

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Reinhardt, and Vice-Chair Rettman – 6. Absent: Parker – 1. 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 November 10, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Reinhardt moved approval of the Minutes of the November 3, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ortega. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0.

PARKS AND RECREATION – Keller Regional Park Restroom and Picnic Shelters – Amendment No. 2 to Agreement for Professional Services

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-375)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County (County) and Hagen Christensen & McIlwain Architects, P.A., 4201 Cedar Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55407 ("Architect") entered into an Agreement ("Agreement") dated December 20, 2005, to provide professional architectural services to design and construct restroom buildings and picnic shelters at Keller Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, The work under the Agreement is to be performed in two phases and Phase 1 work is completed, with the exception of one restroom facility which will be included in Phase 2 services; and

WHEREAS, The completion of Phase 2 services by the Architect under the Agreement had been delayed because of issues related to availability of funding but are now proceeding ; and

WHEREAS, In the course of designing the restrooms and picnic shelters under Phase 2, geotechnical information indicated poor soils at three building locations requiring special design and additional structural engineering of the building footings; and

WHEREAS, The Architect's performance of professional services under the Agreement has been timely and satisfactory and the Architect has the expertise to provide the special design and structural engineering of the building footings; and

WHEREAS, The Department has determined that it is in the County's best interest, based on design continuity and project economies, to amend the Agreement with the Architect to include the professional services for special design and engineering of the building footings; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The additional cost of professional services will be \$5,500, increasing the contract amount from \$158,230 to \$163,730, with the increased costs funded from the State grant; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement between the County and Hagen Christensen & McIlwain Architects, P.A., for professional services related to restroom and picnic shelters at Keller Regional Park, increasing the contract amount from \$158,230 to \$163,730; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign Amendment No. 2.

RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECT – Approval of 2010 and 2011 Recovery Project Budget

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-376)

WHEREAS, The Joint Powers Agreement for the Resource Recovery Project adopted in December 2006, provides that authority for approval of Resource Recovery Project budgets remains with the respective County Boards; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey/Washington County Resource Recovery Project Board has prepared and recommended a Project budget for 2010 and 2011; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the 2010 and 2011 Resource Recovery Project Budget as recommended by the Resource Recovery Project Board as follows:

<u>Appropriations</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Administration	\$ 845,832	\$ 861,217
Service Fee	7,000,000	5,250,000
Hauler Rebate	4,200,000	4,900,000
Organics Management	50,000	650,000
	<u>\$12,095,832</u>	<u>\$11,661,217</u>

<u>Financing Sources</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Washington County Participation	3,256,290	\$ 3,134,165
Ramsey County Participation	8,804,042	8,473,852
Interest Income	35,500	53,200
	<u>\$12,095,832</u>	<u>\$11,661,217</u>

INFORMATION SERVICES – Amendment to Agreement with Google, Inc. for Email Filtering and Encryption Services

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-377)

(Continued)

WHEREAS, In 2006, a multi-department project team researched email encryption options and determined that encryption services from Postini, Inc., which was already providing email spam filtering services for the County, were the best solution for the County's business needs; and

WHEREAS, The County entered into a three-year agreement for email spam filtering and encryption services with Postini, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, These integrated services have worked well for the County and after reviewing available technologies, the Department of Information Services has found these services to continue to be the best solution and is requesting approval of a three-year renewal of that agreement; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Google, Inc. acquired Postini; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a three-year agreement with Google, Inc., 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, to provide email spam filtering and encryption services for the County's email system, for a sum not to exceed \$55,000 annually; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to sign the agreement.

**COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – Agreement with EchMaahs & Associates, LLC**

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-378)

WHEREAS, Motivational Interviewing is a skill that is an integral part of Corrections' evidence based practice initiative and it is important to train staff and provide them continuing support as they develop their skills; and

WHEREAS, Corrections currently contracts with EchMaahs & Associates, LLC to provide Motivational Interviewing training, support and coaching; and

WHEREAS, Corrections entered into an Agreement with another vendor to provide a *Train the Trainer* course to develop the internal capacity to provide training and support for Motivational Interviewing, but terminated the Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Corrections and EchMaahs & Associates, LLC wish to enter into a new Agreement to provide Motivational Interviewing training, support and coaching; Motivational Interviewing Supervisor Training; Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity Coding training; and *Training for Trainers*; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves an agreement with EchMaahs & Associates, LLC, for the period of October 15, 2009 through December 31, 2010, to provide Motivational Interviewing training, support and coaching; Motivational Interviewing Supervisor Training; Motivational Interviewing Treatment Integrity Coding training; and *Training for Trainers: Motivational Interviewing for Corrections Professional* in the amount of \$36,730; and Be It Further

**(Continued)**

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement and any amendments, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

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

PUBLIC WORKS – Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Bioscience Public Infrastructure Grant - \$1.5 million – Highway 36/Rice Street interchange project

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-379)

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, in cooperation with the Cities of Roseville, Little Canada, and Maplewood, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation, has developed plans for the reconstruction of the Rice Street/Trunk Highway 36 interchange and for that portion of Rice Street lying generally between County Road B and County Road B2; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is the lead agency in project implementation; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Legislature appropriated funds to the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for Bioscience Public Infrastructure Grants to deserving projects; and

WHEREAS, DEED has reviewed Ramsey County's application for a \$1.5 Million grant under this program, authorized as part of the 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, As the recipient of the Bioscience Public Infrastructure Grant, Ramsey County is required to enter into Construction Grant Agreement No. BBDI-09-0005-FY10, prepared by DEED; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves Bioscience Public Infrastructure Grant program Construction Grant Agreement No. BBDI-09-0005-FY10, between Ramsey County and the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) for the reconstruction of the Rice Street/Trunk Highway 36 interchange project, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the Construction Grant Agreement on behalf of Ramsey County, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute any and all agreements, amendments, and renewals necessary to ensure conformance with all regulations and stipulations pertaining to recipients of this Bioscience Public Infrastructure Grant funds; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept funds in the amount of \$1,500,000 on behalf of the County and make the necessary budget adjustments to appropriate the funds to the project budget.

**(Continued)**

PUBLIC HEALTH – Approval of the Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement for 2010-14

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-380)

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §115A.96 Subd.6 and §473.804 require Ramsey County to develop and implement a permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) program, including at least quarterly collection of HHW; and

WHEREAS, The County has provided a permanent HHW program since 1991 and desires to continue to provide HHW management services to its residents; and

WHEREAS, The County Board on December 14, 1999, authorized the Household Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement for January 1, 1999, through December 31, 2004, through which residents of one county could use HHW sites in another county, and created a mechanism whereby county HHW programs that receive and manage HHW from residents of other counties may invoice the resident's county for the cost of providing that service; and

WHEREAS, The County Board on September 28, 2004, authorized the Household Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement for January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board member county HHW programs have proposed modifications to the agreement aimed at creating simpler and more flexible cost invoicing procedures; and

WHEREAS, The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board at its meeting on September 23, 2009, recommended that its member counties approve the proposed Household Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the Household Hazardous Waste Inter-County Reciprocal Use Agreement for the period January, 1, 2010, through December 31, 2014; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Chair and Chief Clerk to execute the agreement.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Amendment of Household Hazardous Waste Agreement with Bay West for 2010-11

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-381)

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §115A.96 Subd. 6 and §473.804 require Ramsey County to develop and implement a permanent household hazardous waste (HHW) program, including at least quarterly collection of HHW; and

*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, The County has provided a permanent HHW program since 1991 and desires to continue to provide HHW management services to its residents; and

WHEREAS, The County Board on December 14, 1999, approved the initial contract with Bay West, Inc., for HHW management services for the period January 1, 2000, through December 31, 2004; and the Board approved amendments to that agreement on December 11, 2001, and July 23, 2002; and

WHEREAS, The County Board on September 14, 2004, approved a five-year agreement with Bay West, Inc., for HHW management services for January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Public Health has negotiated an amendment to the 2005-09 Agreement with Bay West, Inc., to extend the term of the agreement through 2011; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute an amendment to the Agreement between Ramsey County and Bay West, Inc., for Household Hazardous Waste Management Services, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney, for a term through December 31, 2011, and which contains a 2010 maximum payment of \$806,226 and a 2011 maximum payment of \$793,311.

RAMSEY COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – Set Hearing Date for Approval of Tax-Exempt Refinancing – Phoenix Residence, Inc.

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-382)

WHEREAS, Phoenix Residence, Inc. (Phoenix) has asked West St. Paul to issue a tax-exempt revenue Note in an amount up to \$4,850,000 on behalf of Phoenix to refinance existing taxable debt originally issued to finance the acquisition and construction of a number of residential care facilities for adults with developmental disabilities in Ramsey County. State and federal laws allow cities to issue bonds on behalf of non-profit corporations to finance and refinance capital expenditures. Tax exempt bond financing reduces borrowing costs and enables the non-profits to provide services more cost effectively; and

WHEREAS, In order to access this financing, federal law requires that the governing body of a governmental unit with jurisdiction over the area in which the project is located hold a public hearing and approve the use to tax-exempt bonds in that jurisdiction. Because Phoenix proposes to use the bond proceeds at 11 facilities located in Ramsey County, the Ramsey County Board is requested to hold the hearing. This simplifies the process by eliminating the need to hold separate hearings in the seven Ramsey County cities; and

WHEREAS, Phoenix is requesting that the Ramsey County Board hold a public meeting on December 1, 2009, and after deliberation following the hearing, consider adopting the approval resolution on December 15 to allow the City of West St. Paul to issue the bonds; Now, Therefore, Be It

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes a public hearing on the proposed issuance of tax-exempt bonds by the City of West St. Paul to refinance properties owned by Phoenix Residence, Inc. for December 1, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers of the Ramsey County Court House.

RAMSEY COUNTY HOUSING AND REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY – Set Hearing Date for Approval of Tax-Exempt Refinancing – Northeast Residence

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-383)

WHEREAS, Northeast Residence (NER) and Bremer Bank are arranging a tax-exempt refinancing of 22 supervised living facilities for the developmentally disabled owned by NER. The facilities are located in various communities throughout Ramsey and Washington Counties. The refinancing constitutes a project under the conduit revenue bond financing statute. The city of White Bear Lake has been asked to consider issuing the bonds that will be purchased by Bremer Bank; and

WHEREAS, Under Minnesota Statutes, Section 471.656, White Bear Lake can issue the revenue bond with respect to facilities located in the various communities only if Ramsey and Washington Boards consent by resolution. Pursuant to host jurisdiction approval requirements under federal tax law, approval resolutions may be adopted after a minimum 14-day notice of public hearing and the scheduled hearing; and

WHEREAS, Northeast Residence is requesting that the Ramsey County Board hold a public meeting on December 1, 2009, and after deliberation following the hearing, consider adopting the approval resolution on December 15 to allow the City of White Bear Lake to issue the bonds; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes a public hearing on the proposed issuance of tax-exempt bonds by the City of White Bear Lake to refinance properties owned by Northeast Residence for Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in the Council Chambers of the Ramsey County Court House.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Request for Proposals for Banking Services

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-384)

WHEREAS, The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) states that prudent practices necessitate the reevaluation of banking services on a periodic basis; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County last issued a Request for Proposals for its banking services seven (7) years ago; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County extended the original five-year contract with US Bancorp in January of 2008 for a two (2) year period; and

WHEREAS, The current contract with US Bancorp expires on December 31, 2009; and  
*(Continued)*

WHEREAS, Staff is not able to bring the recommendation for selection of a vendor to the Board until the January 12, 2010 Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, A 60-day extension to the Agreement with US Bancorp under the same terms and conditions is necessary to accommodate this timing issue; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to issue a Request for Proposals for Banking Services, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney's Office, and in accordance with policies and procedures on RFPs, with direction to staff to return to the Board with a recommendation for selection of a vendor; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to execute an amendment to the Agreement with US Bancorp, 800 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55402, for a 60-day extension, through February 28, 2010, under the same terms and conditions.

PUBLIC HEALTH – Recovery Act: Amendment to the Public Health Emergency Response Grant (PHER) Contract with the Minnesota Department of Health

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-385)

WHEREAS, The nation has adopted an awareness of the need to increase the capacity of the public health system's ability to respond to pandemic influenza and other public health threats; and

WHEREAS, Congress has appropriated funding specific to state and local public health departments to meet this need; and

WHEREAS, Funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is available to Ramsey County to support and enhance the infrastructure critical to public health preparedness and response, and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners recognizes the responsibility of local government to prepare for and respond to events caused by pandemic influenza or other public health threats; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept the \$588,781 Public Health Emergency Response (PHER) Grant amendment from the Minnesota Department of Health; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the PHER grant amendments not to exceed the \$588,781, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute any necessary agreements, amendments and renewals related to the expenditure of the PHER funds, in a form to be approved by the County Attorney; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments, including increasing estimated revenue and appropriations; 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.

SHERIFF – Recovery Act: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, African Immigrant Muslim Community Outreach Program

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-386)

WHEREAS, On September 8, 2009, the St. Paul Police Department was awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant in the amount of \$670,679, for a project titled African Immigrant Muslim Community Outreach Program (“AIMCOP”), from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance; and

WHEREAS, The AIMCOP grant will fund a collaborative of local law enforcement and community agencies including the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office, with the main goals of the program being community outreach and crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, Strategies to meet the goals of the AIMCOP include providing targeted outreach programs to the Muslim/Somali community, expanding Police athletic league programs for youth ages 8-14, mentoring and life skills programs for youth ages 8-22, providing an advocate who will offer crime prevention activities, and identifying and intervening with at-risk individuals; and

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office’s participation in AIMCOP will be to provide a project manager to coordinate the program; and

WHEREAS, The grant award will fund a 0.50 FTE over two years, for a total grant share to Ramsey County of \$90,000, over the period from August 1, 2009, through July 31, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Sheriff’s Office requests approval to increase the personnel complement by a 0.50 FTE Planning Specialist II position over the life of the grant; and

WHEREAS, An Agreement between the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County outlining the responsibilities for grant distribution needs to be approved prior to Ramsey County being eligible to receive the grant funding; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to approve the Agreement between the City of St. Paul and Ramsey County for distribution of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Justice Assistance Grant funds in the amount of \$90,000, for the period from August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2011, and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Agreement, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney’s Office; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to approve and execute any amendments to the Agreement; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board approves an increase in the Sheriff's personnel complement by 0.50 FTE Planning Specialist II for the life of the grant, to be starred in the complement; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments, including increasing estimated revenues and appropriations; and Be It Further

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

SHERIFF – Traffic Safety Initiative Grant

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-387)

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety has awarded Ramsey County \$488,200.00 from federal U.S. Department of Transportation funds for a Traffic Safety Initiative Grant; and

WHEREAS, The grant combines the previously funded grant programs of Safe and Sober, Operation NightCap and Speed Enforcement into one overall program for impaired driving enforcement, passenger protection enforcement, and speed enforcement; and

WHEREAS, The goals of the grant program are accomplished through enhanced enforcement of traffic safety laws using multiple law enforcement agencies, together with public education and media relations; and

WHEREAS, This is a collaborative enforcement grant whereby the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office will be the lead law enforcement agency and will share the grant with eight other local police agencies including: St. Paul, Maplewood, Mounds View, New Brighton, North St. Paul, Roseville, St. Anthony, and White Bear Lake, as well as the Ramsey County Department of Emergency Communications; and

WHEREAS, The State Patrol will also be a participating enforcement agency through a separate grant; and

WHEREAS, Grant funds will reimburse overtime incurred for predesignated saturations and for a small amount of equipment, with no required local match; and

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Office requests approval of the Traffic Safety Initiative Grant; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners accepts the Traffic Safety Initiative Grant from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, Office of Traffic Safety, for the period from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010, in the amount of \$488,200; and Be It Further

*(Continued)*

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Grant Contract, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute any amendments to the Grant Contract; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to accept future Traffic Safety Initiative grants and to execute future grant contracts; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to make all necessary budget adjustments, including increasing estimated revenues and appropriations.

SHERIFF – Approval of Joint Powers Agreement with the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for Maintenance of an Automated Fingerprint Identification System

Commissioner Reinhardt introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner McDonough. Roll Call: Ayes – Reinhardt, Bennett, Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman – 6. Nays – 0. (2009-388)

WHEREAS, The State of Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension ("BCA") maintains a regional computerized central repository of fingerprint images known as the Midwest Automated Fingerprint Identification System Network ("MAFIN"), to support law enforcement agencies in criminal investigation efforts and for the positive identification of criminals; and

WHEREAS, The State provides all the system hardware and passes along 50% of the cost of the maintenance to all member law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, Through a Joint Powers Agreement, Ramsey County is a member law enforcement agency with remote access to MAFIN, and sends fingerprints of all arrestees to the BCA for identification; and

WHEREAS, As a member law enforcement agency, Ramsey County's share of the maintenance cost for the one year period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, will be \$17,330.89; and

WHEREAS, The Sheriff's Department recommends approval of the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and Ramsey County; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves a Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota and Ramsey County for the period from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010, for maintenance and upkeep of the Midwest Automated Fingerprint Identification System Network; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the County Manager to execute the Joint Powers Agreement, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office.

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COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Emergency Shelter – Update on Utilization and New Program

Monty Martin, Director, Community Human Services, said a brief update would be provided on the emergency shelter system. Late in 2008 the Department met with the Board to put in place the new strategy called Rapid Rehousing. One-time federal dollars went into that program; outcomes on what happened with that money would be provided today. One year later, a couple bad things have happened along with a couple good things. The worst thing that has happened is that we continue to be in economic trouble as a community, resulting in the continuing need for emergency shelter. Another difficult thing that happened is that the Governor unallotted funds for emergency general assistance programs (EGA), used for shelter for single adults. Those funds ran out in October. That source of funding, over \$1M, is no longer available to fill in the holes to help people get into permanent or even temporary housing. One good thing that has happened is the influx of federal stimulus dollars, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, that have come in primarily to the City of St. Paul, and to the suburban areas, helping to address the shelter needs this year. Another positive thing is that the providers – the County, the City of St. Paul, Catholic Charities, Union Gospel Mission, and others – are working well together on a good system to address needs, but the system is still overwhelmed.

Jim Anderson, Planner, Community Human Services, introduced a new program just developed within the last couple weeks with funding from the ARRA dollars that came through the City of St. Paul, and some State dollars for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program that comes through Ramsey County. More detail would also be provided on each of the sub-population groups: Families with Dependent Children; Single Adults; and Childless Couples and Unaccompanied Youth.

Mr. Anderson said he felt that the new program is the most significant redesign in the response to homelessness in many years, by making it much easier for people to access assistance. People in crisis who are in the process of losing their homes and confronting homelessness are under a tremendous amount of stress. Generally, it is not one crisis, but rather a whole series of crises – first the person loses their job, then the child gets sick, maybe the car breaks down, the home goes into foreclosure. Under that kind of stress, it is difficult for people to function normally, to access information normally, and to find out where to go for help. Over and over again, they hear from people coming in to apply for emergency shelter in Ramsey County that this has been a tale of woe extending back 6-8 months, and they didn't know where to turn. For people not already connected to the social services system in Ramsey County, it can be enormously difficult. If they call 211, they likely received 8-10 different phone numbers to call. Each number called after that often resulted in the response "we don't do that, but these four agencies may be able to help you", getting more numbers to call, until they finally give up. The best way to make this simpler was by centralizing access to help, marketing it aggressively so that people would be able to access numbers easier. Now when people call 211 they are given one number to call. The process is taking place to set up a website for this program with links to agencies all across Ramsey County to make it easier. They are working with church groups, school districts, police, the Sheriff's Department, hospital emergency rooms and elsewhere to make it easier for people in distress to find out where to go for help.

The name of the program is the Housing Crisis Response in Ramsey County which is a central point of contact for families with dependent children, single adults, and childless couples and unaccompanied youth. This program, with the help of federal and state dollars combined into this program, has housing assistance available, but not everything needed is available.

Commissioner Ortega asked how many dollars are there from the federal and state governments.

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Mr. Anderson said going into this program, the federal ARRA dollars that came through the City of St. Paul, is \$2,564,000. There were \$890,000 of state dollars that came through the County's Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program. The federal dollars are for a two-year period at about \$1 million per year. The state is also for two years.

Commissioner Ortega said that would be about \$1.5M each year, with no guarantee it would continue after that.

Mr. Anderson said there is no guarantee. The federal government has made steps to include this concept of Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention in the recently reauthorized McKinney/Vento Homeless Assistance Act that will make considerably more dollars available specifically for this purpose. That was a lynchpin for continuing this program. Additional dollars will have to be raised over the next two years to keep at the current level.

Commissioner Ortega asked what the annual expenditure is.

Mr. Anderson said the allocation for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance dollars has been at \$2.6M for the biennium for the last two biennium, including the current biennium. It is assumed it will continue roughly at the same level. The ARRA dollars go away in two years. The regulations state that 60% of the money has to be spent within two years; 100% within three. The need is so intense right now that the spending is at the level of a two-year program.

Vice-Chair Rettman asked if the \$890,000 is on top of the \$2.6M; this is additional to the regular dollars coming in.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively. He added that these are federal dollars coming through the City of St. Paul. The State of Minnesota, through the Department of Human Services, got another allotment that was for the balance of state. Organizations in Ramsey County received an additional \$240,000 from that balance of state allotment to serve suburban Ramsey County, specifically through three agencies: two serving families; one serving youth.

Commissioner Ortega said for families to access funds, they could access from different pots.

Mr. Anderson said this has been centralized so to access any of these dollars, they would come through these centralized places.

Commissioner Ortega asked if access would depend upon residency. For someone from Maplewood where that city received dollars, we are a clearinghouse for those resources.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively. The dollars, regardless of where they are physically located throughout the County, whether City of St. Paul or suburban Ramsey County, are accessed through this centralized access.

Vice-Chair Rettman requested clarification that the access numbers are not Ramsey County government numbers.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively.

Commissioner McDonough cited the \$200,000+ that went to the community groups in the suburbs, and asked if those dollars are in the pot and part of this, or are they doing something separate.

Mr. Anderson said there are three programs funded for services in suburban Ramsey County; Catholic Charities is one of the partners through the collaborative for housing crisis response. They have a staff position and some assistance dollars specifically for families in crisis in suburban Ramsey County. The second program is with Face to Face Health and Counseling Service, which runs the SafeZone Youth Drop-In Center, the central point of contact for youth. They have dollars specifically to assist unaccompanied youth in suburban Ramsey County in need of housing services.

Commissioner McDonough asked if they called our unaccompanied youth number, would they get access to that service.

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Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively. If someone calls that number, they are 18 years old, desperately need help in getting an apartment, that central number is where they would access that assistance. They are trying to make this as seamless as possible for the participants of the programs, even though the funding streams may be separately located.

Commissioner McDonough asked if the dollars that come to the state, the city and the County are formula dollars or competitive dollars.

Mr. Anderson said the ARRA funds for the Homeless Prevention Rapid Rehousing were allocated on formula. It is basically the emergency shelter grant formula coming through HUD (Housing and Urban Development). The Family Homeless Prevention dollars that Ramsey County accesses is allocated on a biennium and competitive basis.

For families with children, there is the 55-bed Family Services Center in Maplewood. We also contract with the St. Paul Area Council of Churches for a program called Project Home, which provides a network of churches. A single church takes the reins for one month, providing 20 beds. Normally, there are two churches operating each month. Starting in July this year, we accessed some additional federal dollars through the FEMA emergency food and shelter program to open a third church, only for a six-month period, July through December 2009. This is an additional 60 beds every night for families for emergency shelter, in addition to about 142 beds in domestic violence shelters. In spite of the addition of 20 beds, families have been turned away because of lack of space. The numbers are unduplicated within each month, but not unduplicated across months. Somebody who called in July may have also called in August. In July, unduplicated, 159 people were turned away – 58 adults and 101 children. In August, 182 people were turned away from shelter -- 70 adults and 112 children. In September, the number went up to 196 people turned away, 70 adults and 126 children. In October, a season shift occurred that plays out each year. The numbers for family shelter demand tends to go down as the winter months approach. Families tend to be on the move more in the summertime when they are looking for opportunities between the school years. In October, the number went down to 97 people turned away; 22 adults and 75 children.

Normally, up until the winter of 2008-2009, during the coldest months, December, January, February, no one was turned away seeking shelter. That changed last winter, as reported to the County Board at the end of last year. With Board approval, the Department accessed some state and federal dollars and some limited county levy dollars to institute a small pilot program contracted with the YWCA for a Rapid Rehousing Program. Within two weeks, 14 families were moved into housing out of the emergency shelter system. Also with those dollars, five additional families were kept from becoming homeless. In November, eleven months after the start-up of that program, the results are that 14 of those 19 families remain in stable housing; five families were not located, but only one of those families had a subsequent return to emergency shelter in Ramsey County. Almost under any view, there were spectacular results. Rapid Rehousing works. It works for a broader array of families than previously thought possible. Even for short-term limited assistance, if people can access housing quickly and into housing, the results are impressive.

The number 651-215-2262 is the number for families with children who are either homeless or in housing crisis in Ramsey County. The physical telephone is located in the St. Paul office of Catholic Charities behind the Dorothy Day Center. That is where the family program is located with a full-time screener handling the phone calls, helping people access the systems directly through this program, or figuring out where the assistance should be. Rather than referring them on with six different phone numbers, they are helped in making the connection and making sure the connection happens. They do not lead people astray that they have all the resources needed to help everybody in need. The need is extraordinary, and they don't have enough resources to help everyone. They are assisted, however, for families with children with some extra dollars available for emergency

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assistance, made available through the ARRA. That money is only good for now through September 2010, but it is a considerable amount of assistance available. Most of the assistance made available for families through this number is emergency assistance dollars, which may be up to as much as \$2.5M.

Commissioner McDonough used the scenario where someone loses their housing -- they call this number -- would it be known that beds are available at a facility or church.

Mr. Anderson said the primary purpose of this number is to keep from needing emergency shelter. If no other options are available and it is happening tonight and something must be found, and emergency shelter is the only available solution, they would refer the family for emergency shelter. There would be information through this line as to whether beds are actually available that night, or not. Even if they have a couple days to work with, the primary purpose of this number is to keep people from needing emergency shelter in the first place.

Commissioner Ortega said in October, 75 families could not be served. Mr. Anderson clarified that it was 22 families with 75 children.

Commissioner Ortega asked where they go.

Mr. Anderson said the program officially began on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Generally what happens over the phone is that they try to brainstorm with the family calling in to find out if there are any other options that night; are there friends or relatives they could stay with. When there is no alternative available for the family and there is no space, the family is asked to call again tomorrow. As cold and difficult as that is, after exploring any other alternatives, that is what they have to tell the family. Now, hopefully, there is another avenue.

Commissioner Ortega asked if we would now be able to address those 22 families. With the weather changing, it is especially critical. Prevention is great and to keep numbers from growing and make an impact in lowering the numbers, but there has to be a place where there is at least heat, rather than having people call tomorrow.

Mr. Anderson said even with this program and with the new federal dollars, there is not enough to help everybody in need, particularly if they are not identified until the night they need help. There is another feature to this program for families, which is a Rapid Rehousing team run by the YWCA, much as they did for us at the end of last year. They will be working with every family in the emergency shelters and in the domestic violence shelters to develop housing plans to try to move them out as quickly as possible. They will be accessing the emergency shelter dollars, the housing assistance dollars through this program, and other funds like the Community Sharing funds through the St. Paul Foundation, wherever help can be found, to put together a package that will assist. They found out from the pilot done earlier this year, that even temporary limited assistance for families, if they can get them into housing, have shown remarkable ability to figure it out from there. That is key -- 20 beds will be lost January 2010 for families, and it is critical to turn families around in shelter as quickly as possible to keep spaces available. They hope to be successful so there won't be numbers like this in being turned away because people will be moved much faster through the shelter system and keeping people from needing shelter in the first place.

Commissioner Ortega said especially with winter coming on, the Board should receive a monthly update on where we are with the numbers. He understands and applauds the long-term, the impacts, and the prevention; that is where we should be. But, when talking about 75 kids being turned away, that is critical.

Mr. Anderson said he appreciated Commissioner Ortega's request for that information and would be happy to provide it to the Board. This situation has been confronted for a long time now. This should improve matters, but it may not solve the problem entirely. Results will be better.

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Commissioner Ortega said the homeless problem may never be eradicated because it is also about people's choices. This is more about a crises intervention and kids who are cold in this type of weather and how we manage that.

Commissioner Carter said she is glad to hear of the centralized point of contact and that we will be able to sustain it. One issue is people asking for help soon enough for it to make a difference to prevent the type of crisis that can otherwise occur. Is there a type of triage? If people call and they are first-in, we have no way to help distinguish the urgency. If we are asking questions such as where are you now, how long can you stay, to know we can prevent a child from being out in the cold that night, or if there is another family with a greater need to prioritize – how is that triaging done, and have we been able to avoid the current emergency and help them three days later with one that could wait until then.

Mr. Anderson said that is a great question. They have had to operate on a first-come, first-served basis for the simple reason that it is virtually impossible to predict. If there are four beds available in the shelter and a family of four comes in, the first thing always done with anybody seeking emergency shelter, is to explore any other option. If there are none, it is impossible to know if their situation is direr than the next family who might call or come in. Any other options may include a sister in Indianapolis. They will check with the sister to see if she would take the family in, and if there is agreement on all parties, a bus ticket will be provided to send the family to Indianapolis. It doesn't have to be just a local alternative, it is any alternative. Too many times, because people don't know where to turn, we don't find out until there are no other alternatives.

Commissioner Carter said often people say they cannot get help because they are not in dire straits enough, or think they have to be out on the streets before getting help. Is this different? Are we saying that for people at-risk of homelessness to call us early so we can help figure out if they qualify and will help early rather than wait until they are on the streets.

Mr. Anderson said that because of our limited dollars, the assistance dollars in this program need to be reserved for people in dire circumstances. However, the whole point of this program is to reach people earlier and to help start problem-solving earlier in the process. It is cheaper and easier to assist somebody before things get so intractable. We welcome that call from somebody who may not immediately be at-risk of homelessness. We will help problem solve with that family to create a plan for how to avoid homelessness and hope to prevent it altogether – help them access other community funds if they are available to help them along the way. Funds through the assistance program have to be held for those folks with an eviction notice in hand, if they are at the end of the redemption period for foreclosure, if they are a tenant, for the folks imminently at-risk.

Commissioner Carter said we would help people problem solve in a different way than has been available.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively. One of the frustrating aspects of helping somebody in such dire crisis is oftentimes those folks in the greatest needs who have no current source of income, and who have no means to carry on – we cannot help them because we can't solve the crises long-term enough to justify the use of emergency dollars. It is terrible to tell somebody they are too hard-up for us to help them. That continues to be the reality, but it will be less-so now because we will be helping people create plans and not just leaving them on the doorstep and saying "call us tomorrow"; we will be engaging with them to figure out what can be done.

Commissioner Carter said that is where the permanent supportive housing is greatly needed.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively; unfortunately there are not enough of those available at the present time.

Commissioner McDonough said the domestic abuse shelters were mentioned. We need to ensure available beds are there for the individuals in crisis at 2 a.m. Do we try to actively manage

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those beds so we don't turn away families from staying warm that night, but that there might be some available in the domestic abuse shelter?

Mr. Anderson said as a County, we do not run, administer, or manage the domestic violence beds, which are reserved for people fleeing violent situations. They can't take folks in who have other circumstances needing shelter. It is something to be explored whether there is violence; is that one of the things that has precipitated the need for shelter? If that is the case, they will be referred to the domestic violence shelter network. They can't just take in anybody in need of shelter. They get a per diem from the state to operate their programs, based only upon people fleeing violent situations. There is less flexibility, but the demand for those beds is as intense and as complete as the demand for all the other shelter beds.

Vice-Chair Rettman asked if the \$2.5M is just for emergency shelter, not a long-term fix.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively. The \$2.5M plus our \$890,000 is split between the staff required to operate this program – the demand and response for this program has been overwhelming, so much so that the volume of calls is somewhat alarming – and the direct assistance dollars itself. It is about 45% for the service fees, and about 55% for direct assistance.

Mr. Martin said staff are here today to provide information. He wanted to alert the Board that staff will be bringing a request forward in the near future. This family program was set up at Catholic Charities. The building in which it is housed is one Catholic Charities had planned to sell and did not plan for any operating costs over the next two years to keep it open so they now have a financial problem because of that for security, lights, and utilities. Previously, the Board had approved two financial workers at that location. A proposal for ARRA money will be brought to the Board in the Human Services Department budget from 2009 in the amount of about \$20,000 to partially pay for the operations of the building where the financial workers are for the next two years. The request would be for \$20,000; the operating costs for the building for the two-year period is about \$80,000. There are a lot of partners that come together to make a system like this work, and it is the Department's belief to be an active participant in that, using one-time money that doesn't make any ongoing financial commitment to the County. Other than that, in the whole discussion today, there are no additional County dollars being put into the shelter system. The work being discussed today is using state, federal, foundation and other dollars and the existing dollars in our system from the County.

Vice-Chair Rettman said the Department had provided an update in writing, which cites "the other amount" – we would put in \$20,000 of 2009 and others raised from non-County sources. She asked if that stays the same. Mr. Martin responded affirmatively.

Mr. Anderson addressed the need for some of these folks for longer term options; that they need permanent supportive housing. They need housing connected with services over a longer period of time. These are folks with significant disabilities: long-term chronic disabilities, mental health, chemical dependency, etc. As part of this collaborative, they have contracted with HousingLink, a metro-based housing information organization that provides web-based information for anyone needing affordable housing in the seven-county metro area. This is a contract with HousingLink to create a program specifically for an on-line, on-time web-based directory that housing advocates in this program can access that will provide detailed real-time information on availability of beds, length of waiting lists, eligibility requirements, target populations for all the supportive housing programs in Ramsey County, transitional and permanent supportive housing.

Vice-Chair Rettman said this is not a 24-hour line. It is Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively. Messages can be left. The program just began Monday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Over this past weekend there were nine phone messages on Monday.

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While accessing those nine messages, 22 additional messages came in. While accessing those 22 messages, an additional 20 messages came in. Staff have been overwhelmed with the response. The first official day for the singles program received 95 calls for assistance. It was anticipated that there would be a heavy response, but it was not anticipated that it would be that heavy, this early.

For unaccompanied youth, there is a critical shortage of beds in Ramsey County. There are only 16 self-referral beds available; they are always full, and there are always unaccompanied youth turned away. Youth can be spotted riding on metro buses riding all night long to stay warm. Some of the programs will give youth some money to sit in a restaurant to nurse a cup of coffee all night long – anywhere they can go. Youth traditionally couch hop from friend to friend, waiting for the chance to get into emergency shelter or find some other opportunity.

Commissioner Bennett asked if riding buses might be a solution on very cold nights.

Commissioner Reinhardt said we need to do what we can to keep families and children, unaccompanied youth safe, and while keeping them warm on a bus, it might not be safe. It is not something she would look at as even a partial solution.

Commissioner Carter said the reality is that young people and old people who need warmth find solutions. She is looking forward to hearing the updates requested by the Board to understand the depth of this issue through the winter and the response to this housing response line.

Mr. Anderson said if there is one universal reality for unaccompanied youth, it is the lack of safety, regardless of what temporary solution they access, unless they are lucky enough to get into one of our emergency shelter beds. A recent report is out on sexual exploitation of homeless youth, which is a very serious problem. Many youth finding themselves homeless, are fleeing from family issues of violence and sexual exploitation.

The central point of contact for the youth program is the SafeZone Drop-In Center in Lowertown on Prince Street. The hours have been extended, now open Monday through Saturday. The drop-in hours are 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and they take calls from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Commissioner Ortega said he has visited the Center. He asked if they have suffered any recent cut-backs.

Mr. Anderson said they have lost funding from the federal government for their outreach effort. Because of the lack of shelter beds, outreach and identification of youth in trouble on the streets is critically important. Our ability to keep that at even at the level it has been, is significantly diminished because of the loss of federal dollars in that program. Face to Face lost around \$150,000 in federal funding for outreach. There are no beds at the Drop-in Center, but SafeZone used to operate five scattered site transitional housing beds for youth and were able to expand that, with our assistance, to ten beds.

Commissioner Ortega said he was impressed with the Drop-In Center and spoke with some of the youth there. In many cases these youth just need a little help.

Mr. Anderson said they expanded the Drop-In Center, which is the central point of contact for youth, who are aware of this important resource in the community. He cited a previous community discussion about emergency shelter space for youth. A grant received from the Office of Justice Programs for a planning process for the development of a plan for expanding youth shelter is continuing. There is a plan in mind, and a model in place. A missing piece to the existing shelter beds is for folks who have lost all connection or never had any connection to their family of birth, and more effort is needed around youth and family reunification efforts to try to reconnect families with their homeless youth. That is the expansion they are most focused on now.

For single adults and childless couples, there continues to be far more demands than there are available resources. In 2000, the Dorothy Day Center was opened at night with mats on the floor. It

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was originally anticipated that overnight shelter would be needed from November 1 until mid-April. That lasted one year. At the end of the second winter Catholic Charities determined the demand was too high and have since then been a 365-day shelter. It had been envisioned that if there were 90 mats on the floor the demand would be met. They are currently averaging closer to 200 mats per night. For three nights in November 2008, they topped over 300 mats. Recently Catholic Charities has justifiably determined that they have to put a limit on the number of people who can stay there overnight. Primarily at the request of the St. Paul Police, they started allowing in men who were mildly inebriated, with a section cordoned off for those folks who are not obnoxiously or wildly inebriated enough to require detox and needed some place to go on the coldest nights. Recently they cordoned off a separate section additionally for mildly inebriated women, where formally, they would not have been allowed in. However, the available space has been reduced for everyone else, with a maximum of 208 mats on the floor, allowing one-foot spacing between mats, with open walkways between the mats and restrooms. The limit of 208 mats started November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Vice-Chair Rettman asked if the 208 mats includes the mildly inebriated men and women.

Mr. Anderson responded affirmatively. Following announcement of Catholic Charities' limit, it was realized that we would have to figure this out with the coming winter. Generally, 6-10 nights per month, they would exceed the 208 people needing shelter there. Another overflow has to be determined for single adults in the middle of winter. A couple community sessions have been held about the need to develop alternatives. The Union Gospel Mission has offered to provide up to 50 mats, and possibly more in the chapel area and in the lobby area off the normal shelter dormitory. There are some budget requirements being explored along with all possible alternatives to that. The St. Paul City Council passed a resolution instructing staff to explore all possible alternatives for winter overflow for single adults, and to report back to the City Council on available sites owned or controlled by the City. The long-term, ongoing permanent winter overflow shelter plan is due to the City Council in March. They have asked for a speedier report back in November for the immediate winter. Union Gospel Mission has a budget need for operating the 50 beds at about \$46,000, which comes out to about \$.90 per person per night, a rare bargain for emergency shelter. However, we have to find that source of funding.

Commissioner Ortega asked about the overflow numbers.

Mr. Anderson said it is anticipated that if we have an additional 50 mats per night available between December 1 and mid-April, most everybody in need of shelter on any given night would have space. In addition to the Catholic Charities, Dorothy Day Center, there are 90 beds through the Union Gospel Mission through their normal emergency shelter. They also have a pay-for-stay hotel for \$6.00 per night. An additional 50 spaces per night would get us through the immediate winter.

Mr. Anderson said there is great optimism for this program. They did not anticipate the unallotment of the Emergency General Assistance program and the Emergency Minnesota Supplemental Assistance program. That has had a devastating effect and has way over-compensated for additional resources available through our crisis response program. Between Emergency General Assistance and Emergency Minnesota Supplemental Assistance, Ramsey County was spending about \$170,000 per month. Virtually all of that money was related to housing in either utilities, rent, damage deposit, moving costs, crisis needs related to keeping somebody in their housing, or getting people into their housing from homelessness – that money is lost to us for this biennium because of the unallotment. There are no illusions to the fact that this new program is going to make up for that. Already, we are seeing devastating effects because so many people who wouldn't ordinarily require this program, now do so, and we don't have the resources available to help them.

Commissioner Ortega asked if a youth could access one of these mats.

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Mr. Anderson said there is an age limit for people entering the Dorothy Day shelter of 18. There may have been exceptions on extreme occasions, but that is not a good environment for youth. Commissioner Ortega asked if being on the street is a safer alternative.

Mr. Anderson said Catholic Charities is justifiably nervous about their liability.

Commissioner Ortega said the issue of age and liability is a barrier. Unless we know what the barriers are, you cannot take them down.

Commissioner Reinhardt said notable in previous discussions, and having visited Dorothy Day Center and the Union Gospel Mission, the number of veterans who are homeless or in need of shelter is striking. That needs to be quantified. We talk about honoring the people who have served our country, and she agrees with that, but when it comes to this issue, it is almost not even mentioned. The unallotments had a direct impact on them. Information has been provided that with the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places, this issue is getting bigger. That portion of the issue has to be highlighted. You cannot in one breath say you have to honor and be respectful of those who have served us, and at the same time, cut off their method of staying safe at home. This information is very sobering and scary. We live in Minnesota and the weather gets below zero, and people are not safe and warm. It is time to talk about the percentage of people at Dorothy Day Center or the Union Gospel Mission that have served our country, and what is happening with the funding and the dignity they deserve. We need to put some pressure on to deal with that issue and not pretend it is something separate from General Assistance Medical Care and some of the other unallotments.

Mr. Anderson said that is an excellent point. In addition to this program through our Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, the County has a contract with Salvation Army to provide case management assistance, outreach, identification and direct assistance for homeless vets. We also have a contract through the City Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing money, which is part of the ARRA. We have another contract from the City to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans for housing assistance for homeless vets. We know this is a big problem. At the end of October, the tri-annual statewide homeless survey was completed. We are looking forward to the results and analysis of that data that will start flowing after January 1, and anticipate one of the highlights of that report will be a significant up-surge in the number of Iraq and Afghanistan war vets who now find themselves homeless.

Commissioner Reinhardt said the Board, the County and the City, have highlighted this in the past. She made it clear that her comments were directed to the Governor and the unallotments, and the impact it has on veterans; to get that message back to the state level, in this case, disproportionately to men and women who have served this country.

Commissioner Carter along that same vein, said the unallotments across the board impacts people severely, veterans particularly in many ways. Medical assistance has everything to do with the ability to keep a job, etc. The \$2.5M from ARRA is something we are grateful for because we can put it into this specific focus. She asked if the EGA and ESA law could be quantified for this direct specific area, which has nothing to do with the huge unallotments across the board.

Mr. Anderson distributed a handout on the impact of that law, and summarized some of the key areas. In 2008, EGA provided direct assistance for 1,783 households. Emergency Minnesota Supplemental Aid assisted an additional 496 households. We are losing \$1.3M annually of EGA; we are losing \$248,000 spent on EMSA in 2008. To put this into perspective about what this new program can provide, replacing the \$170,000 per month spent on those two programs is replaced with ARRA and Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance dollars at around \$55,000. That is not a good trade, and we are swimming as fast as we can, sinking deeper and deeper as a result of this unallotment.

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Commissioner Carter said that is one-third of what we would have had to address the extremely increasing needs.

Mr. Anderson said because of the additional emergency assistance dollars available through ARRA, we have a much brighter picture for direct assistance on the family side. For single adults, it is not good.

Commissioner Carter said if not for ARRA, it would be much worse.

Mr. Anderson said any assumption that was made that the unallotment of EGA and EMSA would be considered less painful because of the existence of the ARRA dollars was sadly mistaken.

Vice-Chair Rettman cited two workshops about the veterans. With the hire of Maria Wetherall, we have the opportunity in getting the computer system up to speed, but those dollars have to be leveraged. The \$40,000 and another limited amount of dollars in terms of the potential of leveraging is more compelling if we were to do something ourselves – we need to get the infrastructure built first. That is a segment that in the past ten years we have only put in about \$200,000 as a County through the HRA in getting beds at the Veterans Hospital. The computer system in Veterans Services has not been equipped in getting federal dollars leveraged in state or federal legislation that might be available.

Mr. Anderson said there are two additional resources that have become available for people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Ramsey County. Human Services worked closely with the St. Paul Public Housing Agency on an application to HUD for vouchers for the Family Reunification Program. We were awarded 100 vouchers, which can be used for families in the child protection system who are either at-risk of out-of-home placement for their children because of chronic housing instabilities, or who cannot get reunited because of chronic housing instability. Seventy-five vouchers will go for families; 25 of those vouchers can be used for youth who are aging out of foster care. That is a significant new resource – over \$1 million per year in new resources available for people in crisis, both youth and families.

Additionally, directly addressing the tragedy of homeless veterans, the St. Paul Public Housing Agency and the VA Center were also recently awarded 35 vouchers for homeless veterans from HUD. That is 135 new vouchers that mean permanent housing support for people in Ramsey County. On the family side of the Family Unification Program, those vouchers are permanent; on the youth side, the vouchers are for 18 months. Those are bright lights to a gloomy, tragic presentation.

Commissioner Reinhardt said one of the reasons for the update today is to also raise awareness about this issue. She was excited to see a collaboration of the White Bear Center for the Arts, the East Metro Women's Center Council, and Century College are trying to raise awareness through a theatrical play in a panel discussion to take place on Thursday, November 19 at the West Campus Theater at Century College, 7-9 p.m., called Housed and Homeless from the Very Same Cup. This is a real story about real people, to raise awareness and incite action.

Commissioner Carter said we have been talking about the FHPAP dollars and ARRA dollars to help us develop this crisis response. She was glad to see this on the ground and functioning, and to know we will be getting reports to understand how well, or how much need we may yet have as it operates. She asked for a comment on the scheduled workshop on housing related priorities, which has been rescheduled. There are several considerations on the table with respect of a use of other one-time dollars that have been put aside.

Mr. Anderson said they are looking forward to that workshop.

Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, said Terry Speiker is the lead staff on that workshop pulling all the departments and partners together. The workshop should be in early 2010.

Mr. Anderson said one of the welcome developments in getting this program up and running is the tremendous degree of cooperation between the County and the City in putting this together and

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looking at our combined total of funds that allowed us to start thinking about redesign and what we could do rather than duplicating existing services.

Vice-Chair Rettman said Mr. Anderson and Joe Collins, City of St. Paul, are to be commended in the working relationship in looking past the silos for how to leverage together, which has a lot to do with the trust established over many years.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Vice-Chair Rettman declared the meeting adjourned.

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Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board