

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### FINAL COMMITTEE AGENDA

#### BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2018  
1:30 PM

Chair: Jeff Johnson, District 7

Vice-Chair: Marion Greene, District 3

Members: Mike Opat, District 1

Linda Higgins, District 2

Peter McLaughlin, District 4

Debbie Goettel, District 5

Jan Callison, District 6

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#### 1. Minutes From Previous Meeting

- A. 01/30/2018 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

#### 2. New Business

##### Routine Items

##### A. 18-0061

Amd 1 to Agmt A176946 with Children's Law Center of Minnesota to provide full legal representation to Hennepin County's state wards - children whose parents' rights have been terminated due to abandonment, abuse or neglect, 03/01/18-02/28/19, NTE \$150,000

##### Items for Discussion and Action

##### B. 18-0062

Amd 3 to Agmt A165075 with Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance for the provision of legal services to low income tenants in matters before Housing Court, 3/1/18-2/28/19, NTE \$160,000

##### C. 18-0063

Agmt PR00000208 with Central Minnesota Legal Assistance for the provision of legal services for victims of domestic abuse at the Family Justice Center for a minimum of three days a week, 3/1/18-2/28/19, NTE \$100,000

##### D. 18-0064

Agmt A188628 with the Women's Foundation of MN to provide sex trafficking prosecution efforts, 3/1/18-2/28/19, \$100,000 (recv)

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### COMMITTEE MINUTES

#### BOARD OF HENNEPIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2018  
1:30 PM

Chair: Jeff Johnson, District 7  
Vice-Chair: Marion Greene, District 3

Members: Mike Opat, District 1  
Linda Higgins, District 2  
Peter McLaughlin, District 4  
Debbie Goettel, District 5  
Jan Callison, District 6

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Commissioner Jeff Johnson, Chair, called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee for Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 2:35 PM. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Mike Opat who was absent.

#### 1. Minutes From Previous Meeting

- A. 12/06/2017 Public Safety Meeting Minutes

##### APPROVED

Commissioner Peter McLaughlin moved to approve the Minutes from the Previous Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Linda Higgins and approved - 6 Yeas 1 Absent: Opat

#### 2. New Business

##### Routine Items

- A. **18-0023**

Contract 5040C7 with MN Dept of Public Safety accepting funds for the 2017 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program, 1/1/18-6/30/19, \$932,400 (recv); suppl app of \$932,400 to 2018 Emergency Management budget

**18-0023R1**

**Revised**

Contract 5040C7 with MN Dept of Public Safety accepting funds for the 2017 Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Program, 1/1/18-6/30/19, \$932,400 (recv);

##### CONSENT

Commissioner Debbie Goettel moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jan Callison and approved - 6 Yeas 1 Absent: Opat

- B. **18-0024**

Contract 5041C7 with the MN Dept of Public Safety accepting funds for the 2017 State Homeland Security Program, 1/1/18-12/31/18, \$100,000 (recv)

##### CONSENT

Commissioner Linda Higgins moved to approve, seconded by Commissioner Jan Callison and approved - 6 Yeas 1 Absent: Opat

#### 3. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting of the Public Safety Committee for Tuesday, January 30, 2018 was declared adjourned at 2:37 PM.

Yolanda C Clark  
Deputy Clerk to the Board

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Board Action Request 18-0061

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#### Item Description:

Amd 1 to Agmt A176946 with Children's Law Center of Minnesota to provide full legal representation to Hennepin County's state wards - children whose parents' rights have been terminated due to abandonment, abuse or neglect, 03/01/18-02/28/19, NTE \$150,000

#### Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Amendment 1 to Agreement A176946 with Children Law Center of Minnesota to provide full legal representation to Hennepin County's state wards-children whose parents' rights have been terminated due to abandonment, abuse or neglect for the period March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019 in the not to exceed amount of \$150,000 be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the County; and the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

#### Background:

Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) promotes the rights and interests of Minnesota's children in the judicial, child welfare, health care, and education systems. The county funds the Public Defender's Office to represent Children in Need of Protection services for children and wards younger than 10 years old. CLC's core work is to provide high quality, direct legal representation and advocacy to abused and neglected children and youth, ages 10-21. They monitor progress toward adoption for these children. All major decisions about what happens to foster care youth are made through legal proceedings, which is why legal representation for them is so crucial. Working with a corps of more than 250 dedicated volunteer lawyers, CLC ensures that foster care youth have a voice in the courts' decisions, and makes sure they receive the services they need and to which they are entitled.

Since January 1 of 2016, CLC has seen a 57% increase in their caseload. Between September 1, 2017 and November 30, 2017, CLC provided direct legal representation for 189 state wards appearing in Hennepin County. Of these 189 CLC clients:

- o 19 new clients were court appointed to CLC and began receiving legal representation.
- o 6 client files were closed with the following dispositions:
  - 1 file was closed due to the client aging out of the system
  - 1 file was closed due to the client not meeting EFC Requirements
  - 1 file was closed due to client's adoption
  - 2 files were closed due to CLC withdrawing as Counsel due to conflict.
  - 1 file was closed to "Other" (the client received a Probate Guardian).
- o The Average client age at the time of case closing was 16.
  - 1 client was 21
  - 1 client was 20
  - 1 client was 18
  - 1 client was 16
  - 1 client was 11
  - 1 client was 10
- The average length of days from first appointment to closing for the 6 client cases was 769 days (2 years, 1 month, and 9 days)

- The average length of representation from first appointment to 8/31/2017 for the 189 cases was 799 days (2 years, 2 months, and 9 days)
- The longest opened case during this period is 3,554 Days (9 years, 8 months, and 29 days)
- The shortest time open of the 6 cases that closed during this reporting period was 96 days.
- At the conclusion of the 3 month reporting period, CLC had 189 open and active state ward cases in Hennepin County.

With this amendment, CLC will be able to continue providing full representation to all Hennepin County state wards on dependency-related matters and proceedings, and continue to recruit, train, support, and leverage the resources of pro bono attorneys.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Description	Upload Date	Type
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# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Board Action Request 18-0062

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#### Item Description:

Amd 3 to Agmt A165075 with Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance for the provision of legal services to low income tenants in matters before Housing Court, 3/1/18-2/28/19, NTE \$160,000

#### Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Amendment 3 to Agreement A165075 with Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance for the provision of legal services to low-income tenants in matters before Housing Court, during the period March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019, in the not to exceed amount of \$160,000 be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the county; and the Controller be authorized to disburse funds as directed.

#### Background:

Board resolution, 16-0137R1 (Amd 1 to Agreement A165075 with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (MMLA) and Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN)) provided \$100,000 of funding for the creation of a pilot program to provide full-representation to low-income tenants in need of legal assistance at time of Housing Court. The first phase of the pilot ran from June 2016 through December 2016. The board authorized a second year of the pilot for March 2017 to Feb 2018 for an additional \$100,000 (Amd 2 to Agreement A176998). This contract provides approximately \$70,000 to support lawyers from MMLA to provide full-representation and approximately \$30,000 to subcontract with VLN to provide coordination assistance at the office outside of Housing Court. This coordination assistance helps intake tenants and connect them to either MMLA full-representation or the volunteer lawyers (through VLN).

The pilot builds on the legal advice work that has been provided by MMLA and VLN since the early 2000's under Contract A120042, otherwise known as the Tenant Advice Project. The original contract with MMLA and VLN was established to provide some limited legal assistance to low-income tenants at the time of Housing Court. Advice only, as well as advice with some drafting assistance, were found to be only somewhat helpful, people were evicted at close to the same rate as non-represented clients.

Effective representation efforts in other locations around the country showed that having lawyers directly represent tenants improved outcomes overall and the ability to have Eviction Actions (formerly known as Unlawful Detainers or UD's) expunged. Expunging the Eviction Actions allows tenants to have a clean slate when seeking new housing. The request for funding for the full-representation effort of the Eviction Representation Project was made to help demonstrate these types of improved outcomes.

In 2017, the Hennepin County Center for Innovation and Excellence expanded the study to talk directly to clients being served by the pilot to determine additional services that may reduce eviction.

The findings included that:

- MMLA and VLN provide two main types of legal assistance at Housing Court, limited representation and full-representation. Most tenants come the day of and ask for assistance and can only receive

limited legal assistance, sometimes with assistance in drafting a motion.

- MMLA provides full representation assistance to about 2 to 3 tenants per week. The average length of time to assist bringing the case to trial is about 20 hours, and the median time spent on other cases is about 2.5 hours. Due to the intense nature of this work, the services are mainly provided to those tenants considered the most vulnerable with meritorious cases.
- MMLA met their service numbers for both 2016 and 2017. MMLA served more clients than originally estimated for both the contract periods.
- It was originally assumed that keeping 23 families from emergency shelter would save over \$100,000 in shelter costs. Families are not likely to go directly from eviction to emergency shelter and this desired cost avoidance may not be the best estimate for measuring the success of the project. Yet, many families assisted in the full-representation project (between 50 to 70%) were able to obtain expungements, which greatly increases their chances to remain in the private housing market.
- Limited-representation clients do not fare much better than non-represented tenants. But more have their cases initially settled on the day of court, even if they later face an eviction. This may allow tenants a bit more time to make alternative living arrangements, but still results in moves.
- MMLA outcomes for full-representation clients are hard to track from court documents. Expungement cases disappear as soon as the case has been expunged, which is exactly what you want for the tenant, but makes it hard to verify.
- MMLA tracks outcomes on the day of court for people they fully represent. But when a case is settled that can mean any number of things, and a final disposition at a later date (later eviction) happens frequently based on tenants' inability to comply with settlement agreement.
- Based on reported outcomes from MMLA for full-representation clients, well over half were able to get their records expunged. This is a major hurdle overcome for tenants to obtain future housing.
- The exact extent of emergency shelter use due to eviction has not yet been determined, but could be possible in the next evaluation cycle if signed releases are gathered for the tenants served through the project.
- Signed releases are a key to being able to track outcomes for tenants and to later contact tenants for direct feedback.

This board action request aligns with Hennepin County disparity reduction efforts by supporting housing stability for individuals who are exiting or still involved in the criminal justice system.

#### **ATTACHMENTS:**

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# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Board Action Request 18-0063

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#### Item Description:

Agmt PR00000208 with Central Minnesota Legal Assistance for the provision of legal services for victims of domestic abuse at the Family Justice Center for a minimum of three days a week, 3/1/18-2/28/19, NTE \$100,000

#### Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Agreement PR00000208 with Central Minnesota Legal Assistance for the provision of legal services for qualifying victims (petitioners) of domestic abuse at the Family Justice Center during the period March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019, in the not to exceed amount of \$100,000 be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the county; and the Controller be authorized to transfer and disburse funds as directed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Hennepin County's Center for Innovation and Excellence work with Central Minnesota Legal Assistance to provide client release forms, statistics and qualitative reports to measure the work performed and report outcomes back to the County Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the designated 2018 contingency funds of \$100,000 to support legal services for victims of domestic abuse be transferred to the Court Functions budget.

#### Background:

The Hennepin County Family Court holds first-appearance court domestic abuse hearings four days each week. The Family Justice Center makes a room available for an attorney to meet with Order for Protection (OFP) petitioners during these court sessions. CMLS and Tubman will staff this clinic with volunteer and staff attorneys for a minimum of three days per week. These clinic attorneys will see any petitioner who seeks advice where there is no conflict of interest. They will provide advice on how to best proceed and full representation where the client qualifies and that full representation will be most helpful to a petitioner. CMLS, and their subcontractor Tubman's, core work is to provide pro bono legal services to low-income victims of domestic violence, particularly cases involving children or when the other party is represented by an attorney. This funding will be used to pay for .70 of a staff attorney and 1.0 FTE legal services coordinator who will help recruit, manage and train volunteer attorneys who will provide free legal representation and advice to qualifying petitioners of OFPs. Priority will be given to petitioners with the most need, typically where children have been abused, or where the respondent has a lawyer, or where the victim has language or cultural barriers.

This agreement releases funds from contingency to the Court Functions budget as adopted in the 2018 budget.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

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# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

### Board Action Request 18-0064

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#### Item Description:

Agmt A188628 with the Women's Foundation of MN to provide sex trafficking prosecution efforts, 3/1/18-2/28/19, \$100,000 (recv)

#### Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Agreement A188628 with the Women's Foundation of Minnesota for prosecution of sex trafficking efforts for the period March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019 in the receivable amount of \$100,000, be approved; that the Chair of the Board be authorized to sign the Agreement on behalf of the county; and that the Controller be authorized to accept and disburse funds as directed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the acceptance of grant funding does not imply a continued funding commitment by the county for this program when grant funds are no longer available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a supplemental appropriation of \$80,000 and 1.0 analyst positons for the prosecution of sex trafficking efforts be applied to the 2018 Hennepin County Attorney's Office budget.

#### Background:

Sex trafficking cases are amongst the most difficult to detect, investigate, and prosecute. Of the 235 statewide sex trafficking arrests in 2016, 89 (38%) of the arrests were made in Hennepin County. The number of sex trafficking and prostitution cases submitted to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office increased from 27 in 2015 to 95 in 2017.

In 2016 the Hennepin County Board designated a prosecutor, investigator and analyst to investigate and prosecute sex trafficking crimes. Current efforts prioritize "Guardian Angel" victim recovery with a secondary focus on victim advocacy, investigation and prosecution of misdemeanor sex trafficking cases. Sting investigations targeting online solicitations and utilizing undercover agents recover victims and bring numerous misdemeanor cases against sex buyers.

The grant from the Women's Foundation will provide an analyst, focusing additional resources on ongoing sex trafficking investigations and targeting felony-level prosecutions. These efforts will reduce sex trafficking crime and recover trafficking victims. The analyst will use proactive investigative techniques and analysis to target traffickers and obtain felony convictions. Regular meetings with the assigned prosecutor will share intelligence, case updates, and investigative targets.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

Description	Upload Date	Type
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