to live. Businesses want to locate in those cities because they have a healthier workforce. Once there are more businesses in a location, educational achievements raise as more jobs create prosperity. Recreational opportunities get developed, and good systems of public health and medical care are created. This creates a community where all of us can lead productive and fulfilling lives. However, once we ignore the health of some in our community, we start looking like an unhealthy place to be, a place none of us want to live in.

For these reasons, all of us need to be concerned about this reduction in GAMC. It is not something that impacts a few – it has large and lasting impacts on every single one of us. We can't ignore this problem as somebody else's problem – it belongs to all of us, and we have to solve it together.

Ms. Norbin said she has had conversations with the community clinics; they are concerned about their uncompensated care. Ramsey County through the Public Health Department provides a subsidy for some of the uncompensated care that clinics deliver, but they far and above exceed what we can give them. They are concerned and believe they will see an impact in the out-patient care, as well.

Commissioner Rettman said several years ago, the community clinics were led through a systems change, one which was to make sure they were getting the reimbursement they needed for the number of clients they were handling. There was also an effort requested by the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County Public Health to make sure that anybody who was eligible for MinnesotaCare, were provided assistance in filling out the forms. Is that still happening?

Ms. Norbin responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Rettman said the County has been proactive in trying to identify that for several years now.

Ms. Norbin said that switch was made several years ago where the grant funds the County gives to the clinics, rather than being a block amount that a clinic gets, the dollars follow the patients. The more patients a clinic sees or the more visits a clinic provides for an uncompensated care, the more money they can get from the County. However, we don't have unlimited funds so it is capped at a certain amount. The amount was capped, but they see above and beyond that, so they have a huge incentive to get people on MinnesotaCare, on GAMC if they are eligible, in order to recap and recoup whatever they can from those funds.

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Commissioner Carter referred to the impact on the County in the work we have to do to make certain that the people who are eligible for MinnesotaCare can transition from GAMC are able to complete the paperwork and get on the new coverage. She just heard that the work is being done by the clinics, not in Human Services – that it is incentive work, but our incentives are limited. She asked for more information about that.

Ms. Norbin said currently through Public Health, they are not providing that through department assistance. They do require in the contracts with community clinics that they enroll all eligible people into the State programs for health care. They have a financial incentive to do that, otherwise, they stand to be not compensated at all for that particular visit.

Ms. Nelson said while it is true that the hospitals and clinics have an incredible incentive to get the applications from people, and they do that, they send the applications to Human Services to do the processing.

Commissioner Carter wanted to know to what extent that has been analyzed and whether that means we have to adjust the resource working in that area in Human Services.

Ms. Nelson said one of the problems with this switch-over is the lack of information from the State. What they don't know is what happens when GAMC ends. Does it mean that the State operated MinnesotaCare will then be responsible for all those people, or does it mean that counties are going to have to take on responsibility for doing MinnesotaCare for what would have been our previous participants? There has been no clarification from the Department of Human Services (DHS) yet. Human Services is trying to figure out if this is a continued and more complex workload as we have switched to a program that we have not by Board resolution traditionally done in this county.

Ms. Speiker said DHS has still not given a firm date for when this shift will happen. We know that in the Legislation it is figured for a financial savings in the next biennium starting in 2010. Human Services staff are trying to figure out what this means for them. As Ms. Houlton said this is a continually shifting process with no good answers.

Commissioner Ortega said when the transition was made from a block grant to more of a per diem with a cap; there are certain community clinics that have done a fantastic job doing outreach, going beyond the neighborhood boundaries, some serving 80% of the city. What is the state of the community clinics? If this trickles down, it would trickle down to the community clinics, which are the front-line in many ways. While Regions does a fantastic job, and is a flag-ship for the emergency room, but the community clinics serve as many, if not more than Regions – are any of those in more potential danger than others?

Ms. Norbin said those statistics could be provided from the annual reports from the community clinics. She has spoken with some of the primary care community clinics, but did not dive into clinics such as Family Tree that provide more reproductive health. She was surprised to hear that their volume of strictly GAMC clients was lower than she thought it would be, but doesn't know why – either people aren't reporting it, or they are going to the emergency room, and why the hospitals would be feeling a bigger impact. Clearly, they are under stress from a lot of sources, not just this particular pending change, but the economy and the number of people without insurance is putting a stress on the community clinics.

Commissioner Ortega said it is important to look ahead and be preventive. If there is one more negative impact in different places – if one or two of the community clinics shut down for even a month -- we are going to spend hours discussing what to do about that at a Board meeting. It is important to know the status of the clinics.

Ms. Speiker said Shawntera Hardy, Regions Hospital, is present to give the perspective from Regions. Ramsey County staff have been meeting with Regions staff since this began in the legislative session to look at what the alternatives are. HCMC and Regions have been talking with

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community clinics in their areas for how they can put together some kind of a system that they are calling 'care management' so that we might be able to make sure that people who might not be able to access MinnesotaCare and don't have other resources, but still need some kind of health care, to get them away from feeling that the only alternative is the emergency room.

Commissioner Reinhardt said that is critical when talking about the basic safety net, the infrastructure that is in place. There are incentives. If a person qualifies for MinnesotaCare they should be on MinnesotaCare. There are people who do not qualify. We should be able to quantify that. Will there be people going blind because they cannot get their high blood pressure medication, or be able to get their needed chemotherapy? These are basic things that as a community, if we don't deal with it, it will cost more. There are also the health impacts for all of us. She looks forward to the presentation from Regions. In discussions with Brock Nelson, Regions Hospital, he has said that oftentimes they wring their hands asking what is going to happen. We are rightfully upset and angry that this is how part of the budget deficit was chosen to be balanced. It does seem foolish as far as the taxpayer costs in the long-run. Everyone is trying to come up with solutions, not just to say why this is bad, but that stage has to be set to know what can be done. Hopefully, the State legislature is paying attention to this and recognizes that it is not just a shift from GAMC to MinnesotaCare. It is not that simple, and there will be real pain and suffering and deaths if people don't get the critical medical care they need, especially in the mental health area. If folks are on their meds, it is better for everybody. She likes the comprehensive approach. It is important that people understand that this will impact everyone.

Commissioner Ortega said that is why he raised the question with Ms. Nelson about specific case scenarios of constituents. He has gone through the process with them and they just don't qualify for MinnesotaCare. It would help us to get a handle on this as much as possible when we go up to the legislature to advocate on this issue. There is no shifting from one to the other – how do the community clinics and Regions get impacted when that shift takes place.

Ms. Speiker said on the point about people not qualifying from one program to another, part of the catch that Regions, the community clinics, the departments and others are looking at right now, is people qualify for different things, meaning they get different things covered. Within GAMC, some of the kinds of services the people who qualify for that program need, are covered by that program, but not covered in MinnesotaCare. Part of the challenge around this is to create a hybrid and figure out a way to finance it so that the people getting this kind of care now aren't left without care. It almost means you have to look at this on a case-by-case basis, which is what Regions and community clinics are starting to do.

Chris Crutchfield, Deputy Director of Community Relations and External Affairs, Community Corrections Department, provided that department's perspective on the cuts to GAMC. They are still working on the numbers of the people in the Community Corrections system also on GAMC, but generally, it is approximately 10%. There are serious concerns, and Community Corrections sees these cuts as a public safety issue. Approximately 80% of those on GAMC have mental illness (MI) issues. It affects the stability all across their lives, whether it be keeping or gaining a job, relationships, or housing. Those are all significant risk factors for committing crimes and recidivism. From an evidence based perspective, if a person is made more unstable, they are more likely to recidivate, or cause crime. Generally, a person with MI not getting their meds could be a public safety risk to everyone, including to themselves. This affects not just MI issues but all issues. People in the Community Corrections systems are under stress. If the ability for them to get medical care is taken away, that will give them a lot more stress; they may find another way to get those meds or self-medicate. Taking a population of people with stability issues, issues of stress, and take away

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their medical care, gives them risk factors which will ultimately lead to recidivism and greater risk to public safety, which concerns Corrections.

Ms. Nelson said while many of the people who are on GAMC may be eligible for MinnesotaCare, the differences in the coverage and when it starts and how it starts, are significant. If we think about GAMC as a program that is in response frequently to an emergency, either at a community clinic or at a hospital, the differences in when you become eligible make a big difference in whether or not the hospital and clinics are going to get reimbursed for the care they provide as a result of that emergency. For example, if you are hospitalized, you cannot apply for MinnesotaCare while in the hospital; you have to wait until discharge from the hospital. You don't become eligible the date of the application, but the month after you pay your first premium. Some of the issue is not so much around whether or not people can get into MinnesotaCare, as it is whether or not they can maintain that coverage because of having a premium and whether or not getting in is going to take care of a lot of the care already provided to that person. Some of that is significantly expensive care. Even on MinnesotaCare, if you have a subsequent hospitalization, there is a \$10,000 cap and a 10% co-pay for the person, up to \$1,000. That is not true under GAMC. Some of the differences have to do with actual coverage and how that is going to impact the clinics and the hospitals, as well as the participant.

Ms. Nelson pointed out the potential implication for Human Services. We now pay six months worth of premiums for MinnesotaCare for the folks who were transitioned earlier off GAMC. At any point in time that is probably 700-800 people a month, which are probably \$4 a month premiums. We are not talking about people who have money. We do not know for this next group that gets transitioned into MinnesotaCare if we will be expected to pay those premiums as well. That is about \$3,000/month for an additional \$72,000/year on top of the \$40,000 we are paying in premiums now.

Ms. Houlton said there is a significant difference in the benefits between MinnesotaCare and GAMC. GAMC currently covers mental health treatment, that includes outpatient mental health, assertive community treatment teams, adult mental health rehabilitation services, intensive residential services, and chemical dependency treatment. MinnesotaCare does not cover these services. That means that people will not be able to receive services earlier in the course of their illness and will have to wait until they become very disabled. For the services she just named, some percentage of the folks we serve, because we are able to intervene earlier, do not have to move into that fully disabled category, but instead learn the skills to cope with their illness effectively and move back into the mainstream. One of the impacts of losing GAMC is that we will have a mismatch between what people's health care needs are and what the benefits will cover. That will be significant.

Shauntera Hardy, Manager, Government Relations, Regions Hospital, spoke about some of the points already raised with respect to actually qualifying for MinnesotaCare from the hospital perspective. The \$10,000 cap and retroactivity is very critical to the hospital. When it comes to GAMC patients, it is that first event that is usually the costly event. From a hospital standpoint, that is where a lot of that cost will be borne. Having GAMC helps the hospital to lower their uncompensated care load, and it is critical to them, and is not one of the benefits of MinnesotaCare. The hospital believes that some GAMC patients probably will qualify for some type of SSI so from the Department's standpoint, they are going to ramp-up that area to see if some of these individuals can go on to MinnesotaCare. They are very worried about that and want to bring that into the conversation.

Ms. Hardy said at the end of the session, there were a lot of strained relationships so it was difficult and a lot of members were caught off-guard in this elimination to GAMC. Where we stand today, most of the members, the Governor, and Department understand the urgency of doing

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something. They have talked to all of those groups and they are committed to finding a solution, whatever it is. They are hopeful that if it is restoring the entire program, or reforming the program – they think reforming the program may be the way to go – that as providers, we should do a better job of providing care to these patients in the correct setting, and that is probably the community health clinics. The hospital is working to see what they can do in that area.

Who are the Regions' GAMC population? More than one-third of GAMC patients admitted to Regions have bipolar disorder, severe depression, and other serious mental health conditions. The majority is male, 43% are African American, and a huge percentage makes less than \$7800 a year. These are very poor and very sick patients. Being able to take care of this population is very challenging for Regions. Regions is the second largest provider of GAMC in the State; HCMC is the first. In getting these individuals on some type of government program, Regions has invested in a financial counseling program to make sure that no matter what an individual qualifies for, there would be counselors walking patients through the process, working with the community clinics, and State to get people enrolled in programs. In regard to community clinics, there are some people who may not qualify for GAMC, so Regions and a number of other hospitals have invested in a program called Portico to provide that kind of insurance to patients to get the care they need. When it comes to trying to find creative solutions, they are bringing all those areas to the table.

How will this impact Regions? Regions is the largest provider of charity care in the East Metro. In 2007 alone, Regions provided \$20 million of charity care to 27,000 patients. The elimination of GAMC disproportionately impacts not only Regions but other safety net hospitals. Every week Regions cares for about 240 people that qualified for GAMC. Elimination of the program will impact Regions about \$23 million a year – a huge hole to Regions. These cuts are in addition to the more than \$4 million in cuts Regions received in the 2009 legislative session so that is on top of the elimination of the GAMC program; and then, about \$12 million impacted in 2008 – that was \$4.7 million when the Governor unallotted the first time in 2008 and from the session with cuts in their rates of about \$7.9 million. This is a huge hole to try to plug, and it will be a difficult task.

For Regions, the loss of GAMC will wipe out their margin. Trying to figure out how to respond to this is not easy. Ms. Hardy said she appreciated the comments around the table because this will impact everyone. Regions cannot open their books to decide which programs affect GAMC patients – they have to put everything on the table – all cuts will be looked at across the board. This will potentially impact everyone in the community. Regions is now in the contingency planning stage and don't want to put out to the public that they will be closing anything. We don't want to say we are going to close services; we don't want to scare our patients and employees, but this is a very daunting task to figure out how the hole can be plugged. They would be very excited if the program was restored. They have been thinking about how to create a realistic and viable solution; they are operating under what they call their "3 Rs" – they will have to provide a reformed program that is reduced, and comes with resources. They are looking at bringing savings to the entire program; they are looking at how benefits can be restructured. There are benefits in this program that this population does not use, for example, they don't necessarily use primary care. We are trying to figure out how to change how people use the system. We are also looking at how we can provide incentives to community clinics to help the emergency room, which is the highest cost area to get care. We need to figure out how to work with the community clinics to get this population into the primary care setting instead of using the emergency room every time they need care. They are also looking at different ways to deal with drugs – should they go to a generic-only benefit, excluding mental health drugs. In conversations with the Governor, they know that if something comes to the table it must be reformed. They believe that providers should step up to figure out how to provide a better way for this population to receive care.

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They are stepping into the world of grassroots organizing; they are trying to make certain everyone understands what this program is and how they will be impacted. They are working on a message campaign and trying to use the media. They are also working with the safety net coalition, made up of Regions Hospital, Hennepin County, community clinics, mental health clinics, United Way, and the visiting nurses association, to figure out how we can come up with a creative solution as a whole, to take care of this population.

They are also talking with Senator Berglin and Representative Murphy, who are taking the lead in respective bodies, on how we, as a community, bring a reform package to the next legislative session. We are trying to figure out how we can position ourselves to be ready on 'day 1' to have a package that everyone is comfortable with. They would like the whole program reinstated, but they must have these conversations to come up with a reformed program.

Commissioner McDonough is glad to hear that some of the messages coming from the Governor's office is their willingness to take a look at this and continue talking about reform. Any time there is a change in the safety net, it tends to disproportionately affect the people providing those services, and also the people who need to access the safety net. He has always felt strongly that the weight of carrying those responsibilities should be dispersed. Even though there are federal laws that require public access for emergency services, that most hospitals do some diverting. He believes that part of this reform at the state level needs to include a conversation about how we engage all the providers in this community to take a responsibility in providing these safety net services within the community.

Ms. Hardy said Regions Hospital is a member of the Minnesota Hospital Association, and we are having candid conversations that this cannot just be on the backs of Regions Hospital and Hennepin County Medical Center. We need other hospitals to step up. She believes they are moving forward in that area; many hospitals that have never seen the world of uncompensated care are now seeing it. We must figure out creative and sustainable ways to take care of people who cannot pay or on government programs that reimburse at a much lower rate than the services cost. From a Regions perspective, we serve about 85 counties. All counties should see this as their problem because they are serving all residents.

Commissioner Carter thanked staff for bringing this forward; it is being shared with the community. She acknowledged that in stepping up in this way and becoming a part of grassroots organizing, Regions Hospital is also helping us as a community to respond. This is about changing the way we do this work and making certain that we spread it out and control the impact.

Ms. Hardy said she appreciates the support from the Ramsey County Board. Regions will continually update the Board.

Commissioner Ortega said Regions has been working creatively to get out of the same spin. What might happen if no reform is brought to the table this year, or if the legislature doesn't act? A good sense for the impact on Regions is needed.

Ms. Hardy said that is the reason Mr. Nelson decided on the weekly census to break down the numbers. Everything is on the table in terms of programs and services. HCMC recently put out a report on what they would have to do if they have to close their borders, which would be bad for Ramsey County. They would have to look at programs that are non-revenue generating areas. For hospitals such as Regions and HCMC, they provide the services that a lot of hospitals do not provide. They train their physicians; there are only three Level One Trauma Centers in the State; only two burn units in the State and those are not necessarily money-makers. Not all hospitals provide mental health services, but Regions does. When looking at everything on the table, those are the most critical services to the hospital, but they are not the money-makers. However, everything will be on the table when trying to plug \$23 million.

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Commissioner Ortega said that is what the Board needs to be aware of. If HCMC is looking at closing their borders, do we not allow other counties to come in – does Ramsey County/Regions Hospital tell our neighbors who utilize our hospital and do not help pay for it – do we tell them. We have to reshuffle; these are real issues to look at for the future. Some of this is reform because the old model of Regions and HCMC sitting in the two core areas servicing the entire eleven-county area with no way of compensating for those services utilized outside our boundaries need to be reformed. That is an issue regardless of GAMC. If there is no relief at the legislature, or nothing results from a new model of how to deliver the services, we need to look at other issues outlined by Ms. Hardy.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is looking at the redesign because reforms are needed. If there are people now who can move from GAMC to MinnesotaCare, that should be happening. There are going to be people who would be most impacted by GAMC who don't qualify for MinnesotaCare. There are serious consequences to the individuals and to society. She was glad to hear that the Governor is listening to the fact that there has to be a solution – simply cutting is not the way to do this because of the serious impacts that will come from that. This is supposed to go into effect on March 1. The legislature doesn't come back in until early February. There is no time for political games. Unallotment of GAMC is a political game with serious consequences. The County needs to work with the hospitals and others, but this cannot wait until February.

Chair Parker said the presentation has been informative for the Board and for the public. Everyone who participated in the presentation is appreciated – it shows the many aspects of this. This will be a top priority when going forward to the legislative session.

Ms. Speiker said all bill proposals will be brought to the County Board.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Rettman reported:

- The Rice Street bridge is open. She thanked the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County for working together on this project, which was completed on-time and on-budget.

Chair Parker reported:

- That intense discussions regarding financing are taking place on the Rice Street bridge over Hwy. 36.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Parker declared the meeting adjourned.

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk-County Board