

Subject: Joint Powers Agreement with Dakota County for the Social Services Embedded Social Worker Program

Meeting Date: August 8, 2022	
Submitted/Presented by/Department:	
Action Type	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion/Direction
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Informational Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Report
<input type="checkbox"/> Resolution	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Action	
Authorize the Mayor and City Manager to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with Dakota County to continue the Embedded Social Worker Program.	
Background	
<p>Starting in 2019, West St. Paul and Dakota County entered into a JPA to create the Embedded Social Program within our department. This program has been in the pilot phase and we were the first in Dakota County to embark on partnering the police with a social worker to address the needs of the community as it relates to mental health.</p> <p>We saw many individuals calling 911 at a time of a mental health crisis and taking up police and EMS resources. Dakota County Social Services, the West St. Paul and South St. Paul Police Departments realized that identifying those individuals who lack mental health resources and call 911 at a time of crisis can actually refrain from the need for emergency services if they have an adequate mental health program in place.</p> <p>We started this program and it has evolved over time to where we are today. We are well known in the State of Minnesota and nationally for addressing the needs of our community as it relates to mental health and this program has been the starting point of similar programs across the country.</p> <p>Dakota County Social Services has obtained temporary funding to keep this program in place and move it forward by providing additional staff to expand the program across Dakota County. Previously, the Cities of South St. Paul and West St. Paul has shared a social worker for this program but now we will have our own dedicated FTE (full time equivalent) social worker to work with our community members.</p> <p>The JPA before you tonight is very similar to the JPA's previously approved except that this is now moved from a pilot program to a more seasoned program with additional dedicated resources. Previous JPA's were year to year and this one goes through 2024.</p>	

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The City Attorney has reviewed the JPA and has no issues with it. Staff is asking for approval to allow the City Manager and the Mayor to enter into the JPA.

Attachments

JPA

Previous Relevant Actions

The pilot program JPA's have been approved in 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Alternatives

Do not enter into the JPA and cease the Embedded Social Worker Program.

Financial

Budgeted: Yes

No Financial Impact

Fund: 101

Department: 42100

Account: 40101

Amount: 1 FTE