



Chase Burnham
County Administrator

COUNTY OF CHISAGO

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chisago County Government Center
313 North Main Street, Room 172
Center City, MN 55012-9663

Commissioners:
District 1
Jim Swenson
District 2
Rick Greene
District 3
Marlys Dunne
District 4
Ben Montzka
District 5
Dan Dahlberg

REGULAR MEETING – Wednesday, May 1, 2024 County Board Room, Room 172 *****AMENDED*****

6:30 p.m. Convene; Pledge of Allegiance; Approve Agenda

Business of the County Board

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1.) Chisago County Brand Identity | TAB 1 |
| 2.) 2023 Annual Midwest Medical Examiner's Office Report | TAB 2 |

Health and Human Services Committee of the Whole:

Discussion

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 3.) Director's Report | TAB 3 |
|-----------------------|-------|

Items for Committee Review/Recommendation: *(discussed in detail as requested)*

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 4.) Payment of County's Warrants for HHS | TAB 4 |
| 5.) Opioid Settlement Q1 Staff Expenses | TAB 5 |

Board of Commissioners' Business Meeting

Consent Agenda:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 3.) HHS Committee Recommendation – Director's Report | TAB 3 |
| 4.) HHS Committee Recommendation – *****Payment of County's Warrants for HHS***** | TAB 4 |
| 5.) HHS Committee Recommendation – Opioid Settlement Q1 Staff Expenses | TAB 5 |
| 6.) Minutes from the April 17, 2024 Meeting | TAB 6 |
| 7.) *****Payment of County's Warrants and Miscellaneous Bills***** | TAB 7 |
| 8.) Recognition of County Staff May Anniversaries | TAB 8 |

Other Business of the County Board

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 9.) Out of State Travel Request – RTA Connect Conf, Atlanta, GA – Public Works | TAB 9 |
| 10.) Board of Commissioners Meeting Reschedule – Juneteenth 2024 – June 19, 2024 | TAB 10 |
| 11.) 2024 CIP – County Administration Security Remodel – Change Order | TAB 11 |
| 12.) Spongy Moth Proposal – MN Dept. of Agriculture | TAB 12 |
| 13.) Broadband Grant Discussion – Midco – Franconia Township | TAB 13 |
| 14.) *****Application for Abatement (reduction) of Property Taxes***** | TAB 14 |
| 15.) *****Out of State Travel Request – ICAC Conference, Atlanta GA***** | TAB 15 |

Citizen's Forum

"The Citizen's Forum is provided so you may make a comment, statement, question or proposal. You will be limited to three minutes and we ask that you conduct yourself in a professional, courteous manner, and refrain from the use of profanity. Failure to abide by this policy may result in the loss of your privilege to speak that night."

Discussion Items:

- Correspondence
- Administrator Updates
- Commissioner Committee Reports

CORR.

Adjourn Meeting of the Board of Commissioners



Chisago County Board of Commissioners
May 1, 2024
Board Meeting Agenda



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Correspondence• Administrator Updates | CORR. |
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- Commissioner Committee Reports

Adjourn Meeting of the Board of Commissioners

Chisago County Request For Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: 1
Title of Item for Consideration: Adopt County Logo, Brand Guide, & Policy for New Chisago County Branding	
Action Requested by: Katie Malchow, County Outreach and Initiative Coordinator	Department: Administration
Previous Action on this Matter: The Board of Commissioners approved the Chisago County Brand Platform project on October 11th, 2023.	
Background: The Chisago County Brand Platform project has spanned 7 months and included committee members from 5 departments and 2 commissioners. The overall project included many phases and resulted in a comprehensive brand guide, a fresh logo, and a policy to help maintain the brand integrity. Attachment(s): - Chisago County Key Findings Report - Chisago County Brand Platform (available at meeting) - Chisago County Brand Guide (in process) - Chisago County Brand Policy (in process)	
Action Requested/Recommended: It is respectfully requested that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners approve the new Chisago County logo, brand guide, and policy. The suggested motion is as follows: “Move to adopt the new Chisago County logo, brand guide, and policy.”	
Implications of Action: Adoption of this motion would mean that the entirety of Chisago County moves towards implementing the new brand and logo immediately. Budget/Financial Implications: The Board of Commissioners has already agreed to the financial commitment to enlist Olive & Company to oversee the brand identity process. Once the board approves the new logo, brand guide, and policy, there will be additional financial considerations for implementing the brand throughout Chisago County. Legal/Policy Implications: The Proposed activities are in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and County policies and procedures.	
Administrator's Recommendation	
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____
Other _____	
Motion By:	Seconded by:
To:	
Action on Motion:	Aye _____ Nay _____ Abstain _____

Key Findings Report

PREPARED FOR:

Chisago County

February 8, 2024

Chisago County Board of Commissioners
May 1st, 2024

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Research Foundations

How we got here.

Objectives and Methodology

Objectives

1. Create a new, cohesive brand identity and messaging direction for Chisago County that distinguishes it from other local communities and accentuates qualities that will attract residents, visitors, and business development.
2. Create a new visual identity system that meets the needs of all entities and can be implemented throughout Chisago County to unify all governmental entities.
3. Create a set of creative assets that allow departments to apply the new brand to their specific applications.

Methodology

Comparative Review

Olive & Company drew comparisons to other Minnesota communities/areas with similar challenges and goals.

Qualitative Stakeholder Research

Olive & Company conducted one discovery meeting and 18 subsequent interviews involving interested/invested stakeholders. Each interview was approximately 60-minutes long and focused on the person's interactions with/knowledge of Chisago County business, tourism and livability.

Strategic Materials Review

Olive & Company analyzed existing marketing materials and resources to gain a robust understanding of the situation and territory.

Demographics (Interviews included 18 individuals)



Gender

60% Female
40% Male



Geography

25% North County Resident
25% Mid-County Resident
25% South County Resident
25% Undefined/Township



11% Travel to Chisago County



Age Range

33% 18-29
39% 30-49
17% 50-69
11% Undefined



16% Business Owners



50% Community Contributors

The Big Story

A history of change.

Native Heritage, Swedish History and Gortex

CHISAGO COUNTY IS A STORY IN PROGRESS.

The cultures, values, trades, and hobbies that shaped Chisago County can be found everywhere.

Tribes to settlers to farmers and more; each group has left an impression on the communities.

However, even cherished places change.

Just as the sickle and scythe gave way to the combine, or wool hunting jackets to Gortex shells, Chisago County is also a story of ongoing transition.

Tomorrow shouldn't be left to chance.

This is the moment to guide it with purpose, research, and wisdom.

"Chisago County is a blend of tradition and progress. We honor our past while embracing the future, making it a dynamic place to live."

"Chisago County has a unique charm that you won't find anywhere else. It's peaceful yet vibrant, with a rich history and a forward-looking community."

Research Findings

All Audiences

Truly Minnesotan. Proudly American.

WHERE TRADITIONAL IDEALS STILL THRIVE.

Chisago County is a version of America that is fading into the past.

Small towns, neighborhood gatherings, similar cultures, and hobbies. A place that looks, acts, and feels familiar year after year.

Chisago County offers a way of life that residents yearn to protect. They cherish the values, ideals, land, and towns.

That pride is a source of opportunity —and a potential impediment to change.

If residents cling too strongly to what Chisago County is today, it may never achieve what it can become tomorrow.

“The sense of community here is palpable, and there's a genuine effort to maintain the quality of life that makes this county so special.”

“I'm a patriot in the United States of America. I believe in what we have to offer here,”

An Intentional Place to Live

NO ONE ENDS UP IN CHISAGO COUNTY BY CHANCE.

Living in Chisago County is an intentional choice. It's often the result of family ties or a desire to live the rural life.

Residents forgo many conveniences. In fact, Chisago County can feel farther away from the Twin Cities than it appears on a map.

For some, the move to Chisago County was much harder than anticipated.

No one should pretend living here is like living in other areas near the Twin Cities. Many of the advantages come with a cost (fewer employers, less stores, less diversity, etc.)

Chisago County isn't a place that everyone wants to call home. It's for those who value open spaces, small communities, local businesses, and outdoor living.

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"Moving to Chisago County was a deliberate decision that aligned with my family's desire for a balanced lifestyle that was close to Minneapolis but with a small town feel and strong community connections."

"Things like not having a lot of restaurants, not having big box store conveniences, that's all just part of it."

"I came from [BLANK] and I lived in larger cities. I do miss the restaurants and there's just not that many choices shopping. I always have to travel it seems."

"People often think we're just too far out."

A Contrarian County in Many Ways

WHAT PEOPLE WANT DOESN'T ALIGN WITH REALTIES.

As a whole, interviewees shared similar visions for Chisago County.

But few were willing to pay the price to achieve those visions.

There is a sentiment that improvements can be realized without significant changes (housing, development, non-traditional demographics, government investment, new infrastructure, etc.).

In short, many to want growth without the things that come with it.

“People say they want change, but then they fight changes.”

“We want our tax burden to go down. But we don't want big box stores. We want our schools to be strong but we don't want to pay for them.”

“We couldn't sustain a grocery store and all these things that people say they want here, but they know that's not realistic.”

“Chisago County wants its cake and to eat it too.”

Loved Without Comparison

BY STEPPING AWAY, PEOPLE SEE WHAT THEY HAVE MISSED OUT ON.

For many residents, Chisago County is the only place they've called home. Therefore, it's all they know.

It's easy to love a place when it's been your whole world. However, as younger people go away to college, they are experiencing things that Chisago County does not offer.

For some, that's okay. But increasingly, the shortcomings may become deal breakers.

Young adults cited lifestyle acceptance, political/ideological alignment, access to communities/hobbies, or finding someone to share their life with as concerns.

"I thought we had it all, until I went to college and saw what other people had growing up."

"Looking back, we didn't have the clubs, sports, or places to go that other kids had. But we did have lots of field parties."

"I fell in love with trains, busses, and mass transportation."

Pennywise People with Big Hearts

RESIDENTS ARE HAPPY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT, AS LONG AS IT'S NOT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

There could be a perception that residents of Chisago County are cheap. School levies fail and taxes are talked about with disgust. Almost any mention of a government backed program is met with resistance.

But the people are not cheap. They give willingly and generously to causes near to their hearts. Any frugality comes from a mistrust of the government.

Residents want to choose how their money is spent, and who to trust with it.

The one area of government that doesn't seem to suffer is law enforcement. The community rallies around them.

Interestingly, not a single interviewee could point to an example of government waste in Chisago County.

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"We are economically frugal people who want smaller taxes. I've talked to people who said they'd rather have potholes than higher taxes."

"Residents prefer to give money directly rather than through a government agency or program. They don't like to have things mandated. They want to choose."

"They found that there were kids in the school district that didn't have beds to sleep in. The county came out in support by buying mattresses. People are willing to do that if they feel like it's a true need."

Our Work is Raising Frugal Eyebrows

THIS PROJECT IS ON THE RADAR FOR GOVERNMENT SPENDING.

The need to do this research and branding was questioned by a few interviewees. It was also welcomed by others.

We mention this to underscore a two ideas.

First, the mistrust of government efforts. Even those who admitted they would benefit greatly from this project had concerns.

Second, people that questioned this work, are also advocates for growing business, tourism and population. It's a great example of wanting change but not wanting to pay the price for it.

“Is this necessary right now when everything is so expensive? And then you're gonna get a marketing plan and we're gonna have to implement it and build a new website and do all that. That is not inexpensive. And that is concerning.”

“I know the county is having a hard time right now and there's so many different things that need to have money spent on.”

The Greatest Opportunity is Land

EVERYONE LOVES THE LAKES, BUT LAND IS THE KEY.

Without available land, money, support and strategies won't matter.

Chisago County has an abundance of land. But we caution leaders to be intentional with how it's used.

A great deal of farmland is and will continue to be converted or re-zoned. For example, much debate has formed around solar fields.

How, when, why, and where land is allocated is an open question. Golf courses, industrial parks, resorts/waterparks, hunting preserves, wildlife habitat, cooperative farms, lots of ideas were discussed.

People are receptive to new uses, but there needs to be a vision while the county's options remain wide open.

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"There's still land to be developed on Chisago Lake and South Lindstrom Lake. If you're a Radisson Resort you could buy 50-acres."

"I'd like woodland. Planting trees and designing a habitat is gonna take 20-years for animals to even start kind of identifying with it."

"We have the largest solar garden in the state. Now there's one looking at going in just south of Rush City, and there's a big group against it. I agree if you have really good farmland maybe you shouldn't put a solar field in there."

"I don't want it to become Wisconsin Dells."

As Big as Lindstrom!

COUNTY AND CITY GROWTH IS SUBJECTIVE.

No one thought Chisago County should resist growth.

What growth looks like, and more importantly, the scale of growth was harder to pinpoint.

One person said they'd love to see their community grow as big as Lindstrom, which most people would consider a very small town.

What's the takeaway? People want growth, but small growth. Or perhaps, spread out growth. More Lindstrom sized towns, but not another North Branch.

It was acknowledged that some areas, over decades, could become the size of Stillwater, but it wasn't a goal for anyone.

"I'd be okay if we grew to the size of Lindstrom."

"I don't know that we want suburban sprawl. That would be a negative. But I think having more restaurants and businesses in the area is a good thing overall."

"I think there's a point where you want to have smart development."

Most Are Welcome, But ...

WHO FITS IN IS MORE ABOUT POLITICS THAN ANYTHING ELSE.

Chisago County is predominantly white and Christian. But, new residents don't need to share those attributes (although a few interviewees wouldn't mind if that demographic continued).

It was said that different races, gender preferences, and faiths would be welcomed — even by those who identified as very conservative.

What would not be tolerated well are people who don't love America, support law enforcement, or believe in protecting the second amendment. Those three points were litmus tests.

We do have concerns that people may be welcomed in Chisago County, but not accepted.

"I actually think they would welcome all. I look at the church I go to and everyone's welcome."

"Everybody liked them and accepted them. That's who they were. I never felt like they weren't welcome."

"I think that we try to have really an open mindset."

"It's a challenge to change perceptions, even though these developments are crucial for our community's growth and diversity."

"If I was non-binary, I wouldn't go to Chisago County."

Making Friends Instead of Enemies

AGREEING TO DISAGREE IS AN ARTFORM.

While heavily skewed to one-side, the residents of Chisago County do not share a single viewpoint on issues.

Differences are usually set aside among friends/neighbors. That is not to be confused with respected.

When people have opposing viewpoints, they focus on commonalities. While that sounds polite, it's similar to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy for homosexual members of the military.

Just as that policy came up short of the aspirations, so might avoiding ideological topics among neighbors. Many talked how avoiding hard topics would be hard during an election year.

Learning how to discuss hard topics respectfully would be a benefit to everyone.

"They won't say something to you, but they will discuss it behind your back."

"We seek common ground and avoid disagreements."

"When I don't agree with a friend, we just find other topics to share or connect about."

"Most people seem to avoid politics, but that's probably going to be much harder this year."

Make It Grow, but Make It Pretty

A FACADE IS WORTH A THOUSAND OPINIONS.

How change looks across Chisago County is every bit as important as the change itself.

There is a deep appreciation for the natural beauty of the area and how the cities look.

There is a strong desire to prioritize the appearance of any new developments/businesses and infrastructure changes.

The consensus is that Chisago County should maintain its small town appearance..

Some cited Mahtomedi, MN and Osceola, WI as examples to follow. It's said they have clear guidelines or at least a strong vision for the how those communities should look.

"We need a comprehensive plan that has what we're gonna allow and let's make sure that it's the feel of a place where'd you want to go."

"I want to maintain the quaint sweet downtown main street communities. I want to maintain the rural feel of Chisago County.

"There are places that have that growth but they don't allow tall signs or the lighted signs."

[Battling ever-larger houses, Excelsior seeks stricter zoning rules to keep quaint](#)

Not Enough Vision, Education, or Selling

POSITIVE CHANGE HAPPENS WHEN CONSENSUS IS BUILT.

It may be advisable to assume new ideas will be met with resistance.

No group or committee should try to backchannel projects. Instead, broadcast them. Create opportunities for engagement and consensus building. Project leaders need to sell the big idea, not just functional details. Show how a particular puzzle piece fits into a larger picture that people would support.

Example: An apartment project can be rejected for a million reasons. But an affordable housing strategy that attracts workers making entry level wages, and in turn, entices new businesses to the county is a very different pitch.

No project lives in a vacuum. Show the full context, reason and how it moves Chisago County forward.

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“I think that we struggle from a lack of vision. I very much think that we are going to get what we've always gotten because it's all we ever have known.”

Close to the Cities, but Not Each Other?

CHISAGO COUNTY IS A SMALLER WORLD THAN RESIDENTS THINK.

Twenty four minutes. That's how long it takes mid-day to drive from Rush City, MN to Wyoming, MN. If you want to get crazy, it's 38 minutes from Rush City, MN to Shafer, MN.

In the Twin Cities, that type of commute is commonplace. But in Chisago County, it seems less normal. A friend who lives 15 minutes away is someone you see on weekends, not weeknights. A resident's world seems limited to the city boundary (excluding work commutes).

Why? No one could say, But the idea highlights how geographically divided people see Chisago County.

Residents refer to it in three regions — south, middle, and north. Like a large nation, each region of Chisago County sees itself as a bit different than the others. The farther north, the more traditional and conservative. South is

progressive and liberal (relatively).

"I think it's a great place to live. I tell people that I think it's close enough to Minneapolis where you can still have everything that you want."

"Being rural and far away makes it hard for kids to see friends, and the parents don't always want to drive."

Preserving the Farm Culture

HOLDING TO IDEALS AND A LEGACY.

Farmers and non-farmers referenced how that lifestyle was foundational to the identity of Chisago County. Perhaps more so than the Swedish or Native American heritage.

Farmers are a hard working, honest, and rugged people. They love the outdoors, create generational legacies, and provide an essential need for all.

Interviewees don't want to lose those attributes. But many are hard pressed to see how it can be maintained. Selling farms to investment groups destroys the local angle. Hobby farms are a possibility but few people want to take on that lifestyle.

Among the many challenges for Chisago County will be maintaining the attributes of a farmer as farmland and the ag industry plays a smaller role.

“The community's roots in old Chisago County where farming and family ties were significant.”

“I'd like family farms to remain successful and avoid becoming part of big agricultural monopolies.”

“There's a conflict between welcoming new businesses to reduce the tax burden and maintaining agricultural land,”

“Farming here has changed. No more dairy farms. No full-time farms. Solar is taking up farmland. I understand the choices to sell or lease farmland. The money can be life changing.”

The Fall of North Branch

A BOOMTOWN THAT LOST ITS CHANCE.

In the mid- to late-nineties, it was said North Branch was the second fastest growing city in the United States — just behind Las Vegas.

But the boom turned into a bust. Residents and developers question if the city will thrive that way again.

Business-wise, North Branch is a less favorable location than Forest Lake. Living wise, it's the most developed city in the county, but lacks the conveniences of an urban area (big box retailers, food chains, etc). It's neither city or rural.

North Branch is a nice town, but seen as a missed opportunity. How come? Interviewees blamed greedy landowners. Instead of cutting fair deals with Target and Best Buy, they priced them away to Cambridge.

Are the stories true? No one is 100% positive. They almost feel like legends. But the perception of lost opportunity is

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"I don't know who messed up years ago in North Branch but, Walmart and Target and all of them were looking here and the owners of the property jacked the prices up way too high and they ended up going to Cambridge."

Forward Worthington

A NOTE THAT YOU'RE NOT ALONE.

The team driving the Chisago County branding effort is doing a lot of things right. We admire its vision.

But be aware — you're not alone. You already know of efforts for Otter Tail County. But other outstate regions/cities are also working aggressively to attract businesses, residents, and tourism.

For example, Worthington, MN is running radio commercials in the Twin Cities. They are promoting Worthington as a great place to live, raise a family, get a job, or start a business.

The commercial was strategically placed on conservative talk radio. They are speaking to like-minded people who would fit seamlessly into the area.

Chisago County should use competitors as fuel to think bigger and act faster. The race is on.

[Forwardworthington.com](https://forwardworthington.com)

[Minnesota makes 'historic investment' with \\$25M to market state to tourists, new residents](#)

Research Findings

Attracting Tourism

Minnesota's Close (and Secret) Playground

THE DISTINCTION IS THE LOCATION.

There are no shortages of great places in Minnesota to hike, camp, ride, paddle, ski, boat, climb, hunt, fish, and play in the outdoors.

Therefore it's not the popular outdoor activities that make Chisago County unique. It's being an hour away from the Twin Cities.

Brainerd, Duluth, Winona, Grand Marais. and other destinations are much farther drives.

Fast and easy accessibility to fun could be the competitive difference for tourists. Think "less driving means more hiking."

Chisago County has an opportunity to position itself as having the things Minnesotans love to do, and being easier to get to. Plus, it's an area many have yet to explore and enjoy.

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"A world away is only an hour away"

"Maybe we could be the Steamboat of Minnesota. But a lot closer."

You Can't Avoid Lakes In Minnesota

CHICAGO COUNTY ISN'T IN THE TOP TEN FOR LAKES IN MINNESOTA

The lakes are a source of great civic pride. But it's time for a reality check.

Chisago County doesn't crack the top ten counties in Minnesota for most lakes — percentage of area covered by lakes — or most popular lakes.

What's more, accessibility and on-lake attractions lags behind more popular tourist areas.

We don't mean to sink your boat but honest perspectives are vital.

What Chisago County does have is a water trail. That's unique. That's destination worthy.

There is a bigger opportunity in promoting a water trail and all the activities connected to it rather than typical lake life.

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This assessment is to provide an outside perspective. Interviewees praised the lakes as something truly wonderful and unique about Chisago County.

See Every Campsite as a Hotel Room

ACCOMMODATIONS THAT MATCH THE ATTRACTIONS.

A common lament is that Chisago County doesn't have many hotels. That perception misses a key reality.

The area is promoted as a place where tourists can enjoy the great outdoors. That audience doesn't always need (or want) to stay in hotels. Most are happy to camp.

Chisago County has a number of state, county and private campgrounds that accommodate adventure seekers.

Yes, stylish hotels or bed-and-breakfasts would be a boon to weddings, family reunions and other weekend trips. Just don't underestimate how the existing overnight accommodations serve the top attractions.

"We don't have the infrastructure for a weekender. Yeah because we don't have many hotels."

It's Only a Day Trip if You're Dull

WAY MORE THAN 24 HOURS OF FUN.

Chisago County is considered a fun day trip at best. Others see it as an afternoon.

We disagree.

While any single activity may only be a day or half day adventure, there are many enticing things to do.

Shops, trails, lakes, skiing, river, historic sites, parks, festivals, etc. — all of those are attractions.

Tourists could easily fill a weekend, or, take several day trips to the area throughout a year.

The local perception doesn't match all of the places tourists could explore.

"Looking at the county, it's a great place for a day trip."

Let's Go Girls

SPAS, RETREATS, AND BOUTIQUES.

Among the most common ideas for new tourism opportunities was creating a chic hotel to attract “girls’ weekends.”

Ideally it would be a place offering spa services, yoga, meditation, and those types of pampering/self-care experiences. It would also serve as starting point for exploring the cute shops and places around the county.

While not something the government would launch, it is an idea that various groups could look to attract or, create development grants to support.

This type of destination may also open the door to greater wedding interest.

"I'd love to see a boutique hotel or two. I think that would be huge."

I think there's a real energy around some sort of a really bougie spa like women's weekend getaway place. Go for a hike, go for a sauna, have your facial massage."

"There's still land to be developed on Chisago Lake and South Lindstrom Lake that you could, if you're a Radisson Resort or whatever, you could buy 50 acres and put a hotel on it".

Breweries, wineries and biking.

CREATING A DAY TOUR.

There's something about alcohol and pedaling that goes together. That pairing creates an opportunity for Chisago County tourism.

There's a potential to link up the Winehaven Winery, Uncommon Loon Brewery, and Tap Rock Brewing just across the border in St. Croix, WI.

While we haven't driven the roads, looking at Google maps and streetview, it seems a safe, bikeable journey of about 34 miles round trip.

That type of concept could also expose people to other biking and trails across the county, spurring future trips to Chisago County.

"I mean these Economic Development directories says have you ever heard the three bees? It's what attracts, people — broadband, breweries and bike trails."

Paddle the Day Away

THE GREAT CHISAGO LAKES WATER TRAIL.

The water trail is an amazing asset, but interviewees felt it could be even better.

Suggestions included better marketing, better signage at access points, and better signage for navigation along the way. Possibly even downloadable GPS way points or adding the water trail to existing apps like All Trails.

Also, provide tips on how or where people could rent gear to bring to the water trail (REI for example or other outfitters).

There could also be an opportunity to create links to on-shore activities, shops or places to have lunch/snacks. Maybe even a scavenger hunt game of places to find or try.

The water trail is not overlooked, but it maybe underserved.

“I wish I had a ton of information about water trails.”

“Water trail signs are kind of small. You kind of have to know where they're in all and there's some improvement I think to that the water trail system.”

[Chisago Lakes Water Trail](#)

A Steady Path of Improvement

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO HIKE, PLAY, OR BIKE IN CHISAGO COUNTY

Since 2020, Chisago County parks and trails usage has boomed.

The increase coincided with an increased investment in these assets. Numerous improvements were made to update facilities and add new trails.

In fact a new mountain bike trail is in development.

These assets are great for residents. They can also attract tourists — but only if they are promoted.

Interacting with hobbyist groups, getting listed in directories, and posting on forums may be an effective low/no cost way to spread the word.

“A lot of projects are fully complete. It's like okay now we have to think about new opportunities and new ways to improve. What's our direction for the future?”

“We're creating a new mountain bike trail. It's gonna be about a four mile single track. We got the funding through American Rescue plan ARPA money.”

Uniting Public and Private Attractions

THERE'S MORE FUN IN GROUPS.

Except for attractions that share a common owner — all marketing is planned and deployed independently.

It's understandable, especially for those functioning as a business versus a publicly funded places.

But here's the thing — tourists don't see the distinction between a river cruise and a state park. They only see things to do.

If public and private attractions can be promoted as one offering, it strengthens the total tourism pitch.

That said, the invested parties we're not opposed to this concept, but also not eager to participate.

Many details about how this collaboration would work, be guided, and funded need to be sorted out beforehand.

“Large-scale advertising might be beneficial at a later stage, but currently, social media and local advertising are effective.”

“I'm interested, but also reluctant to pay for advertising unless necessary, preferring to rely on more organic growth and opportunities that don't require significant investment in advertising.”

“Working together? Maybe, but I'd need to see the details.”

Research Findings

Attracting Business

A Gold Mine of a Corridor

REZONING PORTIONS OF I-35 MAY CREATE A SURGE OF COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

Commercial developers are a key player for business expansion in Chisago County.

They have an idea that would be profitable for them, and successful for the the tax base. It also seems plausible to interviewees.

There was favorable feelings for zoning areas along I-35 for commercial development. Especially the stretch south of Stacy, through Wyoming and into Forest Lake.

It was seen as an ideal location that provides convenient access to labor markets, transport and the Twin Cities.

“If I was King, I could change zoning in the county. I would make everything around Wyoming down to Forest Lake along the freeway Industrial. You would be able to sell and develop that land immediately.”

A Place to Launch Rather than Move Into

IT MAY BE HARD GETTING COMPANIES TO MOVE HERE.

Chisago County has what new manufacturing companies seek — plenty of land, a skilled workforce, access to transportation, and proximity to a major metropolitan market.

It's a less compelling place for relocation. A lack of affordable housing, large real chains, hotels, and other factors make it less attractive compared to a location like Anoka county.

The take away was compelling. More success would be found supporting new companies, then swaying established companies to expand into Chisago County.

“If they're in manufacturing, getting good employees and retaining employees is the number one problem. So companies do not want to move more than five to ten miles.”

“Focus on doing everything you can to retain the companies that are here. Give them incentives to grow the companies. in the county and in the industrial parks.”

Manufacturing is a Yes, Others, a Maybe

SOME INDUSTRIES MIGHT NOT MAKE SENSE.

When it comes to attracting businesses, manufacturing is an easy win. The same is true for healthcare. There's a large opportunity to increase the availability/access to clinics, hospitals, and various forms of specialized care.

There's also opportunity for tourism. Hotels, golf courses, hunting clubs, water parks, batting cages/sports training complexes, and other attractions.

Where business expansion might not make sense is professional services like law firms or accounting.

Traditional office-based professions may find a shortage of clients and talent in the area. They could also face issues with connectivity/broadband.

"Manufacturing is important for providing a strong tax base and good-paying jobs."

"The county has a solid foundation in manufacturing, supported by industrial parks."

"The folks that are commuting out are more of your finance jobs. We don't have those types of businesses here except for the banks maybe a few accounts that kind of thing, but you're larger insurance companies, we don't have that here and we're not going to see that anytime soon."

Which Comes First, Jobs or Workers?

JOBS CREATE THE DEMAND FOR HOUSING AND NEW RESIDENTS.

The debate of jobs or workforce is the classic chicken or egg question. Ultimately, Chisago County needs to attract both.

Jobs are seen as the preferred near-term strategy.

Jobs mean an expanded business base — which in turn generates more tax dollars (reducing resident tax burden).

Increasing the workforce (more residents) is nice, but it creates more traffic, higher housing costs, and accelerates the loss of open space to housing developments.

“Yes, we want good paying jobs.”

“We are planning expand staffing by 50-75% over the next two years, but a lack of workforce might be an issue.”

Sharing Best Practices for Better Companies

THE BEST ARE WILLING TO HELP THE REST.

As the population grows, and business expands, non-traditional workers will become more prevalent in Chisago County.

Issues rooted in religious and cultural needs can be big issues for employers who aren't prepared.

Luckily, there's a company within Chisago County that is setting a gold standard for workplace equity. What's more, they are open to sharing some best practices with other companies.

Educating employers, existing employees, and the community about cultural differences is essential to fostering successful change.

"We'd be open to some level of practice sharing with other employers."

"We have an inclusive environment for non-traditional employees, such as those from Hispanic families or trans individuals."

"The biggest issues arise when there is a lack of communication about things like religious accommodations."

"Our trans employees might not be openly visible as such, likely to maintain a low profile in a conservative area."

Attracting Big Boxes is a Big No-No

DON'T GO LOOKING FOR BIG RETAILERS.

No one wants to see big box stores move into Chisago County.

The reasons were torn between we don't need them and we'd never get them.

It's admitted that a lack of big box retailers creates inconveniences. However, residents seem happy to deal with the lack of fast accessibility. Even those who had moved into the county happily adapted (for the most part).

That said, a lack of national retailers could present an obstacle for attracting new residents. They may prefer Cambridge, Forest Lake or other locations that offer convenience.

"They can't come here. They have non-compete, so we don't have any big box here. The one we had was Shopko and that's gone. Nobody wanted them."

Locals Only

Small towns with small stores.

Interviewees want retail business growth. More shops, restaurants, and grocery stores were all mentioned.

Ideally, the retailers should be locally owned and largely locally supported. There isn't interest in national chains moving into most areas.

Small Twin Cities chain stores, like [Patina](#), may be acceptable.

The one noted exception to national chains was the popularity of the new Chipotle in North Branch.

We feel North Branch may be immune to this “locals only” retail vision as it is already the most developed city in the county.

“We would like to keep it more small local kind of business place. Keep the big box stores in North Branch.”

Small Businesses Need a Pre-Launch Strategy

START SMALL AND BUILD CAREFULLY.

There is a rich opportunity for small retailers to open in the small towns of Chisago County — with a caveat.

These towns are not shopping destinations with lots of foot traffic. Aspiring retailers are advised to start at home and online. They should build up a following and fanbase.

Opening a physical location will be the culmination of a successful online business with successful pop up events.

“I would say do it if you have a platform already started. I think that’s important. I fear that if someone just came in with nothing, no following or a platform or supporters it wouldn’t work.”

Let's Be In It Together

WHEN CHALLENGES ARISE, AN AGGRESSIVE PARTNER IS WANTED.

Businesses feel the cities in Chisago County are good partners in most endeavors.

However, challenges can arise with permits and state regulations. Everyone understand those processes can be complex. When hard issues come up, the business community would like greater support and transparency from the city.

In one case, there was a feeling the city hoped a state board take the lead. But the state board turned it back to the city. Accurate information and a path forward was hard to find.

Business owners would like the cities to be as eager for them to grow/expand/succeed as they are.

"We ran into some roadblocks when we were going to break ground. We weren't able to because we don't have an [BLANK] permit.

"The county is getting the state involved which is fine. I guess it's all welcome but getting clear answers has been hard."

Sometimes Growth is Limited by Resources

THERE'S NEED FOR MORE TALENT, BUT NO CAPACITY TO TRAIN OR ATTRACT.

There was good news on the hiring front. Many of the employers said their hiring challenge was a limitation on internal resources rather than not needing additional staffing.

What's more, the need for staffing isn't a result of high turnover. It's supporting successful growth.

However, training takes time and people power. Something most companies don't have in abundance. So while they may need 100 people, they can only onboard in groups of 10-15. What's more, the onboarding process can take months.

Additionally, some companies don't have the resources or experience to market aggressively for job openings.

"I'd hire more people on a faster timetable if I could get them trained."

An Incentive That May Not Be Enticing

\$100K MAY NOT BE ENOUGH.

The Chisago County HRA-EDA is doing all they can. We're not here to suggest otherwise. But we are going to say what was learned.

They currently offer a \$100,000 forgivable loan as an investment incentive to attract businesses.

The loan is forgiven if parameters are met including investment size, number of jobs created, and hourly wages.

While something is better than nothing, the program was considered too small of an incentive.

If they want to attract site locators, the HRA-EDA needs put better terms on the table.

"I think it was Pawlenty who gave a big incentive to Polaris to do their research and development facility."

GREATER MSP, the region's economic development partnership, coordinated the involvement of Polaris, Chisago County, the City of Wyoming, and DEED, to compile a package of financial incentives to help Polaris expand. A combination of job training support, infrastructure improvements, R & D credits, JOBZ financing and other incentives provided a unique opportunity for Polaris' project."

Research Findings

Attracting Residents

Small Towns, Wide Open Spaces, and Great Living

WHAT URBAN NEIGHBORS COVET.

People living in Chisago County love its small communities, local businesses, large open spaces, close neighbors, deep family roots, strong faith-based values, and patriotic spirit.

Add in the lakes, hunting, and fishing and you have generations of families that have never left.

Those same characteristics are attracting out of towners too. Somewhat like Jackson, WY, Chisago County is becoming a popular area to live — especially with adoption of work-from-anywhere policies.

As demand grows, property values rise. There's a thought among some that people should buy in now, before the demand skyrockets. Property here is seen as a great investment.

“I appreciate the small town values, and the people. It's just a great place to live with all the lakes and trails. It's beautiful here.”

“Local shops, good people, lots of land.”

“My husband is a hunter. I don't think he'd ever leave..”

“The property is more affordable than the metro.”

“We came here because we could afford more home.”

Home to “Minnesota Nice”

GREAT TO MEET YOU. OKAY, GOTTA RUN NOW.

You'll find friendly people across Chisago County. Notice we write friendly, not friends.

Many of the residents are born and raised there. That makes it hard for newcomers to find their social group.

On the surface people are welcoming, but maybe not inviting. What's more, if they have something to say about you, they'll say it behind your back.

It's all in the name of acting kindly to each other.

Real friends and community can be found, but it takes effort, and perhaps, a highly extroverted personality.

“People care for each other and it's the whole Minnesota Nice thing.”

“People were warm and receptive, but it might take some time to form tighter bonds.”

“If you haven't grown up in the area, it might not be as easy to form close connections.”

A Healthy Community for All

GREAT CARE IS EASY TO FIND.

While clinics and hospitals may not seem plentiful, no one felt there was a shortage of healthcare.

Nor did anyone think facilities were too far away.

Be it emergency/urgency, pediatric, or general family care, the Interviewees were satisfied. Even better, Lakes Hospital has plans to expand significantly. They see the population growth and intend to scale up to meet the need.

There were split opinions on mental health or neurodiverse support. While more would be appreciated, the feeling was access for those is tough to find anywhere. Chisago County may not be worse than metro areas.

“Healthcare availability is very good. But accessibility to care can always be better.”

“I feel there is very good health care in the area.”

“Assisted living and care for the elderly may be a challenge.”

Schools Get Mostly High Grades

THERE'S A DESIRE TO KEEP THE SCHOOLS LIKE THE COMMUNITIES – TRADITIONAL.

When public schools were discussed, the response was favorable.

Interviewees were very pleased with the offerings from their respective district.

There is a deepening concern with diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI) and critical race theory (CRT).

Those are seen as part of a radical liberal agenda and have no place alongside reading, writing and arithmetic. Some interviewees are having conversions about how much more they would accept before placing kids in private or homeschool settings.

While not the full, or maybe biggest reason, satisfaction with the schools might play a role in why referendums fail.

Chicago County Board of Commissioners
May 1st, 2024
What's considered working may not need more money.

“I love our schools, my kids have a great experience there.”

“I think that our schools are on the lower end of progressive or modern but yet I think there is also the view of wanting to protect what we have. And we don't want to become San Francisco.”

“Critical race theory is a deal breaker for me. and some of the gender issues would also be a deal breaker for me.”

Faith on Just About Every Block

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS STRONG.

Faith is prevalent across Chisago County. We won't say its Minnesota's bible belt, but the role it plays is pronounced.

Faith, more accurately, Christian faith, shapes the values in this area. It's built loving communities and bonded families.

It's also creating divisions.

Some residents are known to have hidden their sexual preference or gender identity from extended family. They fear judgement, bullying, or other cruelties.

This isn't just a Chisago County issue, but it may be more pronounced than some communities.

Those who are non-traditional in some way will be accepted, but their differences will rarely be supported openly.

It's also hard to predict how non-Christian places of worship would be viewed.

Chisago County Board of Commissioners
May 1st, 2024

While rarely discussed in depth, the importance of faith and church communities were commonly referenced. It was agreed that the Christian faith is a significant part of the Chisago County culture.

Changing Communities Need Preparation

SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS REQUIRE UNDERSTANDING AND EDUCATION.

Chisago County is changing and will keep changing. Demographics, faiths, customs, events, all of these areas and others will be impacted.

Be warned, people resist change. Sometimes they fight it at every turn.

The best solution to resistance is proactive listening and education. Just like employers, Chisago County should consider a resident equity strategy.

It would educate people about what's happening, who is moving in, how things may change and why it's not an insult or attack to the ways things have been. It would also educate incoming residents on the values, traditions and mindset of the community they are entering.

It's important both groups move toward each other.

Chisago County Board of Commissioners
May 1st, 2024

This observation is based on work with other communities, news articles and interviewee perceptions about what is needed to make changing demographics in the communities succeed.

Will Young Adults Move Back Home?

SOME WANT TO LIVE IN CHISAGO COUNTY, OTHERS DO NOT.

Even those young adults who loved Chisago County growing up are happy to move on. Much of that desire related to lifestyle acceptance. But other aspects came into play.

One factor is a having college degree. College graduates seem more interested in leaving. Not always due to a lack of jobs, just wider opportunities.

A second reason was seeking walkable/livable communities. Many college graduates want a community that feel like a campus (sidewalks, buses, trains, and bike paths). Some conservatives call these “15 minute cities” and tie it to a New World Order agenda.

The campus model could become a vision for Chisago County cities. They can provide housing, stores, and services in an small footprint. Plus, easy access via transit to other areas of the county for jobs and activities. It's a big dream, but a nice one.

“There are a lot of things to love. But also, a lot of things not to love.”

What will keep me away Political leanings, it's an isolating place, I don't think I'd find my community of people, and I'm not a church person.”

Food for Debate

RESTAURANTS ARE A SOURCE OF DISAGREEMENT

Some interviewees believed Chisago County had a number of great places to eat and didn't need to add any more.

Other said the restaurant situation was dire.

Maybe it's subjective. Maybe it's tied to drive time. Maybe one place is enough if the food is really good.

We don't think anyone would be against more restaurants, but the inconsistency was notable.

It may also underline a different ideal.

Perhaps people feel more restaurants means adding national chains which lead to gentrification.

"I mean heck we just got a Chipotle and stuff like that but for the most part we don't have Buffalo Wild Wings and different things like that".

"I love the restaurants here. We have all we need."

Work from Chisago County/Home

HOW THE PANDEMIC IS SHAPING A RESIDENTIAL SHIFT.

The ability to work from home has already caused an influx on interest in Chisago County. It's proximity to the Twin Cities makes it easy enough to pop down for meetings.

Meanwhile the rural life, wide open spaces, and natural beauty are a welcomed change for people living in a densely packed suburb.

The secret of Chisago County is getting out. To further capitalize on the WFH movement, issues with broadband must be addressed. As do traffic and other infrastructure needs.

"Covid accelerated the trend of people moving out of cities. Remote work became feasible, allowing people to live here and maintain their job."

"Since Covid, there has been a significant increase in demand. That turned the market into a seller's market, where homeowners don't need to make improvements to sell their properties."

Affordable Housing Strikes a Nerve

DOES AFFORDABLE MEAN PROBLEMATIC?

Chisago County residents traditionally live in houses. But lack of available homes for sale, coupled with increasing prices, make ownership extremely challenging.

What about renting? Here again, there not enough available units and the leases are expensive.

Chisago County needs more multi unit housing. Specifically, affordable (entry level) apartments.

The word “affordable” is a trigger. People fear increasing the “economic diversity.” The implied meaning is poor people who commit crimes or bring in unwanted elements/values.

Some welcome, want and actively work toward affordable housing. Some do it so their children have an opportunity to live in Chisago County.

“Upscale apartments won't solve housing issues and there's an economic disparity that discourages low-income renters from coming into our community.”

"I think there's a stigma around low-income or affordable housing that's really unfortunate. People get this idea that it's going to bring in a certain type of person, maybe those that are economically disadvantaged, and there's this misconception that with that comes crime and other issues that they don't want in their backyard. “

[New St. Cloud housing promises to be right size for immigrant families](#)

[Race, rural economy and a housing shortage collide in Long Prairie apartment fight](#)

Fixed Income Homes are Feeling Pressured

SENIORS MAY BE PRICED OUT OF TOWN.

The family lineages in Chisago County run deep. Sadly, some of those roots could be withering.

As property values increase, so do taxes. As community improvements are made, taxes take another hike. As inflation rises, people on fixed income can afford less.

The endgame isn't kind.

Seniors can no longer afford their homes. Their kids can't afford to move in. The worst part, the seniors have no affordable housing options in the county. So they look elsewhere, often closer to the cities.

Affordable housing isn't only needed for the young. It's for the elderly too.

This assessment is based on a combination of facts and general feelings regarding the cost of living in Chisago County.

Safe Hometowns Despite Growing Concerns

TROUBLE ONLY FINDS THOSE WHO SEEK IT.

Much was made of the dangers and crime risks in Chisago County. Are the concerns valid? Yes, even law enforcement agrees questions should be asked.

Is Chisago County safe? Yes. Is an emerging area of concern, such as Taylor's Falls safe? Yes. How about traditional areas with meth labs and drug activity? Yes, Northern Chisago County is safe too.

Crime happens, but not to innocent people (thus far). Residents are not being attacked, mugged or assaulted. Homes are not robbed. Catalytic converters are not being stolen in mass quantities.

Neither police, business owners, or, residents could point to cases of innocent people being victimized.

"We are still safe. Do we have issues here? Yes. Do we have homicides? Yes, but it's a domestic or it's a family issue. It's not random."

"I run through the residential areas at night. I can not believe the amount of property left in driveways and front yards. I'm thinking my God, I can't believe that we're not dealing with more thefts in these communities."

The Big Takeaways

Chisago County in 30 seconds.

In a Nutshell

- Better than Advertised
- Close to the metro but far from the suburbs
- Small and proud to stay that way
- Rich history (Native, Swedish, Agriculture)
- Traditional American viewpoints
- Intentional living — a pure experience
- Resistant to change — but not content
- Neighborly — but not always friendly
- Opportunity rich (business, tourism and residents)
- On the Cusp

Bonus Opportunities

Concrete ideas for consideration

Big Thinking for Growth

1) Small Business Workshops

Hold lunch and learns featuring marketing, accounting, and legal experts providing tips and best practice for running a successful small company.

2) Living in Chisago County

Document what life is like for residents. Celebrate the idea of being an intentional place and eschewing the need for gentrification or other conveniences.

3) Imagine the Land Summits

Create community forums about how land should be repurposed or protected. Get ahead of the detractors and invite people to have their before plans are made.

4) Understanding New Neighbors

Develop strategies and resources that prepare current residents for the introduction of new demographics in cities and the workplaces. Do the same for new residents entering Chisago County.

5) Farming for the Future

Facilitate conversations among current farmers about what the future should look like across Chisago County. See what supports the industry may want and how that culture can be preserved.

6) Brand the Area for Tourism

Consider the observations presented here and carve out a new position for Chisago County that leans into the aspects that make it a unique destination in Minnesota.

Big Thinking for Growth

7) 30 Great Days in Chisago County

Create as many day-trip itineraries as possible highlighting all the things there are to do in Chisago County. That will help internal stakeholders and tourists see there are many ways and days that Chisago County can be enjoyed.

8) Tourism Collaboration

Consider a tourism summit with owners of attractions, events and public entities. Seek ways to support each other and promote the area as a rich destination. Maybe it's a Punch Card Pass, marketing campaign, or just letting everyone know what their doing so efforts can be amplified.

9) Small Business Lunch and Learns

Once a quarter, invite an expert to share tips with local retail businesses on areas where they need support, like digital marketing, accounting, legal advice, loan programs and more. Each topic would be a hyper focussed event like "How to Apply for SBA loans."

10) Staffing Grants

Investigate offering HR grants to help large local companies cover cost of resources needed to hire and train more people. This would also apply to funding marketing efforts that seeks applicants.

11) Sharing Workplace DEI Best Practices

Engage large employers such as Andersen Windows, Polaris, and others to see what's been successful when it comes to supporting a diverse workforce. Ask for ideas that can be documented and shared with other employers in the area.

12) Remote Work Support

Provide WFH residents with some in-office-like resources at the public library or town hall. Things like reservable quiet spaces, video conference suites, loanable easels and other tools.

Big Thinking for Growth

13) Fresh Worker Knowledge

COVID-19 altered the workforce and employment landscape. Most data used by Chisago County was pre-pandemic. That indicates a need for updated data to understand the current dynamics better.

14) Corporate and School Partnerships

There was interest in expanding relationships between high schools and training/developing students for manufacturing jobs. Perhaps courses for credit where companies provide mentorship and training.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

If you have any questions, please let get in touch with Jackie Nelson
jackie@oliveandcompany.com.



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- Tracy Halvorson M.D.



January, 2024

Dear Members of the Board,

The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office wishes to thank you for taking the time to review our annual report. Outside of annual medical examiner data for your community, we wanted to share a few highlights of the year.

In 2023, the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office was due for renewal with its accrediting body, the National Association of Medical Examiners (NAME). Following inspection of our facility and review of policy, the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office was granted full accreditation on December 12th, 2023.

In addition to our accreditation renewal, we also welcomed a new board-certified forensic pathologist to the group. Dr. Tracy Halvorson attended Hamline University and the University of Minnesota Medical School prior to completing her anatomic and clinical pathology residency at the University of Iowa.

As always, we take pride in ensuring your medical examiner's office maintains a high caliber of medicolegal death investigation and forensic pathology services. As technology changes, we will continue to monitor industry standards, trends, and overall improvements that we can incorporate into the medical examiner system while still being fiscally responsible.

If you have any questions or want additional data after reviewing your annual report, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A. Quinn Piper, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

Shane Sheets, MBA, D-ABMDI
Director

Our Contact,

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2023 Annual Report Midwest Medical Examiner's Office Chisago County

ABOUT US

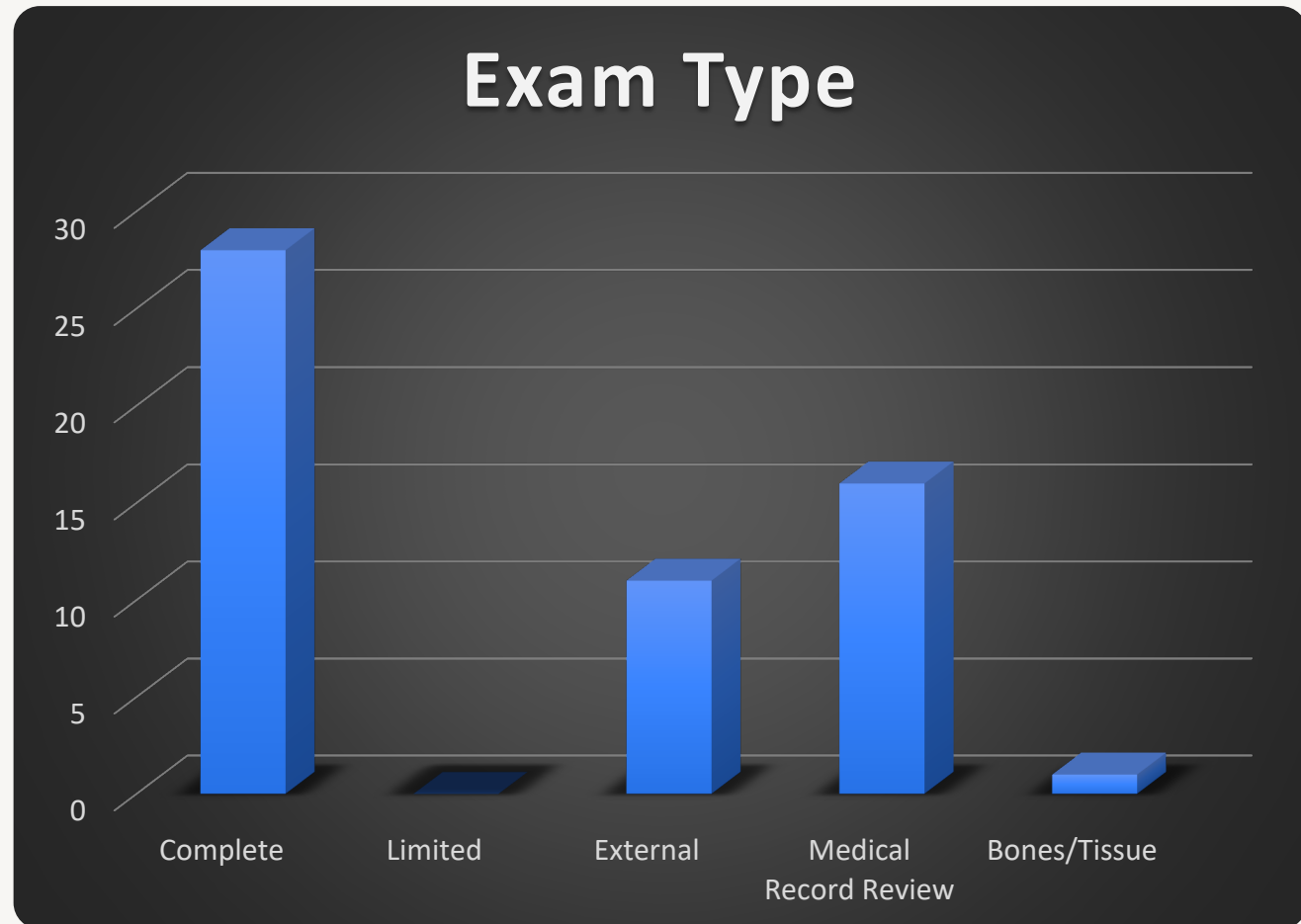
The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office serves 37 of Minnesota's 87 counties, more communities than any other Medical Examiner office in the state. This is approximately 32% of the state's population! MMEO also provides referral services to 11 Wisconsin counties.

Through leadership, education, collaboration, advocacy, and outreach, the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office promotes high-quality forensic pathology practice and medicolegal death investigation.

CHISAGO OVERVIEW

Medical Examiner Cases

Jurisdiction	
Assumed	55
Declined	327
Total	382

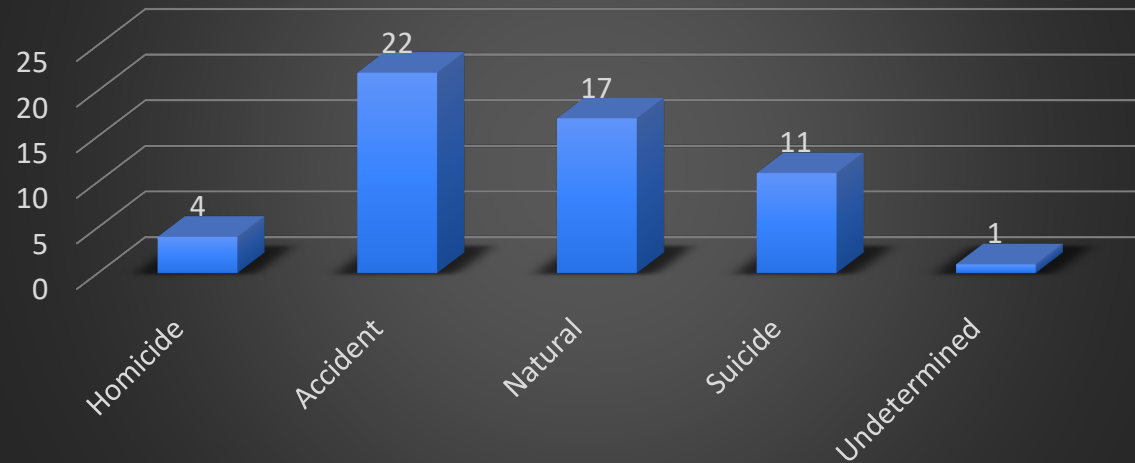


CHISAGO OVERVIEW

Manner of Death

Homicide	4
Accident	22
Natural	17
Suicide	11
Undetermined	1

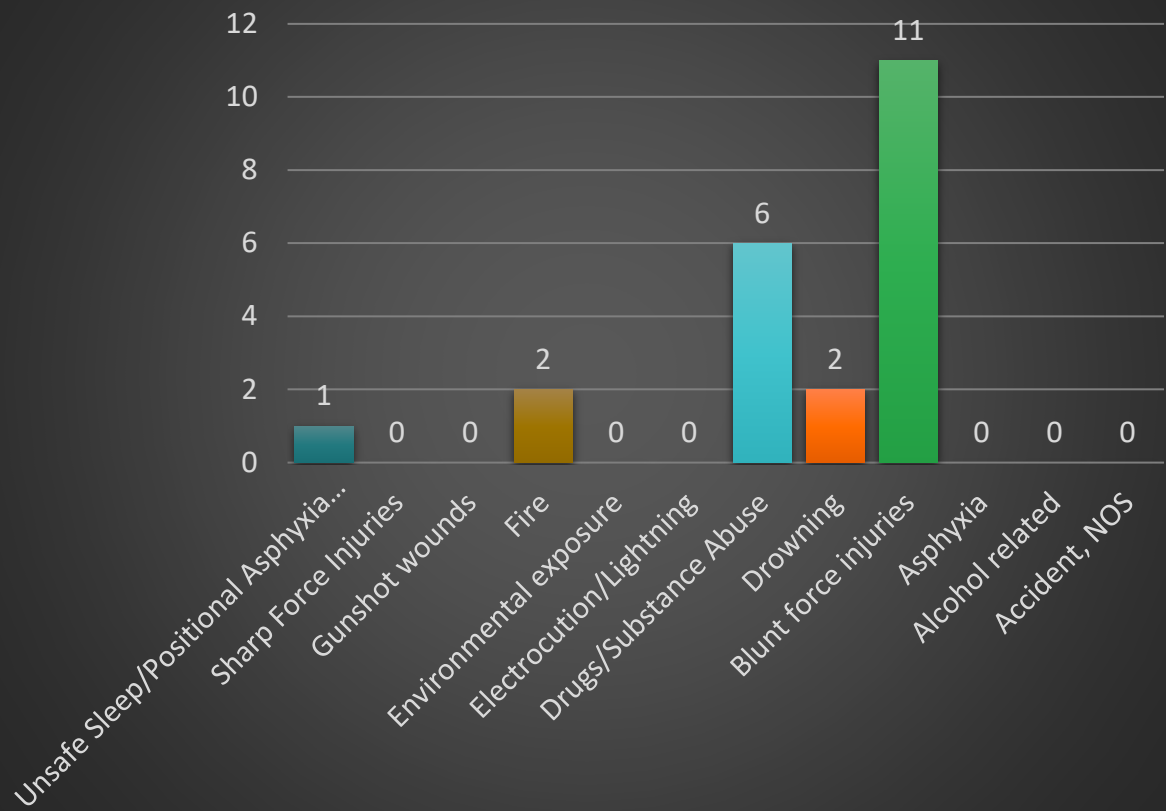
Manner of Death



CHISAGO OVERVIEW

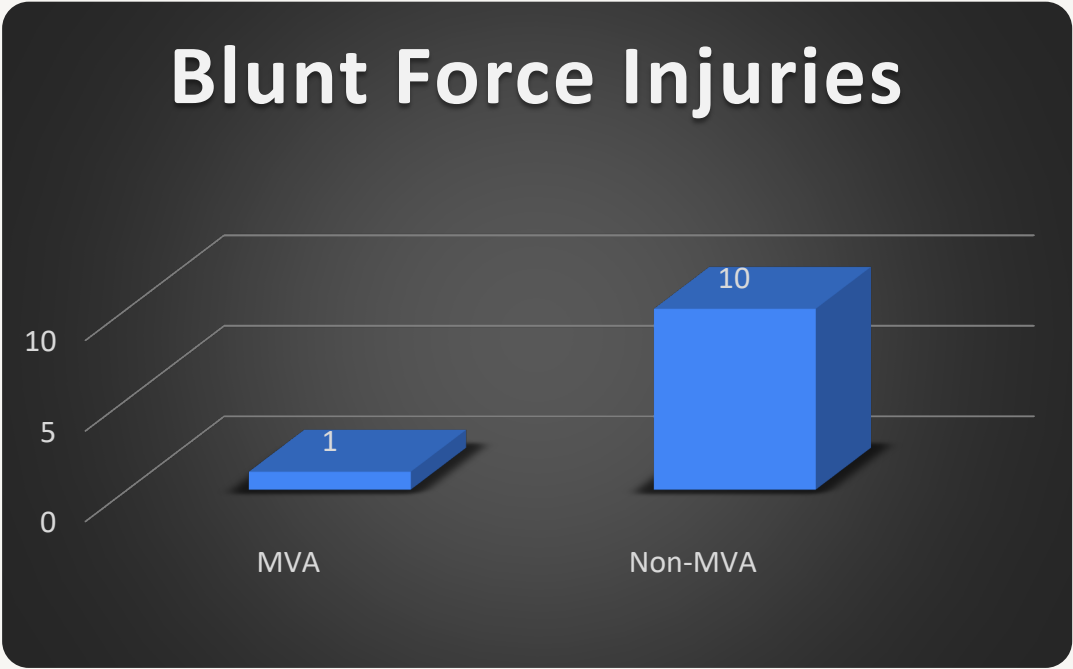
Accident Subclassification	
Blunt Force Injuries	11
Drugs/Substance Abuse	6
Unsafe Sleep/Positional (infant)	1

Accident Subclassification



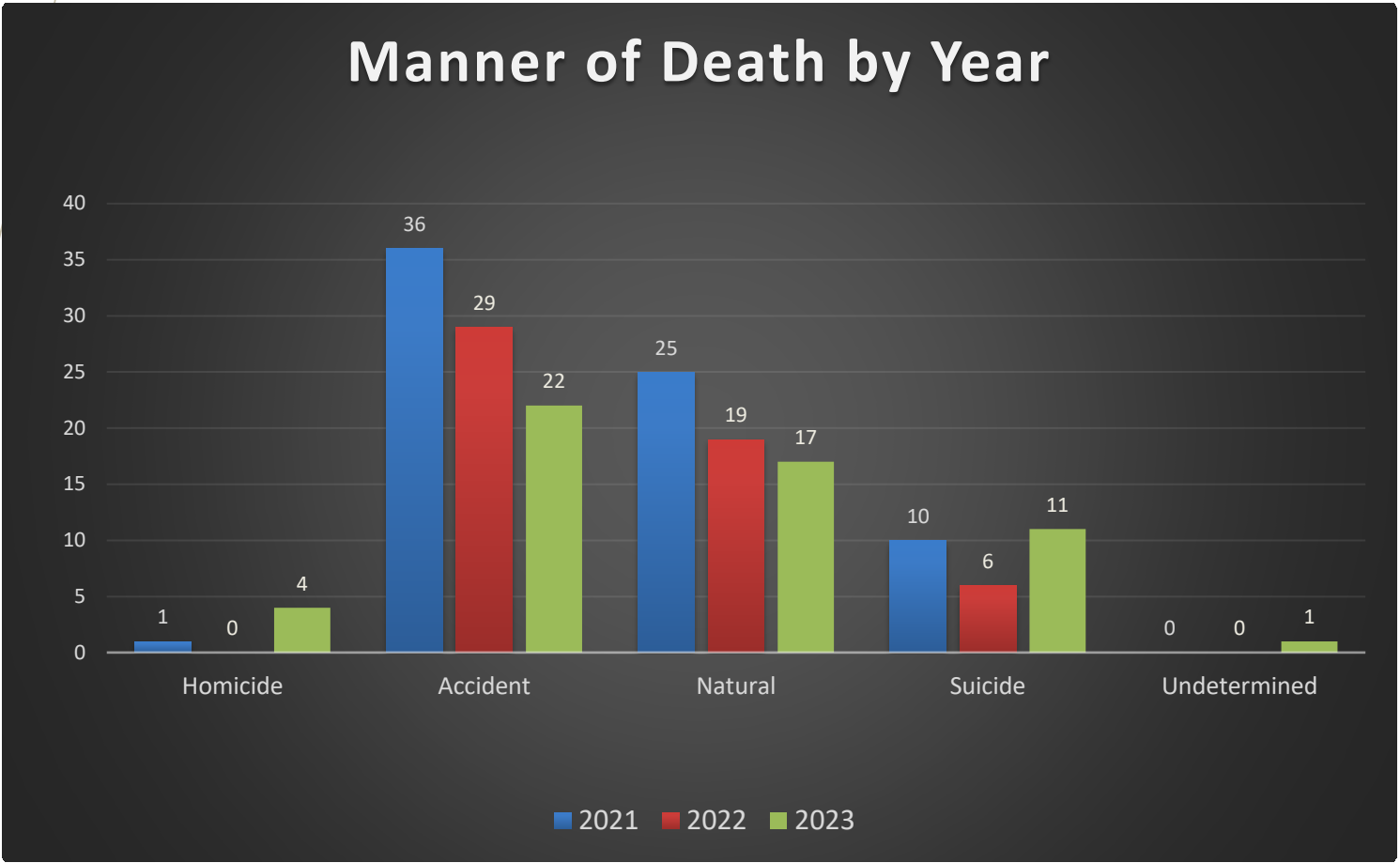
CHISAGO OVERVIEW : BLUNT FORCE INJURY

Blunt Force Injuries	
Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA)	1
Non-Motor Vehicle Accident (Non-MVA)	10

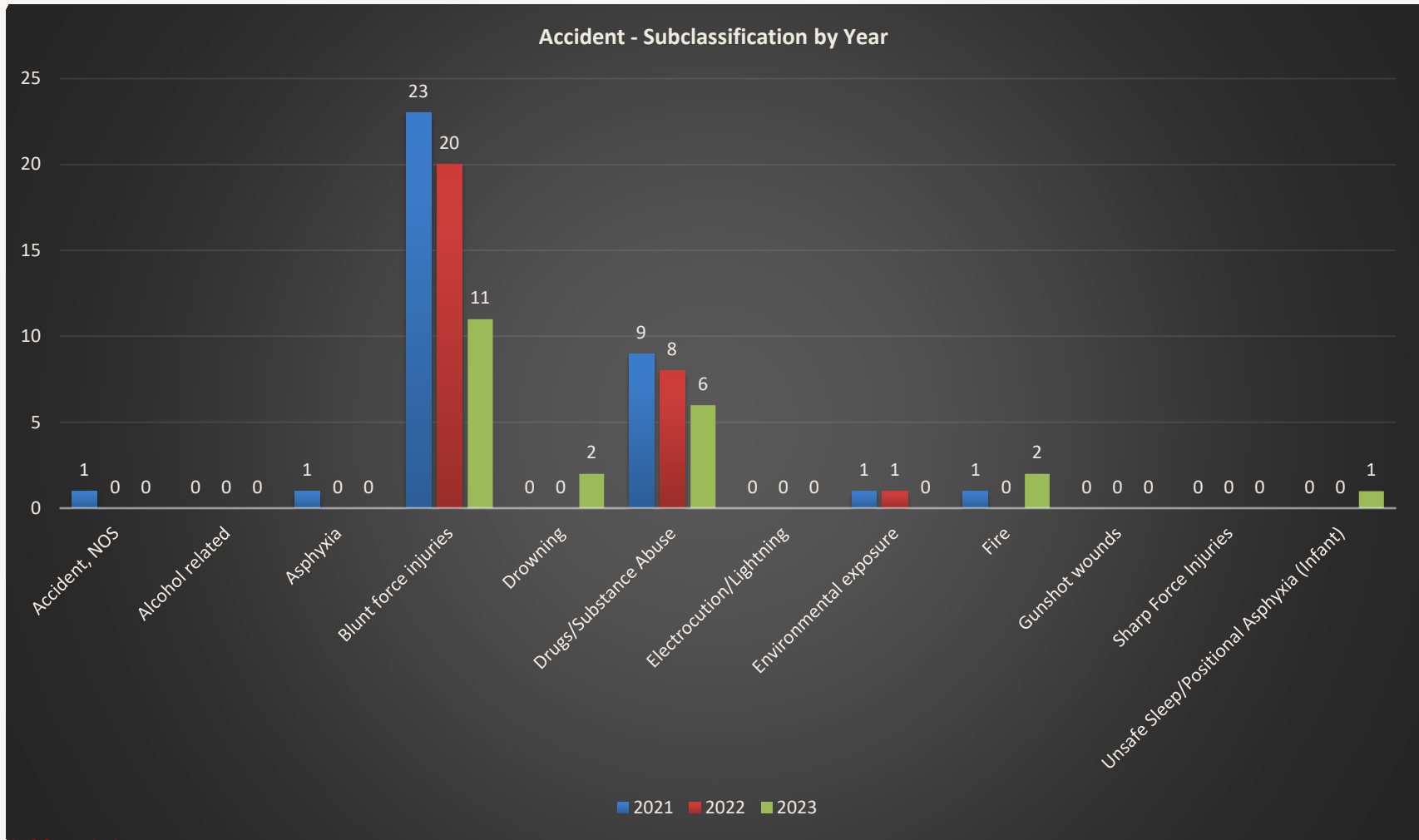


TOXICOLOGY OVERVIEW: 2023

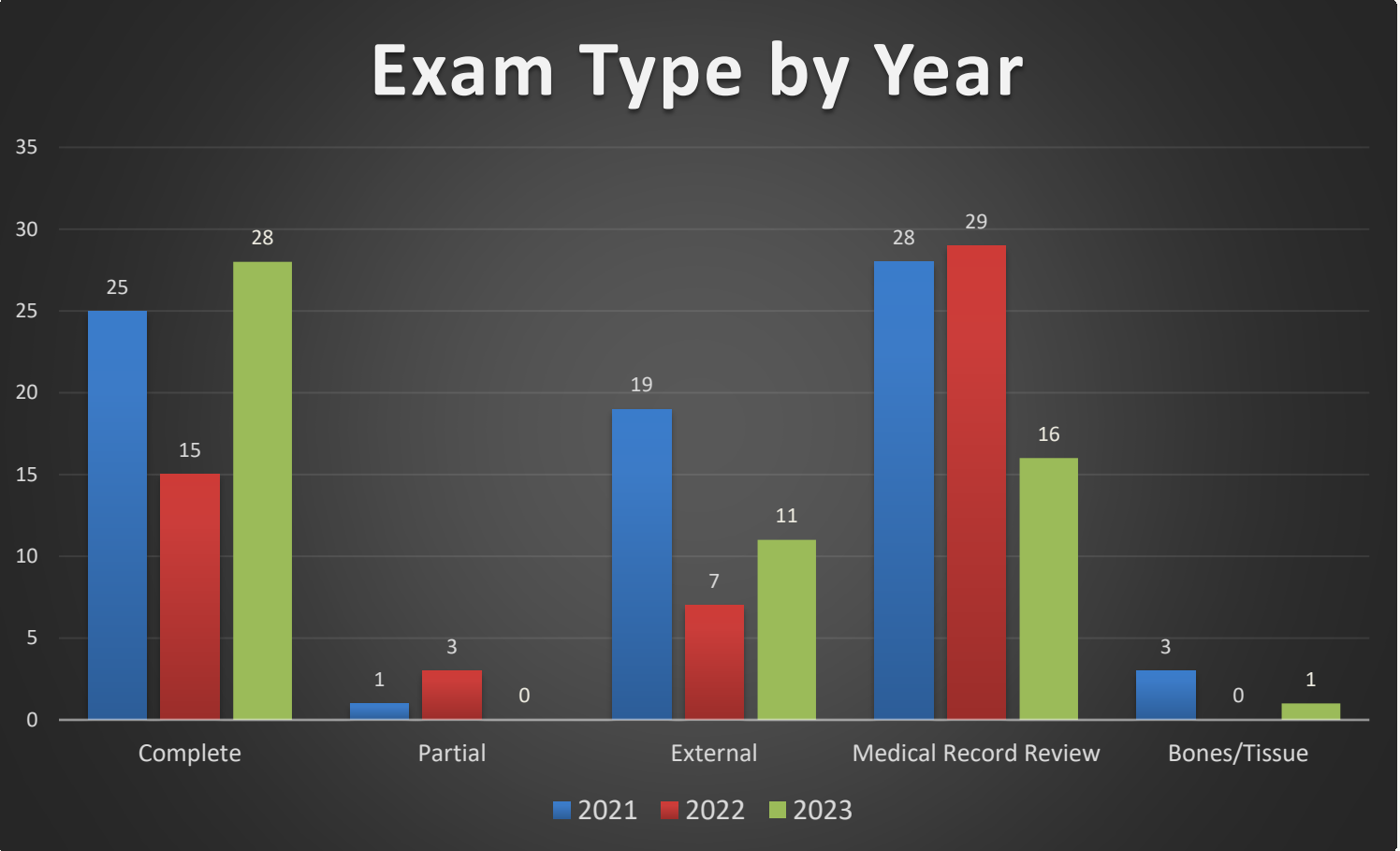
CHISAGO OVERVIEW: 3-YEAR COMPARISON



CHISAGO OVERVIEW: 3-YEAR COMPARISON



CHISAGO OVERVIEW: 3-YEAR COMPARISON



A series of thin, light brown lines forming an abstract geometric pattern in the top left corner of the slide.

THANK YOU

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CHISAGO COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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TAB #3

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Administrative	651-213-5609
Child Support	651-213-5647
Financial Assistance	651-213-5640
Welfare Fraud	651-213-8808
North Branch	651-213-5200
Fax- Center City	651-213-5685
Fax- North Branch	651-213-8955
Public Health	651-213-5231
Veterans Service	651-213-5605

Memo To: Chisago County Commissioners

From: Robert Benson; Health and Human Services Director

RE: Report of the Health and Human Services Department

Date: April 23rd, 2024

I. Department Updates/Highlights:

Continuing to monitor the activity at the State Legislature. Things are beginning to settle down some and more things are coming into focus.

Both the House and the Senate appear to be willing to allocate funding to update the Social Service Information System (SSIS). The House bill allocate \$9 million while the Senate bill allocates \$10.4 million. As previously mentioned, these updates are long overdue and there is a push to replace the entire system that has been in place for over 20 years.

Both the House and the Senate appear to be moving forward with the creation of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) Advisory Board. Counties continue to express some concerns about the make up of this advisory board, including the role AMC or the county representative will play. DHS continues to lobby for the AMC/County rep to be a non-voting representative and to apply further restrictions on their individual participation.

The MnCHOICES Assessment modifications are also moving through both the House and Senate. These provisions would extend the validity of the MnCHOICES Assessment from 60 days to 365 days and would allow reassessments to be done every three years for individuals whose situation will not change, rather than annually. Additionally, there was an amendment added that would change the 20 days we currently have to complete a new assessment to 20 business days. If all these measures pass in the final bill, this will significantly help to address the backlog of new assessments as well as help some workforce issues.

Several provisions from the Priority Admissions Task Force appear poised to pass this year as well. Most importantly, the expansion of direct care and treatment psychiatric capacity at the forensic hospitals (16 beds) while prohibiting the closure of the Carlton Community Addiction Recovery Enterprise (CARE) facility, that DHS had proposed to close to fund the additional forensic hospital beds. Additionally, there may be one-time funding for Mental Health Initiative Grants for counties, and two counties may receive one-time relief

from the Does Not Meet Medical Criteria (DNMC) county cost share (Beltrami and Todd). Several legislators did indicate that if the funding for the two counties does go through, they will be looking to approve additional funding for other counties next session.

Both legislative bodies appear to be willing to fund some additional evaluations of the Minnesota Child Protection System. Currently they are proposing \$136,000 for the Child Maltreatment Reporting System Study, \$317,000 for the Child Protection Advisory Council, and \$275,000 (FY25) and \$638,000 (FY26-27) for Child Mortality Review Panel Modifications. There continues to be a push for the African American Preservation Act also known as the Layla Jackson Law.

The legislature is scheduled to run through May 20th, so we will continue to monitor their actions closely. Once the session adjourns, it may take some time to go through all of the details of all of the bills to truly assess the impact on counties.

Our Veterans Services Officer is continuing to see increased participation in his Coffee Talks. They are now averaging between 25 and 30 veterans each time, with as many as 35 on occasion. They are held the second Tuesday of the month in Chisago City and the third Tuesday in North Branch. The Veterans Service Office is continuing to process a large number of PACT Act claims. The PACT Act expanded VA health Care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

During the COVID pandemic, DHS implemented a temporary asset disregard for certain Medical Assistance enrollees. Starting with July 2024 renewals, enrollees will be subject to the asset limit. This asset limit will vary depending on the program they qualify for, their age, and the number of individuals in the household.

Child Care Appreciation Day is May 10th. Last month the Board did pass a resolution to recognize this day and all our great childcare providers here in Chisago County.

Next month for the June 5th Board Meeting, Public Health will present the Board Report. Courtney will be reviewing 2023 and provide the Board with information on the National, State and local upcoming changes to Public Health.

II. Financial Notes:

Health and Human Services is beginning to plan for our 2025 budget. As I often mention, there may be things that come out of the legislature that could have an impact, both while we are setting our budget and even later, after it has been approved. For the last few years, we have kept our budget relatively flat or actually lower, with the exception of salaries. With continued inflation, we are finding that providers and vendors continue to raise their costs which in turn impacts our budget. We will continue to monitor work at the legislature to anticipate what any changes there may do as well.

III. Staffing Updates:

In Public Health we have now hired a new Public Health Nursing Supervisor and new Public Health Community Health Supervisor. We were happy to have a number of internal candidates for the Community Health Supervisor, and we did select an internal candidate to fill the role. We will be conducting interviews for the open Nurse position in the next week or so.

We are currently advertising for a Financial Eligibility Worker and a Children's Services Case Manager. Any other openings we have at this time are being reviewed and evaluated to meet the changing needs of Health and Human Services and our growing communities.

Review Requests for Board Action:



**CHISAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 1, 2024**

TAB # *** 4 *******

Payment of County's Warrants for HHS

Please authorize payment for the following Human Services Warrants

Check Date	Amount	Board Date	Type of Check/Payments
5/3/2024	\$ 20,287.89	5/1/2024	Commissioners Warrants
4/19/2024	\$146,261.29		Auditor Warrants
	\$166,549.18	Total	

*******All Warrants Available with the Clerk of the Board*******



**CHISAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 1, 2024**

TAB # 4

Payment of County's Warrants for HHS

Check Date	Amount	Board Date	Type of Check/Payments
5/3/2024	\$ 35,651.13	5/1/2024	Commissioners Warrants
4/19/2024	\$146,261.29		Auditor Warrants

*******All Warrants Available with the Clerk of the Board*******

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*** **Chisago County** ***



Audit List for Board **COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES**

Page 1

Print List in Order By: 1
1 - Fund (Page Break by Fund)
2 - Department (Totals by Dept)
3 - Vendor Number
4 - Vendor Name

Explode Dist. Formulas?: Y

Paid on Behalf Of Name
on Audit List?: N

Type of Audit List: D
D - Detailed Audit List
S - Condensed Audit List

Save Report Options?: N

*** **Chisago County** ***



Audit List for Board **COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES**

Vendor	Name	Rpt		Warrant Description	Invoice #	Account/Formula Description	1099
No.	Account/Formula	Accr	Amount	Service Dates	Paid On Bhf #	On Behalf of Name	
1	8569 Admfg INC.						
	05-121-000-0000-6850		1,794.62	OUTREACH ITEMS	9159	Op Enhancement Grant Expense	N
				04/15/2024 04/15/2024			
	8569 Admfg INC.		1,794.62	1 Transactions			
3	10292 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES						
	05-420-600-0000-6401		183.59	SUPPLIES	13YJ-LYJQ-4LNV	General Supplies	N
				04/10/2024 04/10/2024			
3	05-430-700-0000-6401		275.38	SUPPLIES	13YJ-LYJQ-4LNV	General Supplies	N
				04/10/2024 04/10/2024			
7	05-430-700-0000-6401		44.98	SUPPLIES	16Q3-R6H4-9GH7	General Supplies	N
				04/16/2024 04/16/2024			
6	05-420-600-0000-6401		10.79	SUPPLIES	19CT-LJGF-7V3M	General Supplies	N
				04/19/2024 04/19/2024			
6	05-430-700-0000-6401		16.19	SUPPLIES	19CT-LJGF-7V3M	General Supplies	N
				04/19/2024 04/19/2024			
5	05-430-700-0000-6401		192.89	SUPPLIES	1PP4-4JNL-6CJ1	General Supplies	N
				04/19/2024 04/19/2024			
4	05-420-600-0000-6401		11.55	SUPPLIES	1TPR-96K6-MYFL	General Supplies	N
				04/13/2024 04/13/2024			
4	05-430-700-0000-6401		23.78	SUPPLIES	1TPR-96K6-MYFL	General Supplies	N
				04/13/2024 04/13/2024			
4	05-451-430-0000-6401		32.62	SUPPLIES	1TPR-96K6-MYFL	General Supplies	N
				04/13/2024 04/13/2024			
2	05-420-600-0000-6401		32.42	SUPPLIES	1VND-NQJX-CRC1	General Supplies	N
				04/11/2024 04/11/2024			
2	05-430-700-0000-6401		48.63	SUPPLIES	1VND-NQJX-CRC1	General Supplies	N
				04/11/2024 04/11/2024			
	10292 AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES		872.82	11 Transactions			
10	2615 ASL INTERPRETER SERVICES INC						
	05-420-650-0000-6004		138.00		24.03969	Ma Access Services	N
				03/22/2024 03/22/2024			
11	05-420-650-0000-6004		138.00		24.03970	Ma Access Services	N
				03/19/2024 03/19/2024			
8	05-420-650-0000-6004		138.00		24.04248	Ma Access Services	N
				03/28/2024 03/28/2024			
9	05-420-650-0000-6004		138.00		24.04801	Ma Access Services	N
				04/01/2024 04/01/2024			

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*** **Chisago County** ***



Audit List for Board **COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES**

Page 3

	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rpt</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Warrant Description</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Account/Formula Description</u>	<u>1099</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Account/Formula</u>	<u>Accr</u>		<u>Service Dates</u>	<u>Paid On Bhf #</u>	<u>On Behalf of Name</u>	
	2615	ASL INTERPRETER SERVICES INC		552.00	4 Transactions			
12		05-460-310-0000-6111		65.00	04/18/2024 PER DIEM		Per Diems for Opioid Council	Y
				65.00	04/18/2024 04/18/2024 1 Transactions			
13	9280	Bright Star Consulting LLC		3,000.00	CONTRACTED COMMUNITY HEALTH		Federal Vaccine Grant Exp 04/21-12/21	Y
		05-451-440-0000-6837			03/25/2024 04/07/2024			
	9280	Bright Star Consulting LLC		3,000.00	1 Transactions			
14	3756	CHILDREN'S DENTAL SERVICES		459.49	TRANSPORTATION-RESTORE TEAM		Community Services	N
		05-451-480-0000-6841			03/07/2024 03/07/2024			
	3756	CHILDREN'S DENTAL SERVICES		459.49	1 Transactions			
15	30069	CHISAGO COUNTY PRESS		250.00	COFFEE TALK ADVERTISEMENT	166296-50	Op Enhancement Grant Expense	N
		05-121-000-0000-6850			03/01/2024 03/31/2024			
	30069	CHISAGO COUNTY PRESS		250.00	1 Transactions			
16	203004	CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		60.00		24-708	Cc Sheriff Sop & Bailiff	N
		05-420-640-0000-6385			03/21/2024 03/21/2024			
	203004	CHISAGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		60.00	1 Transactions			
17	1263	CHRISTENSON/BRANDIE		8.59	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Worker Travel	N
		05-451-470-0000-6335			03/04/2024 03/29/2024			
18		05-451-470-0000-6844		176.11	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		MECSH Grant Exp	N
					03/04/2024 03/29/2024			
	1263	CHRISTENSON/BRANDIE		184.70	2 Transactions			
19	30177	CINTAS CORPORATION		6.88	WEEKLY RUG SERVICE	4189597671	General Administration	N
		05-420-600-0000-6241			04/15/2024 04/15/2024			
19		05-430-700-0000-6241		13.76	WEEKLY RUG SERVICE	4189597671	General Administration	N
					04/15/2024 04/15/2024			
19		05-451-430-0000-6800		15.57	WEEKLY RUG SERVICE	4189597671	Other Expense	N

*** Chisago County ***



Audit List for Board COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES

Vendor No.	Name Account/Formula	Rpt Accr	Amount	Warrant Description Service Dates	Invoice # Paid On Bhf #	Account/Formula Description On Behalf of Name	1099
20	05-420-600-0000-6241		6.88	04/15/2024 04/15/2024 WEEKLY RUG SERVICE	4190314131	General Administration	N
20	05-430-700-0000-6241		13.76	04/22/2024 04/22/2024 WEEKLY RUG SERVICE	4190314131	General Administration	N
20	05-451-430-0000-6800		15.57	04/22/2024 04/22/2024 WEEKLY RUG SERVICE	4190314131	Other Expense	N
	30177 CINTAS CORPORATION		72.42	04/22/2024 04/22/2024 6 Transactions			
21	1207 CUMMINGS/KRISTA 05-430-700-0134-6335		23.47	03/07/2024 04/16/2024 TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		DD Worker Travel	N
22	05-430-700-0137-6335		54.75	03/07/2024 04/16/2024 TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Adult Services Travel	N
	1207 CUMMINGS/KRISTA		78.22	03/07/2024 04/16/2024 2 Transactions			
23	40105 DATABANK IMX LLC 05-420-600-0000-6402		15,363.24	04/12/2024 04/12/2024 NORTHWOODS PROJECT	MO45001512	Computer Software	Y
	40105 DATABANK IMX LLC		15,363.24	04/12/2024 04/12/2024 1 Transactions			
24	5160 DHS MAPS 05-430-720-3140-6051		2,136.00	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 BSFE CO MATCH	A300MC13254I	Pos Other Child Care	N
	5160 DHS MAPS		2,136.00	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 1 Transactions			
25	1464 DHS MAXIS CASHIER 05-420-610-0000-6001		41.25	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 AFDC	A300MX13253I	Payments To Recipients	N
26	05-420-610-0000-6001		7.50	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 MFIP	A300MX13253I	Payments To Recipients	N
27	05-420-620-0000-6001		2.50	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 GA	A300MX13253I	Payments To Recipients	N
29	05-420-660-0000-5839		1,957.56	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 GRH RECOVERIES	A300MX13253I	Grh Rec	N
28	05-430-741-3430-6051		1,349.17	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 GRH-IMD	A300MX13253I	Housing Subsidy	N
	1464 DHS MAXIS CASHIER		3,357.98	03/01/2024 03/31/2024 5 Transactions			

*** Chisago County ***



Audit List for Board COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES

Vendor	Name	Rpt	Warrant Description	Invoice #	Account/Formula Description	1099
No.	Account/Formula	Accr	Amount	Service Dates	Paid On Bhf #	On Behalf of Name
30	05-430-700-0137-6335		204.43	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE 03/07/2024 03/22/2024	Adult Services Travel	N
31	05-430-700-0137-6335		48.60	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE 03/27/2024 03/28/2024	Adult Services Travel	N
32	05-430-700-0137-6335		45.00	TRAVEL EXPENSE-PARKING 03/20/2024 03/22/2024	Adult Services Travel	N
9213	Dwyer/Samantha		298.03	3 Transactions		
2799	ENGLUND/AMANDA					
33	05-420-600-0121-6335		21.44	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE 04/04/2024 04/04/2024	Financial Travel	N
2799	ENGLUND/AMANDA		21.44	1 Transactions		
2827	GRANDSTRAND FUNERAL HOME					
34	05-420-622-0000-6006		1,500.00	[REDACTED] 04/22/2024 04/22/2024	Burials General Relief	N
2827	GRANDSTRAND FUNERAL HOME		1,500.00	1 Transactions		
90061	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LLC					
35	05-451-430-0000-6401		49.47	SUPPLIES 04/11/2024 04/11/2024	General Supplies	N
36	05-420-600-0000-6401		27.44	SUPPLIES 04/11/2024 04/11/2024	General Supplies	N
36	05-430-700-0000-6401		56.51	SUPPLIES 04/11/2024 04/11/2024	General Supplies	N
36	05-451-430-0000-6401		77.50	SUPPLIES 04/11/2024 04/11/2024	General Supplies	N
37	05-430-700-0000-6401		57.58	SUPPLIES 04/11/2024 04/11/2024	General Supplies	N
38	05-420-600-0000-6401		468.87	SUPPLIES 04/12/2024 04/12/2024	General Supplies	N
38	05-430-700-0000-6401		703.31	SUPPLIES 04/12/2024 04/12/2024	General Supplies	N
39	05-420-600-0000-6401		46.72	SUPPLIES 04/19/2024 04/19/2024	General Supplies	N
39	05-430-700-0000-6401		70.08	SUPPLIES 04/19/2024 04/19/2024	General Supplies	N
90061	INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS LLC		1,557.48	9 Transactions		

*** Chisago County ***



Audit List for Board COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES

Vendor	Name	Rpt	Warrant Description	Invoice #	Account/Formula Description	1099
No.	Account/Formula	Accr	Service Dates	Paid On Bhf #	On Behalf of Name	
40	05-430-700-0128-6335		TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Child Prot Staff Travel	N
			03/05/2024 04/11/2024			
	3836 JENSEN/KYLE		83.08	1 Transactions		
41	05-430-700-0127-6335		TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Mh Travel	N
			03/08/2024 04/08/2024			
42	05-430-700-0127-6335		TRAVEL EXPENSE-PARKING		Mh Travel	N
			03/20/2024 03/21/2024			
	9103 Kearn/Brittany		217.55	2 Transactions		
43	05-430-700-0127-6335		TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Mh Travel	N
			02/16/2024 04/10/2024			
	4155 KNUTSON/ALICIA		155.20	1 Transactions		
	5278 MSSA					
46	05-430-700-0127-6240		MSSA MEMBERSHIP DUES	13	Mh Training	N
			04/17/2024 04/17/2024			
47	05-430-700-0128-6240		MSSA MEMBERSHIP DUES	13	Child Prot Staff Trng	N
			04/17/2024 04/17/2024			
44	05-430-700-0134-6240		MSSA MEMBERSHIP DUES	13	DD Worker Training	N
			04/17/2024 04/17/2024			
45	05-430-700-0137-6240		MSSA MEMBERSHIP DUES	13	Adult Services Training	N
			04/17/2024 04/17/2024			
	5278 MSSA		1,820.00	4 Transactions		
48	05-430-700-0137-6335		TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Adult Services Travel	N
			02/22/2024 04/17/2024			
	9393 PETERSON/AMY		279.84	1 Transactions		
49	05-460-310-0000-6111		04/18/2024 PER DIEM		Per Diems for Opioid Council	Y
			04/18/2024 04/18/2024			
			65.00	1 Transactions		
50	05-430-700-0129-6335		TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Cd & Lic Travel	N
			02/20/2024 04/08/2024			

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*** Chisago County ***



Audit List for Board COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES

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	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rpt</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Warrant Description</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Account/Formula Description</u>	<u>1099</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Account/Formula</u>	<u>Accr</u>		<u>Service Dates</u>	<u>Paid On Bhf #</u>	<u>On Behalf of Name</u>	
	5138	REEVERTS/LANAY A		165.15	1 Transactions			
51		05-460-310-0000-6111		65.00	04/18/2024 PER DIEM		Per Diems for Opioid Council	Y
				65.00	04/18/2024 04/18/2024 1 Transactions			
52	6716	SAUMER/LYNN		15.57	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Accounting Travel	N
		05-420-600-0132-6335			04/19/2024 04/19/2024			
52		05-430-700-0132-6335		25.13	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Accounting Travel	N
					04/19/2024 04/19/2024			
52		05-451-430-0000-6335		9.55	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Worker Travel	N
					04/19/2024 04/19/2024 3 Transactions			
53	9296	Schroeder/Vicki		40.00	TRAVEL EXPENSE-PARKING		Mh Travel	N
		05-430-700-0127-6335			03/20/2024 03/21/2024 1 Transactions			
54	7388	ST LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT DULUTH		60.00		2401123	Other Co Sheriff Sop	N
		05-420-640-0000-6267			04/10/2024 04/10/2024 1 Transactions			
	7388	ST LOUIS COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT DULUTH		60.00				
55	7055	STEELE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE		85.00		202400469	Other Co Sheriff Sop	N
		05-420-640-0000-6267			04/10/2024 04/10/2024 1 Transactions			
56	8703	Stenson/Elizabeth		25.46	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Ship Grant Expense	N
		05-451-480-0000-6824			03/12/2024 03/19/2024 1 Transactions			
	8703	Stenson/Elizabeth		25.46				
57	7930	STRAND/TERESA		240.12	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Mh Travel	N
		05-430-700-0127-6335			03/06/2024 03/27/2024			

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*** **Chisago County** ***



Audit List for Board **COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES**

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Vendor	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rpt</u>		<u>Warrant Description</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Account/Formula Description</u>	<u>1099</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>Account/Formula</u>	<u>Accr</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Service Dates</u>	<u>Paid On Bhf #</u>	<u>On Behalf of Name</u>	
7930	STRAND/TERESA		240.12	1 Transactions			
58	8486 VAN DEN HEUVEL/STACY						
	05-430-700-0127-6335		53.20	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Mh Travel	N
				03/20/2024 03/21/2024			
59	05-430-700-0127-6335		10.00	TRAVEL EXPENSE-PARKING		Mh Travel	N
				03/20/2024 03/21/2024			
	8486 VAN DEN HEUVEL/STACY		63.20	2 Transactions			
60	8544 WREN/HEATHER						
	05-430-700-0137-6335		20.10	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Adult Services Travel	N
				04/16/2024 04/16/2024			
61	05-430-700-0137-6335		60.00	TRAVEL EXPENSE-PARKING		Adult Services Travel	N
				03/20/2024 03/22/2024			
	8544 WREN/HEATHER		80.10	2 Transactions			
63	9763 ZIERDEN/JESSICA						
	05-430-700-0000-6241		4.19	CLIENT MEAL REIMBURSEMENT		General Administration	N
				03/17/2024 03/17/2024			
62	05-430-700-0128-6335		528.55	TRAVEL EXPENSE-MILEAGE		Child Prot Staff Travel	N
				02/25/2024 03/28/2024			
	9763 ZIERDEN/JESSICA		532.74	2 Transactions			
5 Fund Total:			35,651.13	Health And Human Services	35 Vendors	78 Transactions	
Final Total:			35,651.13	35 Vendors	78 Transactions		

*** Chisago County ***



Audit List for Board **COMMISSIONER'S VOUCHERS ENTRIES**

Recap by Fund	<u>Fund</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Name</u>	
	5	35,651.13	Health And Human Services	
	All Funds	35,651.13	Total	Approved by,
				
				

Chisago County Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: 5
Title of Item for Consideration: Opioid Settlement Q1 Staff Expenses	
Action Requested by: Robert Benson, Director	Department: Health & Human Services
Previous Action on this Matter: None.	
Background: Chisago County has received funds for the Opioid settlement, all funds must be used for opioid mitigation, such as treatment, prevention, recovery, harm reduction, research, and training. One allowed expense is the cost of County staff time. Staff is recommending using some of the Opioid Settlement funds to compensate the County for Staff time used to organize Opioid related events and expenditures. Attachment(s): Q1 2024 Opioid Expenses	
Action Requested/Recommended: It is respectfully requested that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners the approve the Opioid expenses for County Staff time during Quarter 1 of 2024. The following motion is suggested: <i>“move to approve the Opioid Expense for County Staff time during Quarter 1 of 2024.”</i>	
Implications of Action: Approval of the request of use of the opioid funds will compensate the County for Staff time used to organize Opioid related events and expenditures. Budget/Financial Implications: The budget will be fulfilled by Opioid settlement funds in the amount of \$4,869.05. Legal/Policy Implications: The Proposed activities are in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and County policies and procedures.	
Administrator’s Recommendation	
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____
Other _____	
Motion By:	Seconded by:
To:	
Action on Motion:	Aye _____
	Nay _____
	Abstain _____

OPIOID Q1 2024 expenditures

Detail for Summary Tab

[illegible]

PH Salary	Total	Hours
2,804.31	2,804.31	66.50
1,622.11	1,622.11	32.75
	4,426.41	99.25

4,426.41	PH Expense
442.64	10% Admin Expense
4,869.05	

Madelyn - \$42.17

Mackenzie - \$49.53

2024

**CHISAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
UNOFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

The Chisago County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at the Chisago County Government Center with the following Commissioners present: Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. Also present: County Administrator Chase Burnham, County Attorney Janet Reiter, and Clerk of the Board Christina Vollrath.

The Chair called the meeting to order and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Montzka offered a motion to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Swenson, the motion **passed** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Swenson, seconded by Greene, the Board opened the Road and Bridge Committee of the Whole at 6:32 p.m. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

The Board was given updates on the current projects of the Public Works Department from County Administrator Chase Burnham. ***No action was taken.***

On motion by Dunne, seconded by Greene, the Board moved items 1-5 to the consent agenda. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Montzka, seconded by Dunne, the Board moved to close the Road and Bridge Committee of the Whole at 6:37 p.m. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Swenson, seconded by Dahlberg, the Board moved to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

- 1.) R&B Committee Recommendation – County Engineer’s Report
- 2.) R&B Committee Recommendation – Letter of Support U.S. Highway 8 – Rep. Stauber
- 3.) R&B Committee Recommendation – County Surveyor Reappointment

RESOLUTION NO: 24/0417-01
REAPPOINTING PAUL GIBSON TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM AS CHISAGO
COUNTY SURVEYOR

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 389.011 provides for each County Board of the State of Minnesota to fill the office of County Surveyor Officer by appointment for a term of four years; and

WHEREAS, the appointment of the Chisago County Surveyor position will expire April 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Paul Gibson has performed the duties of County Surveyor and served the citizens of Chisago County; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends Paul Gibson for reappointment to the position of Chisago County Surveyor; and

WHEREAS, the land owners and developers in Chisago County will continue to be well served by the oversight of the reappointment of Paul Gibson;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Paul Gibson for a four-year term, effective May 1, 2024.

- 4.) R&B Committee Recommendation – 2024 Annual Pavement Markings Project
- 5.) R&B Committee Recommendation – County State Aid Highway Funding Transfer

RESOLUTION NO: 24/0417-2
COUNTY STATE AID HIGHWAY FUNDING TRANSFER

WHEREAS, the County of Chisago has obtained the Commissioner's approval of the plans for the following County State-Aid Project:

Project # S.P. 013-612-012

AND, WHEREAS, said County is prepared to proceed with the construction of said project by providing county municipal funds to supplement the available funds in the County Regular Account, and

WHEREAS, repayment of the funds so advanced by the County is desired in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 162.08, Subd. 7 and Minnesota Rules 8820.1500, Subp. 8.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Commissioner of Transportation be and is hereby requested to approve this basis for financing said construction project and to authorize repayments from subsequent accruals to said Account, in the amounts as herein indicated.

\$1,024,804.00 From 2024 Allotment

- 6.) Minutes from the April 3, 2024, County Board Meeting
- 7.) Payment of County's Warrants and Miscellaneous Bills \$701,551.33

Per Minnesota Statutes 375.1, proceedings of the County Board including a list of itemized accounts, claims or demands must be published in the official newspaper. The itemized list of claims is available for public review on the County website at <https://www.chisagocounty.us/1197/Claims-Paid>. Claims less than \$2,000 are listed as a total dollar amount and notes the number of claims included in the total.

- 8.) Applications for Abatements (reduction) of Property Taxes
- 9.) 2024 Tobacco License Renewals
- 10.) 2024 Budget Adjustment – Park Acquisition Fund
- 11.) 2024 Budget Adjustment – Wellness, Safety, and Ergonomics Funds

Environmental Services Director Kurt Schneider presented the Board with the Director's Report and action items. ***No action was taken.***

On motion by Dahlberg, seconded by Greene, the Board moved to approve Resolution No. 24/0417-3, a Resolution of the County Board of Commissioners of Chisago County, Minnesota, approving the Preliminary Plat of Morrisette Woodlands at 45828 Brunswick Road (PID 03.00212.00) in Fish Lake Township.

**RESOLUTION NO. 24/0417-3
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHISAGO
COUNTY, MINNESOTA, APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY PLAT OF
MORRISETTE WOODLANDS**

WHEREAS, property owners Christopher Morrisette & Sarah Morrisette submitted an application dated received February 12, 2024 and considered complete on February 22, 2024 for the Preliminary Plat of Morrisette Woodlands; and

WHEREAS, the property owners wish to create two lots from the 16.40± acre subject site; and

WHEREAS, the subject site is located at 45828 Brunswick Road in Fish Lake Township and is zoned Agricultural (AG) District; and

WHEREAS, the subject site is legally described as:

PID 03.00212.00

That part of the West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W ½ of NW 1/4) of Section Seventeen (17), Township Thirty-six (36), Range Twenty-two (22), described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4); thence South on the section line 91 rods 11 ½ feet; thence East and parallel with the South line of the NW 1/4 to the centerline of the so-called Brunswick road (now known as Chisago County Highway No. 4); thence Northwesterly along the centerline of said Brunswick road (County State Aid Highway No. 4) to a point 9 ½ rods East of the NW 1/4 of said Section 17; thence West along the North line of said Section 17 a distance of 5 ½ rods to the point of beginning and there to terminate.

WHEREAS, notice was provided and on April 4, 2024 the Planning Commission conducted a public hearing regarding this application, at which it heard from the Department of Environmental Services and invited members of the public to comment; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended approval of the Preliminary Plat of Morrisette Woodlands with conditions per Resolution No. PC2024-0401; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners considered the request for Preliminary Plat of Morrisette Woodlands and the Planning Commission's recommendation at its April 17, 2024 meeting and determined the plat to be consistent with the intent of the County's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Chisago County, Minnesota hereby approves the Preliminary Plat of Morrisette Woodlands, subject to the following conditions:

1. The Preliminary Plat of Morrisette Woodlands is approved per plat drawing dated signed April 2, 2024. Any significant deviation from the approved plat drawing, except as noted herein and as determined by the Department of Environmental Services, shall require further review by the Planning Commission and approval by the County Board.
2. The property owner shall obtain all necessary and applicable permits from Federal, State, and County jurisdictions for any wetland impacts prior to commencement of development.
3. The wetland delineation submitted in conjunction with this request for Preliminary Plat must be verified by County staff prior to submission of request for Final Plat.
4. The soils report for proposed Lot 2, Block 1, Morrisette Woodlands submitted in conjunction with this request for Preliminary Plat must be verified by County staff prior to submission of request for Final Plat.
5. Request for Final Plat shall be submitted within one year of Preliminary Plat approval unless an extension of time is requested by the property owner and/or applicant and granted by the County Board upon recommendation of the Planning Commission.

The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Dahlberg, seconded by Greene, the Board moved to approve ARPA-0240 ENVIS payment for Chisago County Mountain Bike Construction Services Invoice #00033-4/7/2024 from Pathfinder Trail Building LLC. and to allocate \$17,145.33 in unspent ARPA-0240 ENVIS Funds to ARPA-304 ENVIS Ki Chi Saga Concession Building improvements and the remaining \$4,000 in ARPA-0240 ENVIS Funds towards Mountain Bike Trail Equipment. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Montzka, seconded by Swenson, the Board moved to authorize the Environmental Services Director to negotiate, execute and administer on behalf of Chisago County individual agreements with East Central Regional Library (North Branch Area Library), the Chisago County Historical Society, and the City of Lindström to host the indoor or outdoor We Are Water MN exhibits from June 20 to August 12, 2024, as presented at tonight's meeting. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Greene, seconded by Montzka, the Board moved to accept the Environmental Services Director's Report. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Montzka, seconded by Greene, the Board moved to accept the April 10th Budget and Finance Report, approve the proposed 2025 Budgeting schedule, approve the ARPA Broadband request from Midco using \$200,000 ARPA Revenue Replacement funds, approve the proposed contract with ICS and to fund the contract from ARPA Revenue Replacement funds, approve using the grant funds from the state of MN, the SIGMA Tactical Wellness program using Chisago County Public Safety Funds, and the purchase of a new snowmobile using restricted Sheriff funds, approve the engagement letter with Baker Tilly, and approve the overhaul and rehab of the Chisago County Government Center Rain Gardens with SWCD. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Swenson, seconded by Dahlberg, the Board moved to approve the 2024 State of Minnesota Annual County Boat and Water Safety Grant as provided. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Montzka, seconded by Swenson, the Board moved to approve the acceptance of the 2024 Federal Boating Safety Supplemental Patrol Grant. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Greene, seconded by Swenson, the Board moved to approve SHIP Grant Agreement 225 – Chisago County Master Gardeners. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Montzka, seconded by Greene, the Board moved to approve the SHIP 226 Grant Agreement – Chisago Lakes Middle School. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Montzka, seconded by Greene, the Board moved to approve the Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) with Isanti County Fiscal Host Contract. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Dahlberg, seconded by Greene, the Board moved to approve the Blue Cross Blue Shield, UCARE, Health Partners and Medica donations that will be used for a lunch during the Community Wellness and Resilience workshop.

RESOLUTION NO: 24/0417-4
ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS BY CHISAGO COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Chisago County Board of Commissioners Adopted Resolution No. 060419-3 on April 19, 2006, which established a policy regarding the acceptance of gifts by Chisago County; and

WHEREAS, the County has received a donation from a business or private individual in Chisago County and is requesting formal acceptance by the County Board of Commissioners; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the following donations received by Chisago County in 2024:

- \$1,250.00, from Blue Cross Blue shield, the funds will be used for a lunch during the Community Wellness and Resilience workshop that is taking place May 2024, the Wellness workshop will be open to the community.
- \$1,250.00, from UCARE, the funds will be used for a lunch during the Community Wellness and Resilience workshop that is taking place May 2024, the Wellness workshop will be open to the community.
- \$500.00, from Health Partners, the funds will be used for a lunch during the Community Wellness and Resilience workshop that is taking place May 2024, the Wellness workshop will be open to the community.
- \$1,500.00, from Medica, the funds will be used for a lunch during the Community Wellness and Resilience workshop that is taking place May 2024, the Wellness workshop will be open to the community.

The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

CITIZENS FORUM

TIME – 7:39 p.m.

END TIME – 7:50 p.m.

of SPEAKERS – 2

County Administrator Burnham provided administrative updates. *No action was taken.*

Several Commissioners offered reports of their respective committee assignments. *No action was taken.*

On motion by Dahlberg, seconded by Montzka, the Board moved to close the County Board meeting at 8:12 p.m. concerning the real properties of 02.00951.00; 02.00958.00; 02.00960.00; and 02.00936.00, to review confidential or protected appraisal data and to consider and develop purchasing strategies and purchase offers concerning such properties. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

Closed Session

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.05, Subd. 3 (c), the County Board of Commissioners will convene in closed session concerning the real properties of 02.00951.00; 02.00958.00; 02.00960.00; and 02.00936.00, to review confidential or protected appraisal data and to consider and develop purchasing strategies and purchase offers concerning such properties.

Following said closed session, the County Board of Commissioners will reconvene in open session to announce any action taken in closed session and to consider and act on matters noticed on the agenda for consideration or action in open session.

Present: County Attorney Janet Reiter, County Administrator Chase Burnham, Environmental Services Director Kurt Schneider, Commissioner Swenson, Commissioner Dunne, Commissioner Greene, Commissioner Montzka, Commissioner Dahlberg, Clerk of the Board Christina Vollrath

On motion by Montzka, seconded by Greene, the Board ended the closed meeting and reconvened the regular meeting at 8:39 p.m. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Greene, seconded by Dahlberg, the Board moved to authorize County Staff and their assigned representative(s) to proceed with the development and presentation of real property purchase offers for portions of subject parcels 02.00951.00; 02.00958.00; 02.00960.00; and 02.00936.00 and establish purchase agreements consistent with their Just Compensation appraisal, subject to County Board approval. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

On motion by Swenson, seconded by Montzka, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Swenson, Greene, Dunne, Montzka, Dahlberg. **OPPOSED:** None.

Marlys Dunne, Chair

Attest: _____
Christina Vollrath
Clerk of the Board



**CHISAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 1, 2024**

TAB # ***7*******

Payment of County's Warrants & Miscellaneous Bills

Bills Paid 5/2/2024 \$848,862.74

SPECIAL PAYMENT –
Wage Works, Inc. - \$299.25



**CHISAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 1, 2024**

TAB # 7

Payment of County's Warrants & Miscellaneous Bills

Bills Paid 5/2/2024 \$848,862.74



**CHISAGO COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
May 1, 2024**

TAB # 8

**Recognition of Years with the County
May**

THANK YOU FOR MANY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

Employee	Job	Years of Service
Bruce L.	Highway Maintenance Sup	34
Heidi W.	Infrastructure Engineer	30
Heather S.	Social Worker - MSW	28
Scott J.	Engineering Tech Senior	24
Heather P.	Records Clerk/Transcrip	23
Michelle L.	Deputy Sheriff	19
Kyle P.	Division Sergeant	18
Jennifer A.	Case Aide HHS	17
Joshua O.	Investigator	17
James P.	Telecommunicator	17
Michael E.	Communications Sys Spec	12
Polly Z.	Jail Accountant	12
Kyle D.	Deputy Sheriff	11
Michael K.	Security Officer	11
Jason B.	Equipment Operator Hwy	9
Nicholas P.	Equipment Operator Hwy	9
Debra M.	Family Outreach Aide	8
Ashley K.	Eligibility Worker	8
Kurt S.	Corrections Officer	7

Austin O.	Equipment Operator Hwy	7
Bryan B.	Veteran Service Officer	7
Tony N.	Fleet Maintenance Supv	6
Andrea S.	Victim Witness Coord	6
Daniel F.	Para-Legal	5
Diane S.	Office Manager - Zoning	5
Benjamin K.	Deputy Sheriff	5
Ashley R.	Family Service Aide HHS	5
Joseph T.	Parks Director	5
Joshua M.	Corrections Officer	4
Kevin S.	Corrections Officer	4
Neil R.	Veteran Driver	2
Kayla K.	Office Support Spec HHS	2
Stacy L.	Corrections Officer	2
Madelyn J.	Progrm Plannr/Accred Co	2
Daniel M.	Maint Facility Engineer	2
Carol K.	Collections Officer HHS	1
Jessica S.	Financial Asst Super II	1
Gregory N.	System Supp Specialist	1
Michael P.	Emergency Comm Sys MGRI	1
Christopher A.	Asst County Attorney I	1
Ethan A.	Fleet Main Tech Hwy	1
David B.	Engineering Tech/Signs	1

Chisago County Request For Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: 9
Title of Item for Consideration: Out of State Travel Request – RTA Connect Conf, Atlanta, GA	
Action Requested by: Joe Triplett, P.E.	Department: Public Works
Previous Action on this Matter: None.	
Background: County Engineer Triplett is requesting that Tony Nielsen be authorized to attend the 2024 RTA Connect Conference and Training Conference in Atlanta, GA. RTA is the software Chisago County uses for fleet management of both the Public Works and Chisago County Sheriff Office fleets. Tony will be trained on the software and will then be able to train Maintenance staff. The conference runs from 10/7 to 10/11. Attachments: - Out-of-State Travel Request Form - Request Letter	
Action Requested/Recommended: The County Board is respectfully requested to approve the Out-of-State Travel request for Tony Neilsen to attend the 2024 RTA Connect Conference and Training Conference in Atlanta, GA from 10/7 – 10/11. The following motion is suggested: <i>“Move to approve the Out-of-State Travel request for Tony Neilsen to attend the 2024 RTA Connect Conference and Training Conference in Atlanta, GA from 10/7 – 10/11.”</i>	
Implications of Action: Board approval at tonight’s meeting will provide opportunity for Chisago County to keep current and receive training on the RTA fleet management software. Budget/Financial Implications: included in training and continuing education budget Legal/Policy Implications: The Proposed activities are in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and County policies and procedures.	
Administrator’s Recommendation	
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____
Other _____	
Motion By:	Seconded by:
To:	
Action on Motion:	Aye _____
	Nay _____
	Abstain _____



CHISAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

JOE TRIPLETT, P.E., DIRECTOR/ENGINEER

OFFICES OF:

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
HIGHWAY ENGINEER
COUNTY SURVEYOR
TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
FLEET MAINTENANCE

MAILING ADDRESS:
313 NORTH MAIN STREET
CENTER CITY, MN 55012

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:
31325 OASIS ROAD
CENTER CITY, MN 55012

PHONE: (651) 213-8700

To: Joe Triplett

Date: 4/23/24

Subject: Out-of-state travel request

Joe,

I am requesting to attend the RTA Connect Conference and Training being held in Atlanta, GA October 7th – 11th 2024. RTA has been the software used by Chisago County for fleet management and parts inventory for the last 15+ years and has recently undergone significant changes.

Since our recent expansion of fleet maintenance to other departments like CCSO, RTA has become an intragyr part of our fleet maintenance program by maintaining our maintenance records, parts inventory, and assisting with internal billing.

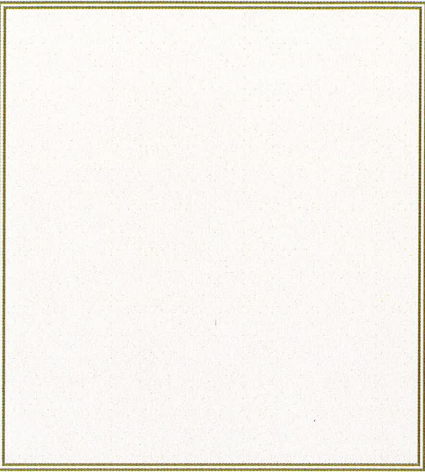
The full agenda has yet to be released, but the purpose of this annual conference is to provide updated training on new features, best practices, leadership development, in person support, and training labs utilizing all these things. The conference fee itself is \$1345 and is being waived.

Attached is my Chisago County Out-of-State Travel Request for consideration.

Regards,

Tony Nielsen
Fleet Maintenance Supervisor

Chisago County Out-of-State Travel Request

Date Submitted	4/23/2024	
Employee Name	Tony Nielsen	
Department	Public Works	
Destination	Atlanta, GA	
Purpose of Travel	Conference/Training for Fleet Management Software	
Departure Date	10/7/2024	
Return Date	10/11/2024	
Total Travel Expenses		\$1,714.00
Supervisor Name (PRINT)	Joe Triplett	
Supervisor's Signature		Date Approved
County Board Signature		Date Approved

4/23/24

Anticipated Expenses

Type of Expense	Description of Expense	Daily Expenses (Except Airfare)	# of Days	Total Expenses
Airfare	Round Trip MSP to ATL	\$700.00		\$700.00
Ground Transportation	Taxi and airport parking	\$125.00	1	\$125.00
Conference/Registration Fees	Conference/training fee covered by RTA		1	\$0.00
Lodging	Hotel group rate	\$169.00	4	\$676.00
Meals	Dinner and travel days GSA rates	\$213.00	1	\$213.00
Mileage			1	\$0.00
Grand Total				\$1,714.00

Chisago County Request For Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: 10
Title of Item for Consideration: Board of Commissioners Meeting Reschedule – Juneteenth 2024 – June 19, 2024	
Action Requested by: Chase Burnham, County Administrator	Department: County Administration
Previous Action on this Matter: None.	
Background: According to MN Stat. 645.44 subd. 5, <u>no public business shall be transacted on any holiday</u>, except in cases of necessity and except in cases of public business transacted by the legislature, nor shall any civil process be served thereon. At the Chisago County Board of Commissioners Organizational Meeting on January 2nd, the Board of Commissioners unknowingly set a Board meeting on June 19th, 2024 which conflicts with the Juneteenth Holiday. The Board of Appeal and Equalization is scheduled for Monday, June 17th in the County Boardroom. The Board of Commissioners could schedule this meeting any other time besides June 17th, cancel the meeting or anything else. Attachments: MN Stat. 645.44 subd. 5	
Action Requested/Recommended: The County Board is respectfully requested to approve the originally schedule June 19th Board meeting to _____ at _____ in Compliance with the Juneteenth Holiday. The following motion is suggested: “Move to approve the originally schedule June 19th Board meeting to at _____ in Compliance with the Juneteenth Holiday.”	
Implications of Action: Board approval at tonight’s meeting will move the originally scheduled June 19th, Board meeting to a new date due to the Juneteenth Holiday. Budget/Financial Implications: None. Legal/Policy Implications: The Proposed activities are in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and County policies and procedures.	
Administrator’s Recommendation	
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____
Other _____	
Motion By:	Seconded by:
To:	

Action on Motion:	Aye _____	Nay _____	Abstain _____
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645.44 WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** The following words, terms, and phrases used in Minnesota Statutes or any legislative act shall have the meanings given them in this section, unless another intention clearly appears.

Subd. 1a. **Appellate courts.** "Appellate courts" means the supreme court and the court of appeals.

Subd. 1b. **Chair.** "Chair" includes chairman, chairwoman, and chairperson.

Subd. 2. **Court administrator.** When used in reference to court procedure, "court administrator" means the court administrator of the court in which the action or proceeding is pending, and "court administrator's office" means that court administrator's office.

Subd. 3. **County, town, city.** When a county, town or city is mentioned, without any particular description, it imports the particular county, town or city appropriate to the matter.

Subd. 3a. [Repealed, 1976 c 44 s 70]

Subd. 4. **Folio.** "Folio" means 100 words, counting as a word each number necessarily used; if there be fewer than 100 words in all, the paper shall be computed as one folio; likewise any excess over the last full folio.

Subd. 5. **Holiday.** (a) "Holiday" includes New Year's Day, January 1; Martin Luther King's Birthday, the third Monday in January; Washington's and Lincoln's Birthday, the third Monday in February; Memorial Day, the last Monday in May; Juneteenth, June 19; Independence Day, July 4; Labor Day, the first Monday in September; Indigenous Peoples Day, the second Monday in October; Veterans Day, November 11; Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November; and Christmas Day, December 25; provided, when New Year's Day, January 1; or Juneteenth, June 19; or Independence Day, July 4; or Veterans Day, November 11; or Christmas Day, December 25; falls on Sunday, the following day shall be a holiday and, provided, when New Year's Day, January 1; or Juneteenth, June 19; or Independence Day, July 4; or Veterans Day, November 11; or Christmas Day, December 25; falls on Saturday, the preceding day shall be a holiday. No public business shall be transacted on any holiday, except in cases of necessity and except in cases of public business transacted by the legislature, nor shall any civil process be served thereon. However, for the executive branch of the state of Minnesota, "holiday" also includes the Friday after Thanksgiving but does not include Indigenous Peoples Day. Other branches of state government and political subdivisions shall have the option of determining whether Indigenous Peoples Day and the Friday after Thanksgiving shall be holidays. Where it is determined that Indigenous Peoples Day or the Friday after Thanksgiving is not a holiday, public business may be conducted thereon.

(b) Any agreement between a public employer and an employee organization citing Veterans Day as the fourth Monday in October shall be amended to cite Veterans Day as November 11.

(c) Any agreement between a public employer and an employee organization citing "Christopher Columbus Day" or "Columbus Day" shall be amended to cite "Indigenous Peoples Day."

Subd. 5a. **Public member.** "Public member" means a person who is not, or never was, a member of the profession or occupation being licensed or regulated or the spouse of any such person, or a person who does not have or has never had, a material financial interest in either the providing of the professional service being licensed or regulated, or an activity directly related to the profession or occupation being licensed or regulated.

Subd. 6. **Oath; affirmation; affirm; sworn.** "Oath" includes "affirmation" in all cases where by law an affirmation may be substituted for an oath; and in like cases "swear" includes "affirm" and "sworn" "affirmed."

Subd. 7. **Person.** "Person" may extend and be applied to bodies politic and corporate, and to partnerships and other unincorporated associations.

Subd. 8. **Population; inhabitants.** When used in reference to population, "population" and "inhabitants" mean that shown by the last preceding federal decennial census unless otherwise expressly provided.

Subd. 8a. **Public waters.** "Public waters" means public waters as defined in section 103G.005, subdivision 15, and includes "public waters wetlands" as defined in section 103G.005, subdivision 15a.

Subd. 9. **Recorded; filed for record.** When an instrument in writing is required or permitted to be filed for record with or recorded by any officer, the same imports that it must be recorded by such officer in a suitable book kept for that purpose, unless otherwise expressly directed.

Subd. 10. **Seal.** When the seal of a court, public office, or corporation is required by law to be affixed to any paper, the word "seal" includes an impression thereof upon the paper alone, as well as an impression on a wafer, wax, or other substance thereto attached. When the seal of a court is required by law to be affixed to any paper or document, the word "seal" also includes an image of the court seal affixed by the court to an electronic image of the paper or document.

Subd. 11. **State; United States.** When applied to a part of the United States, "state" extends to and includes the District of Columbia and the several territories. "United States" embraces the District of Columbia and territories.

Subd. 12. **Sheriff.** "Sheriff" may be extended to any person officially performing the duties of a sheriff, either generally or in special cases.

Subd. 13. **Time; month; year.** "Month" means a calendar month and "year" means a calendar year, unless otherwise expressed; and "year" is equivalent to the expression "year of our Lord."

Subd. 13a. **Wetlands.** "Wetlands" means lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this definition, wetlands must have the following three attributes:

- (1) have a predominance of hydric soils;
- (2) are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions; and
- (3) under normal circumstances, support a prevalence of such vegetation.

Subd. 14. **Written; in writing.** "Written" and "in writing" may include any mode of representing words and letters. The signature of a person, when required by law, (1) must be in the handwriting of the person, or (2) if the person is unable to write (i) the person's mark or name written by another at the request and in the presence of the person, or (ii) by a rubber stamp facsimile of the person's actual signature, mark, or a signature of the person's name or a mark made by another and adopted for all purposes of signature by the person with a motor disability and affixed in the person's presence. The signature of a person on a document that will be filed with a court, when required by law, may also be made electronically if otherwise authorized by statute or court rule.

Subd. 15. **May.** "May" is permissive.

Subd. 15a. **Must.** "Must" is mandatory.

Subd. 16. **Shall.** "Shall" is mandatory.

Subd. 17. **Violate.** "Violate" includes failure to comply with.

Subd. 18. **Pledge; mortgage; conditional sale; lien; assignment.** "Pledge," "mortgage," "conditional sale," "lien," "assignment," and similar terms used in referring to a security interest in goods include corresponding types of security interests under article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

Subd. 19. **Fee and tax.** (a) "Tax" means any fee, charge, exaction, or assessment imposed by a governmental entity on an individual, person, entity, transaction, good, service, or other thing. It excludes a price that an individual or entity chooses voluntarily to pay in return for receipt of goods or services provided by the governmental entity. A government good or service does not include access to or the authority to engage in private market transactions with a nongovernmental party, such as licenses to engage in a trade, profession, or business or to improve private property.

(b) For purposes of applying the laws of this state, a "fee," "charge," or other similar term that satisfies the functional requirements of paragraph (a) must be treated as a tax for all purposes, regardless of whether the statute or law names or describes it as a tax. The provisions of this subdivision do not exempt a person, corporation, organization, or entity from payment of a validly imposed fee, charge, exaction, or assessment, nor preempt or supersede limitations under law that apply to fees, charges, or assessments.

(c) This subdivision is not intended to extend or limit article 4, section 18, of the Minnesota Constitution.

Subd. 20. **Estimated market value.** When used in determining or calculating a limit on taxation, spending, state aid amounts, or debt, bond, certificate of indebtedness, or capital note issuance by or for a local government unit, "estimated market value" has the meaning given in section 273.032.

History: 1941 c 492 s 44; 1945 c 337 s 1; 1947 c 201 s 4; 1955 c 495 s 1; 1955 c 783 s 1; 1959 c 52 s 2; 1965 c 812 s 25; 1969 c 69 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 2,7; 1973 c 228 s 1; 1973 c 343 s 1; 1974 c 88 s 1; 1977 c 347 s 64; 1979 c 332 art 1 s 92; 1980 c 487 s 21; 1983 c 247 s 216; 1984 c 656 s 4; 1986 c 444 s 5; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 82; 1990 c 391 art 8 s 57; 1991 c 354 art 6 s 19; 1996 c 462 s 43; 2000 c 382 s 18; 1Sp2001 c 10 art 2 s 84; 2006 c 259 art 13 s 15; 2009 c 88 art 12 s 18; 2013 c 143 art 14 s 109; 2014 c 204 s 12,13; 2023 c 5 s 2; 2023 c 62 art 2 s 115,117

Chisago County Request For Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: 11
Title of Item for Consideration: 2024 CIP – County Administration Security Remodel – Change Order	
Action Requested by: Chase Burnham, County Administrator	Department: County Administration
Previous Action on this Matter: The County Board allocated \$50,000 to the County Administration Security Remodel project in the 2024 Capital Improvement Project.	
Background: The original project was needed due to security issues within the Administration and Human Resources Department. Admin/HR was the only department without a barrier between the public and staff. The change order is being requested to add an additional office for data security reasons and future County growth. The new office will be used by Human Resources staff. Attachments: Gregory Contracting Change Order	
Action Requested/Recommended: The County Board is respectfully requested to approve the change order with Gregory Contracting for the additional office in Human Resources. The following motion is suggested: <i>“Move to approve the change order with Gregory Contracting for the additional office in Human Resources.”</i>	
Implications of Action: By the Board approving the change order so all of the Human Resource staff and staff with sensitive data will be in offices with doors to protect social security numbers, and personnel data. Budget/Financial Implications: \$9,240.00, County Administrator Burnham recommends these funds come from APRA – Administration Fee/Unallocated. Legal/Policy Implications: The Proposed activities are in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and County policies and procedures.	
Administrator’s Recommendation	
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____
Other _____	
Motion By:	Seconded by:
To:	
Action on Motion:	Aye _____
	Nay _____
	Abstain _____



Gregory Contracting Inc.

Printed: Apr 24, 2024

24700 Hazel Ave, Forest Lake, MN 55025

Phone: 651-213-0668

Change Order

Owner Info

Chisago County Jail
15230 Per Road
Center City, MN 55012
Phone: 651-346-8817 -Ward
Cell: +1651-346-8817 - Ward

Job Info

313 Main st
center city, MN 55012

Change Order ID

0001

Chisago County Court House A1-Remodel-Toby/James

CO ID	Created / Approved Date	Price
0001	Created: Apr 23, 2024	\$9,240.00

Description

HR Remodel

The cabinets from the original quote will be taken out and not reinstall in the existing conference room but in the main office area
The window wall will be removed from the conference room

A new metal stud wall will be framed where this wall was located also a 12' wall will be built to create 2 offices in the existing conference room

The door in the back office will stay as is and no work will be done to this office

A new 36" 1/2 lite will be installed for the new 2nd office

A new lock set will be purchased for th is door

R11 insulation will be installed in the 2 new walls

The 2 new walls will be have drywall installed, taped and painted

Customer supplied base trim will be installed on the new walls

We propose the above changes in the scope of work for the added sum of (\$ **9240.00**)

The payment is as follows: **Due upon change order receipt**

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work is to be completed in a substantial work man like manner according to specifications submitted, per standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from the above specifications involving additional extra costs will be executed only upon additional written orders and will become an additional extra on the project. All agreements are contingent upon strikes, accidents, or delays beyond our control.

Approval Comments

I confirm that my signature action here is binding.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHANGE ORDER:

\$9,240.00

Chisago County Request For Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: 12
Title of Item for Consideration: Spongey Moth Proposal – MN Dept. of Agriculture	
Action Requested by: Chase Burnham, County Administrator	Department: County Administration
Previous Action on this Matter: None.	
Background: The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's has Cooperative Spongey Moth Program treatment projects occurring in 2024. AI's Aerial Spraying has been contracted by the USDA-Forest Service for the aerial applications of mating disruption to reduce colonies of the spongey moth, <i>Lymantria dispar</i>, an invasive species. Spongey Moth Slow-the-Spread mating disruption treatment project will occur at sites over the City of North Branch, in Chisago County. Approximately 10,000 acres are scheduled for aerial treatment in July of this year. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture needs letters for the aerial aviation projects to document that the Local Government Unit (LGU) is aware of our proposed projects and that the MDA has given adequate notification to your residents within the block. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires a congested aerial flight plan to be submitted by the aerial applicator for approval when conducting low flying aerial applications. As part of that plan, the aerial applicator needs formal letters back from the LGU that indicates that they have been fully informed about the project and they are aware that is going to occur. Attachments: • Letter	
Action Requested/Recommended: The County Board is respectfully requested to approve the letter stating Chisago County understands that the Spongey Moth Slow-the-Spread mating disruption treatment project will occur at sites over the City of North Branch, in Chisago County, approximately 10,000 acres are scheduled for aerial treatment in July of this year. The following motion is suggested: <i>“Move to approve the letter stating Chisago County understands that the Spongey Moth Slow-the-Spread mating disruption treatment project will occur at sites over the City of North Branch, in Chisago County, approximately 10,000 acres are scheduled for aerial treatment in July of this year.”</i>	
Implications of Action: By approving the letter, Chisago County agrees that proper and sufficient public notification of the treatment project has occurred and that the aerial operations are needed and wanted with the intent to slow the spread of spongey moth in our area Budget/Financial Implications: None. Legal/Policy Implications: The Proposed activities are in compliance with all applicable state and	

federal regulations and County policies and procedures.			
<i>Administrator's Recommendation</i>			
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____	Other _____	
Motion By:		Seconded by:	
To:			
Action on Motion:	Aye _____	Nay _____	Abstain _____



COUNTY OF CHISAGO

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chisago County Government Center
313 North Main Street, Room 172
Center City, MN 55012-9663

Commissioners:
District 1
Jim Swenson
District 2
Rick Greene
District 3
Marlys Dunne
District 4
Ben Montzka
District 5
Dan Dahlberg

March 21, 2024

Al's Aerial Spraying
c/o Mike Schiffer
3473 Shepardsville Road
Ovid, MI 48866

Dear Mr. Schiffer,

This letter is to provide written documentation of Chisago County awareness for aerial application by Al's Aerial Spraying, for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Cooperative Spongy Moth Program treatment projects occurring in 2024. Al's Aerial Spraying has been contracted by the USDA-Forest Service for the aerial applications of mating disruption to reduce colonies of the spongy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, an invasive species.

We understand, Spongy Moth Slow-the-Spread mating disruption treatment project will occur at one sites over City of North Branch, in Chisago County. Approximately 10,000 acres are scheduled for aerial treatment in July of this year.

Al's Aerial Spraying will carry out this project in cooperation with, and under the authority of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the USDA-Forest Service, and the Spongy Moth Slow-the-Spread Foundation, Inc.

Chisago County agrees that proper and sufficient public notification of the treatment project has occurred and that the aerial operations are needed and wanted with the intent to slow the spread of spongy moth in our area.

Sincerely,

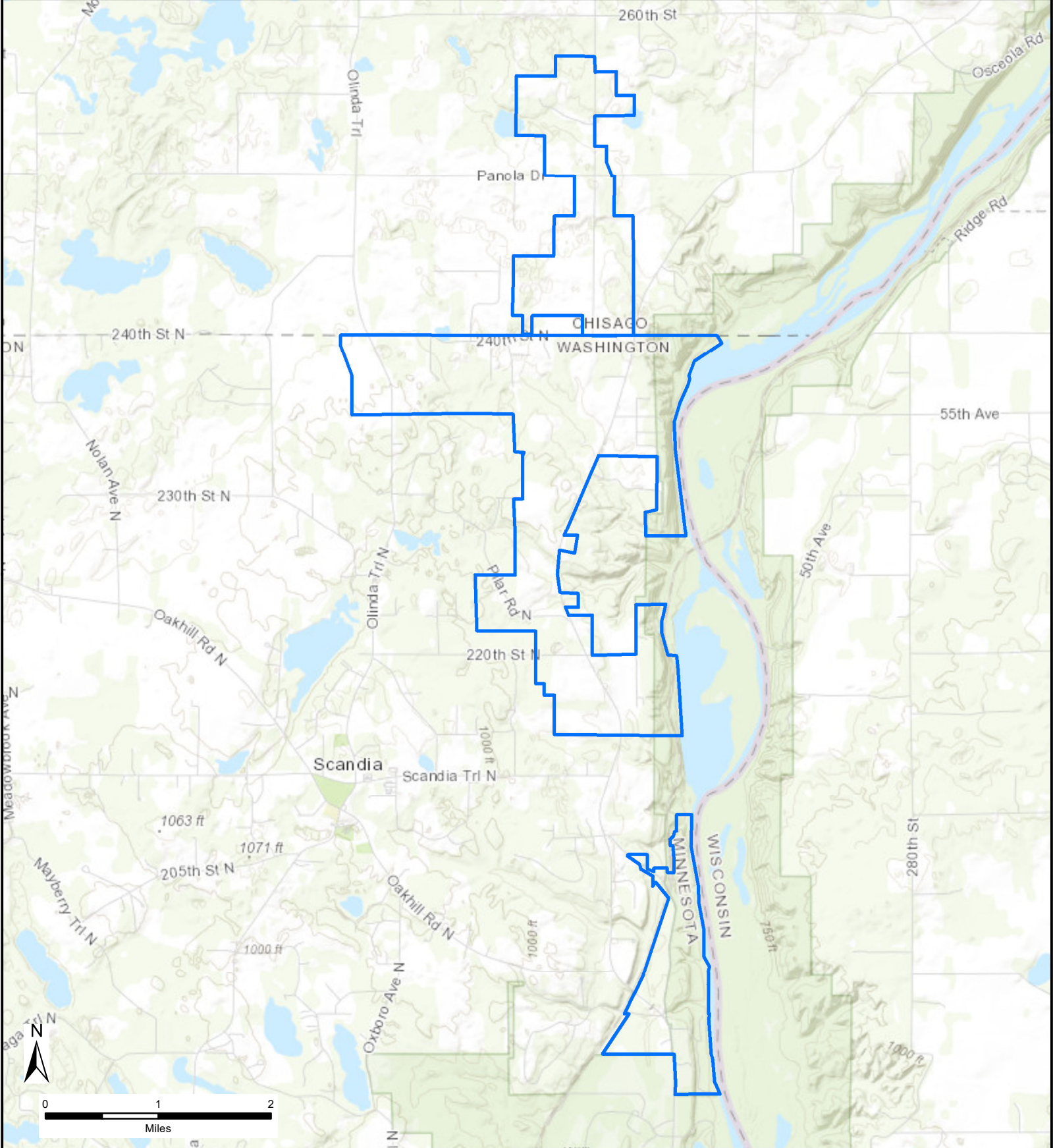
Chase Burnham
County Administrator
Chisago County

cc: Danielle DeVito, MDA

Dan Dahlberg
Vice-Chair, District 5
Chisago County Board of Commissioners

Chisago County Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: 13
Title of Item for Consideration: Broadband Grant Discussion – Midco – Franconia Township	
Action Requested by: Chase Burnham, County Administrator	Department: Administration
Previous Action on this Matter: None.	
Background: Midco is planning to apply again in the current State of Minnesota Border-to-Border grant round. Midco has a proposed project that includes portions of Scandia and Franconia Township. Midco has been in ongoing conversations with Scandia on broadband projects and have done several partnerships with them. <u>There are 43 locations within Chisago County.</u> Midco recognizes financial support might be difficult, but a small amount and/or a letter of support would be very helpful for our B2B application. The total cost of the Franconia portion of the project is \$219,416. Attachment(s): Midco Scandia Map	
Action Requested/Recommended: It is respectfully requested that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners discuss the request from Midco. No motion is requested at this time.	
Implications of Action: If the grant application is approved the County will be Midco in providing Broadband access to 43 sites in Chisago County (Franconia Township). Budget/Financial Implications: None. Legal/Policy Implications: The proposed activities are in compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations and County policies & procedures.	
Administrator's Recommendation	
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____
Other _____	
Motion By:	Seconded by:
To:	
Action on Motion:	Aye _____ Nay _____ Abstain _____



Chisago County Board of Commissioners
May 1st, 2024

Scandia Area

Legend

 Proposed Project Area

ITEM 13

May XX

Minnesota DEED
Office of Broadband Development
332 Minnesota Street
Suite E-200
St. Paul, MN 55101

To The Office of Broadband Development,

The Chisago County Board of Commissioners is in support of the State of Minnesota Border-to-Border Broadband Development Grant application being submitted by Midcontinent Communications (Midco) to expand broadband access to more residents in Franconia Township in Chisago County. As a demonstration of this support, Chisago County is providing a \$XXXX contribution toward this project, contingent on receipt of the Border-to-Border grant.

This area of our community has a demonstrated need for upgraded broadband service, as there are currently limited options that do not provide the speeds and reliability required for current uses. Midco's proposal to deploy fiber broadband infrastructure to this area will be beneficial to the citizens, businesses, and institutions.

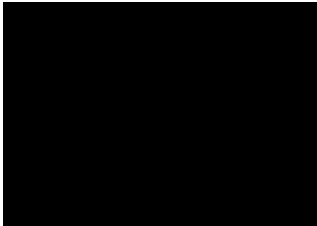
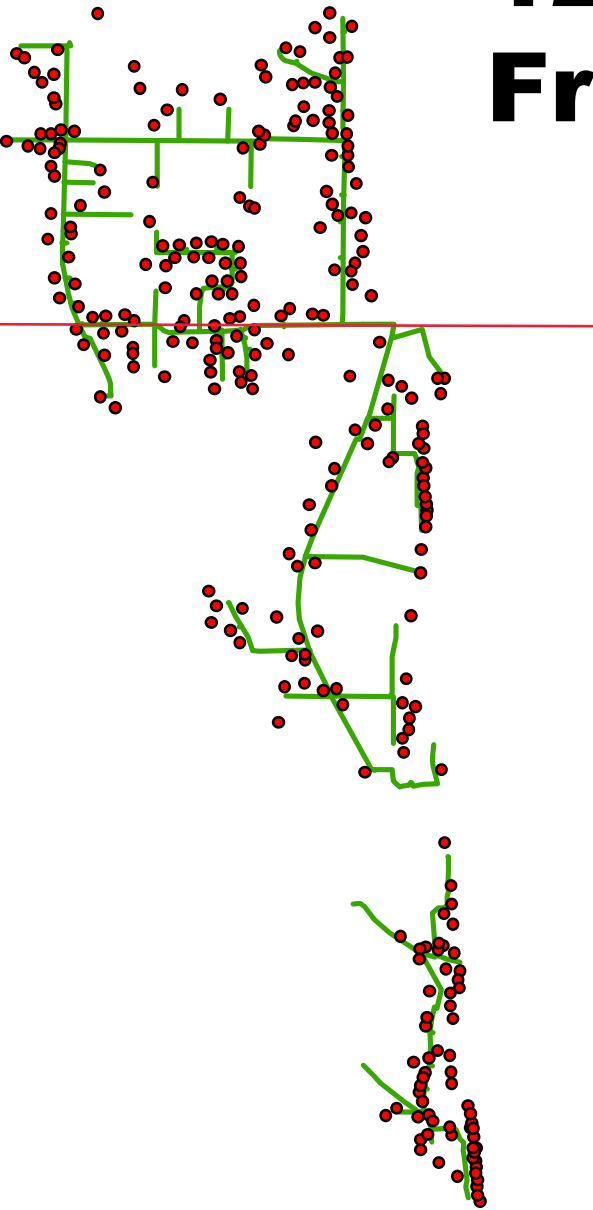
Chisago County has partnered with Midco on several broadband expansion projects in the last few years and, as a Board, we have witnessed Midco's financial and managerial capability to ensure adequate project administration and customer service. We are also confident Midco's proposed project aligns with the broadband deployment goals of the State of Minnesota. We have appreciated the opportunity to partner with Midco on this project and are excited for the possibility of additional broadband expansion in our County.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

123

Franconia



Midco Scandia

3.A Map of Project Area

Legend

- Un/Underserved
- Proposed Construction
- Grant Request Area
- Future Service
- Current Service

Chisago County Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: ***** 14*****
Title of Item for Consideration: Application for Abatement (reduction) of Property Taxes	
Action Requested by: Bridgitte Konrad, County Auditor/Treasurer	Department: Auditor/Treasurer
Previous Action on this Matter: From time to time the Board of Commissioners is asked to address individual Abatement requests.	
Background: The applications are for the abatement (reduction) of property tax for tax payable in 2024. They are recommended by the Assessor's office and Auditor's office for approval. The reductions meet the County's policy for such actions. The following parcels are requesting abatement; Karl Lundeen – 16.00118.00	
Attachment(s): Applications for Abatement (<i>available with Clerk of the Board</i>)	
Action Requested/Recommended: It is respectfully requested that the Chisago County Board of Commissioners approve the applications of abatement of taxes for the tax parcels. The suggested motion is as follows: <i>“Move to approve the application of abatement of taxes for the following tax parcel; 16.00118.00.”</i>	
Implications of Action: By approving the application, the property owner will be paying the appropriate property tax in 2024.	
Budget/Financial Implications: Minimal impact on the County finances and budget.	
Legal/Policy Implications: The proposed activities are in general conformity with applicable state statutes and County authority and policies.	
Administrator's Recommendation	
Approve <u>CEB</u>	Deny _____
Other _____	
Motion By:	Seconded by:
To:	
Action on Motion:	Aye _____ Nay _____ Abstain _____

Chisago County Request For Board Action

Meeting Date: May 1, 2024	Item Number: ***** 15 *****
Title of Item for Consideration: Out-of-State Travel Request – ICAC Conference, Atlanta GA	
Action Requested by: Janet Reiter, County Attorney	Department: Attorney's Office
Previous Action on this Matter: None.	
Background: The Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Conference will be held in Atlanta, GA, June 11-13, 2024. Through the County's membership in a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the Minnesota Crimes Against Children, the County Attorney's Association is eligible for reimbursement for up to \$1,000 of the expenses incurred. The National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation (NLETCE) coordinates this event which will provide training to both law enforcement and prosecutors on the topic of technology-facilitated crimes against children. For prosecutors with a great deal of experience it is vital to take advantage of excellent advanced training when available. Attachment(s): • Out of State Travel Request • Conference Agenda	
Action Requested/Recommended: The County Board is respectfully requested to authorize the Out of state Travel request for Assistant County Attorney Christopher Anderson for the June 11 – 13, 2024 in Atlanta GA for the National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation. The following motion is recommended: <i>“Move to approve the Out-of-State Travel Request for Christopher Anderson to attend the National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation in Atlanta, GA from June 11 – 13, 2024.”</i>	
Implications of Action: Based upon the County Attorney's Office affiliation with the State Internet Crimes Against Children Join Powers Agreement (JPA) a portion of the Travel and accommodations will be reimbursed, Advanced training in specialize areas of prosecution is essential for attorneys handling unique or difficult cases. This type of advanced training may not be available in Minnesota. Budget/Financial Implications: The County Attorney's Office currently as funds available to cover the costs which may be incurred. Legal/Policy Implications: The proposed activities are in general conformity with applicable state statutes and County authority and policies.	

<i>Administrator's Recommendation</i>					
Approve <u>CEB</u>		Deny _____		Other _____	
Motion By:			Seconded by:		
To:					
Action on Motion:		Aye _____		Nay _____	
				Abstain _____	



TRAINING RESOURCES

INTERNET SAFETY

Search training and resources by keyword



CONFERENCE

National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation



Overview

The National Law Enforcement Training on Child Exploitation is a national training event designed to expand the efforts and knowledge base of law enforcement investigators and prosecutors by providing specialized training focused on investigating and prosecuting technology-facilitated crimes against children.

[Learn More](#)

[Venue and Lodging](#)

[Resources](#)

START DATE June 11, 2024

END DATE June 13, 2024

LOCATION Atlanta, GA

CEU CREDITS 0.60

This event has received U.S. DOJ approval. Once you receive an email that you have been approved to attend, you may book travel.

CONTACT National ICAC Task Force Program
info@icact...
[877-798-7682](tel:877-798-7682)

CONTACTS

Task Force
Contacts

OJJDP Contacts

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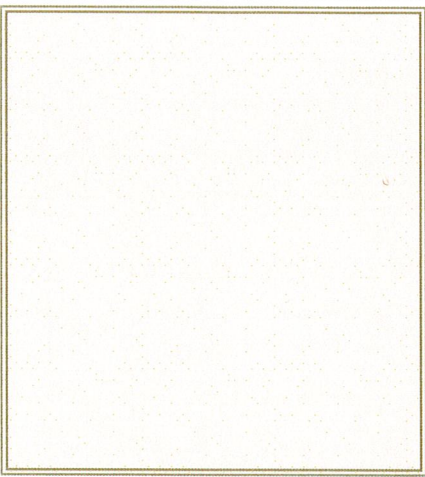


 [877-798-7682](tel:877-798-7682)



info@icactaskforce.org

Chisago County Out-of-State Travel Request

Date Submitted	May 1, 2024	
Employee Name	Chris Anderson	
Department	County Attorney's Office	
Destination	Atlanta, GA	
Purpose of Travel	ATTORNEY 3-DAY INSTITUTE/ICAC CONFERENCE INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING TECHNOLOGY FACILITATED CRIMES	
Departure Date	June 9 (for June 11 Conf Start Date)	
Return Date	13-Jun-24	
Total Travel Expenses	\$1,372.20	
Supervisor Name (PRINT)	Janet Reiter	
Supervisor's Signature		Date Approved 5/1/2024
County Board Signature		Date Approved

Anticipated Expenses

Type of Expense	Description of Expense	Daily Expenses (Except Airfare)	# of Days	Total Expenses
Airfare		\$376.20		\$376.20
Ground Transportation			1	\$0.00
Conference/Registration Fees			1	\$0.00
Lodging		\$175.00	4	\$700.00
Meals		\$74.00	4	\$296.00
Mileage			1	\$0.00
Grand Total				\$1,372.20

MN ICAC will
reimburse up to
\$1,000.00
372.20

CORRESPONDENCE

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Leadership & Overall
Taxes & Fiscal Policy
Bonding & Capital Investment

Transportation
Health & Human Services

General Government & Other
Corrections & Public Safety
Environment

LEADERSHIP AND OVERALL

Friday marked the **arrival of the third committee deadline** – the day by which all finance committees must be done acting on bills. The deadline resulted in a very busy legislative week as committees acted to adopt supplemental budget changes, even as floor sessions were longer with policy bill debates. Friday also marked the beginning of a **legislative break in observance of Passover**, that will run through midday on Wednesday.

The deadline arrival did not alter the reality that resources and committee budget targets are limited. As such, the dollar value of supplemental budget and tax changes released and adopted by committees this week were modest relative to 2023, although some bills found additional flexibility by repurposing some funds appropriated last session. Despite the modest targets, various policy and budget proposals impacting the work of counties are progressing toward the goal line in the closing weeks of session, including policy and funding response to *Tyler Decision* (tax-forfeited lands), authority for cities and counties to impose a local sales tax for certain capital projects, various health and human service adjustments, and modifications to the Greenhouse Gas Assessment requirement enacted in 2023.

We are hearing the House will reveal a proposed bonding package early the week of April 29. Bonding bills must originate in the House, and a House package typically sets a key baseline for a press to enactment of a comprehensive bill.

Additionally, we anticipate the legislature will combine various supplemental budget bills in the coming weeks as the two bodies coordinate to organize the limited remaining legislative days (17). For example, on Friday the Senate Finance Committee combined the Agriculture and Broadband (SF3955) and Commerce (SF5301) bills into Energy and Climate (SF4942). Other combinations may include: Housing (SF4158), Labor (SF5266) and Transportation (SF5284) bills; Health and Human Services; and Economic Development, Workforce Development, and Jobs.

Again, just 17 more days to meet in floor session to process all omnibus bills, and potentially send them to conference committee, receive and pass completed conference reports. Likely it means Chairs are actively engaging with each other to sort out differences in advance of conference committees.

TAX & FISCAL POLICY

LAST WEEK

2024 HOUSE TAX BILL Passed by House Tax Committee: On Monday, the House Property Tax Division, Chaired by Rep. Dave Lislegard (St. Louis), passed property, local tax, and minerals and taconite production tax revenue recommendations. Those recommendations along with proposed state tax changes were incorporated into **HF5247, the 2024 House Tax Bill**, authored by Tax Committee Chair Aisha Gomez (DFL-Minneapolis). The bill draft ([A24 DE](#)

[Amendment](#)) was revealed on Tuesday. After taking public testimony on Thursday, and considering amendments on Friday, the bill as amended was approved and re-referred to House Ways and Means. Key provisions affecting counties include:

- **Increased Local Homeless Prevention Aid; Aid made Permanent:** Article 2, Section 24 would increase this broadly supported aid by \$5 million in 2024 only. Section 28 repeals the program sunset to make the aid permanent after 2028.
- **Cities and Counties Authorized to Impose a Local Sales Tax:** Article 6 proposes to codify most recommendations put forward by the [Local Tax Advisory Task Force](#), which met over the legislative interim. Article 6 would provide a statutory framework whereby cities and counties could impose a local sales tax — after gaining approval from local voters — without having to come to the legislature for special law authorization. The authority could only be used for specified capital projects of regional significance as defined in statute. The language now includes correctional, district court and law enforcement facilities. SF5424 (Rest), a bill containing similar language was heard in the Senate last week. A high level, partial comparison of the House and Senate versions (to date) is provided below.
- **One-time, SCORE Grant Increase:** Article 9, Section 2 provides a \$1.821 million increase to SCORE grants to counties in FY2025 only. The funds would come from the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) revenues that are deposited into the state General Fund, and even though only one-time, encourages a trend toward fully shifting all SWMT revenues to solid waste management activities.
- **Various property tax base modifications:**
 - **Institutions of public charity:** Article 2, Section 1 would require charitable organizations to occupy and provide services from a property in order to receive an exemption on the property if it is used to provide rental housing. This modification responds to the recent State Supreme Court decision in *Alliance Housing v. Hennepin County*.
 - **Homestead Resorts:** Article 2, Section 5, increases the classification tier thresholds for class 1c homestead resorts, from \$600,000 to \$1,100,000 for the first tier, and from \$1,700,000 to \$2,600,000 for the second tier. The change would be effective assessment year 2025.
 - **Abatements for “Land Bank Organizations,”** defined as an organization that acquires, holds, or manages vacant, blighted, foreclosed, or tax-forfeited property for future development, redevelopment, or disposal (Article 2, sections 18-21). A land bank organization must be either (1) a nonprofit organization with a governing board whose members are elected or appointed by a unit of government, an agency of a unit of government, or whose members are elected or appointed officials of a unit of government, or (2) a limited liability company of which such a nonprofit is the sole member. Local governments could then abate property taxes on property, for up to five years, if the property will be used for the development of affordable housing and property that is held by a land bank organization for future development. Repayment of an abatement, with interest, would be required if the land for which the abatement was granted is used for a purpose other than the purpose given by the land bank organization, prior to redevelopment.
 - **Establishment of a Land-Value Taxation District** (Article 9, sections 3-7): Allows the governing body of a city to establish a land-value taxation district by ordinance. The ordinance would need to describe the area included in the district, the procedure for reallocating property tax among the parcels in the district, such as other than by EMV or RMV, and a plan for the evaluation of the economic effects of the district. There are a variety of potential administrative intersections and complexities for county property tax administrators and MICA has shared some of those concerns.
- Article 3 contains various provisions related to the **taconite production tax distributions** and the Iron Range, including increasing the maximums for the taconite homestead credit, changing the property tax statement for commercial-industrial property in the Iron Range Fiscal Disparities, and modifying the distribution of the taconite production tax.

- **Emerald ash borer (EAB) financial assistance** (Article 9 section 8): provides \$1.0 million in FY2025 only, to reimburse homeowners with incomes below 200% of FPG for tree removal or treatment costs. The aid would be administered through cities or towns over 10,000 for costs incurred in 2020 or after, for trees infected with EAB that the owner was required to remove by state law or local ordinance.

TAX FORFEITED LAND POLICY BILL Progresses: Progress continued toward amending the state’s forfeiture laws for non-payment of property tax gained traction last week as [SF4985](#) (Westlin) was heard in [Senate Judiciary and Public Safety](#). The bill was approved, and re-referred to Senate Tax Committee. The proposed changes maintain the tax forfeiture structure but modify the law to require a sale, which will set the value of the property, and provide for a claims process that allows for excess proceeds from sales of tax-forfeited property to be distributed to interested parties in acknowledgement of the *Tyler Ruling*. [HF4822-2E](#) (Feist) has been re-referred to House Tax Committee. Counties continue to work with bill authors to strengthen various administrative and technical aspects of the legislation.

SENATE TAX COMMITTEE HEARINGS: The [Senate Tax Committee](#) met three days last week.

- On Tuesday, the Committee heard [SF5424](#) (Rest), the Senate approach to authorizing cities and counties to impose a local sales tax Local sales and use taxes (see discussion above). The bill hearing was preceded by a presentation of the [Local Taxes Advisory Task Force Report](#) by the Commissioner of Revenue, as well as a presentation of the Governor’s tax recommendations (SF 5234). Other bills were also on the agenda.
- Wednesday’s hearing was allocated to nearly a dozen TIF special laws and other local proposals, while Thursday’s hearing included [SF4007](#) (Hauschild) proposing a study of property tax refunds, and [SF5435](#) (Hauschild), a bill modifying various mineral taxes and Iron Range property taxes, authorizing transfers and distributions of tax proceeds authorization, and authorizing the IRRRB to issue nearly \$80 million in bonds for specified local projects.

Local Tax Advisory Task Force Recommendations	HF 5247 (Gomez) – 2024 House Tax Bill	SF5424 (Rest), as amended, laid over.
Cities or counties could impose a local sales tax—subject to various procedural and other requirements—for capital projects that meet the following definitions. (See Table 4 on Page 13 of report).		
• Airport – regional by function and use.	Not included.	Airport" means an airport not subject to the governance of the MAC under 473.601 to 473.679.
• Library —a library that is part of a regional public library system as designated by Minn. Stats. 134.20.	Same.	Similar but excludes a library board within the metropolitan area.
• Regional Sports Complex — defined area of sports pavilions, stadiums, gymnasiums, swimming pools, or similar facilities where members of the public engage in physical exercise, participate in athletic competitions, witness sporting events, and host regional tournaments.	Same. Requires an analysis of the region such that there is no similar facilities within 15 miles (outside the metropolitan area) or 8-miles within the seven-county metropolitan area. Also, entry fees must be charged equally to residents and non-residents.	Same definition.
• Regional Community Centers —a minimum 10,000-square-foot structure expressly designed and constructed for the purposes of recreational, cultural, educational, or public group activities, or for civic	Not included.	Similar definition.

Local Tax Advisory Task Force Recommendations	HF 5247 (Gomez) – 2024 House Tax Bill	SF5424 (Rest), as amended, laid over.
engagement or social support, serving both residents and nonresidents of the community.		
• Convention Center— expressly designed and constructed for the purposes of presenting conventions, public meetings, and exhibitions and includes parking facilities that serve the center. The convention center must have a minimum of 50,000 SF for exhibit and meeting spaces.	Same.	Similar definition.
• Park - meets 3 of 5 criteria to be considered a regional park under the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.	Meets ‘the five’ criteria.	Similar to Task Force but must be located in a county outside of the metropolitan county area.
• Trail— meets 3 of 5 criteria to be considered a regional trail under the Parks and Trails Legacy Plan.	Meets ‘the five’ criteria.	Similar to Task Force but must be located in a county outside of the metropolitan county area.
• Criminal Justice facilities: Many facilities are multifunction and the Task Force focused on three core capital projects: correctional facility, district court facilities, and law enforcement centers. The Task Force recommendations recognize that projects may be done in conjunction with one another. Additional analysis and requirements apply to criminal justice facilities.	"Correctional facility" - a public facility licensed and inspected by the commissioner of corrections, established and operated for the detention and confinement of adults or juveniles, including but not limited to programs or facilities operating under chapter 401, secure juvenile detention facilities, municipal holding facilities, juvenile temporary holdover facilities, regional or local jails, lockups, workhouses, work farms, and detention facilities. Demonstration of need requires official correspondence from DOC that includes an analysis of the facility and description of improvements needed; if a joint project, the joint powers agreement or other official documentation; for courts, a description of the age of the facility and improvements needed Same definition for "Law enforcement center." A political subdivision must provide resolutions of surrounding counties, towns or cities affirming that the law enforcement center will meet their needs. "District court" means one of the ten judicial districts.	Same definition of ‘correctional facility.’” "Law enforcement center" means a facility that serves multiple communities and provides public safety functions, including a fire or police station and a facility that provides emergency 911 and dispatch functions, training facilities, court security and support, emergency operations, evidence and record retention, and other public safety services. District court facilities included but not defined.
	"Specified capital project" means a convention center, library, correctional-facility, district court, law enforcement center, park, sports complex, or trail. A specified capital project must serve a regional population, provide economic	

Local Tax Advisory Task Force Recommendations	HF 5247 (Gomez) – 2024 House Tax Bill	SF5424 (Rest), as amended, laid over.
	development benefits and opportunities, or draw nonresident individuals to the region.	

THIS WEEK

The legislature is on break for observance of Passover through Wednesday midday. The Senate Tax Committee has scheduled one hearing for [Thursday](#); the House Tax Committee has no meetings scheduled for this week.

House [Ways and Means](#) and Senate [Finance Committee](#) are both anticipated to schedule and have fluid agendas over the coming weeks to process bills approved by lower-level finance committees.

BONDING AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT

LAST WEEK

On April 8th, the House passed HF3631 (Lee), modifying dozens of previously authorized capital projects to ensure those projects can proceed as intended, by a vote of 98-32. That legislation was taken up by the Senate on Monday, and the Senate passed the bill 57-9.

Also last week, the House Capital Investment Committee heard various local project requests authored a mix of Republicans and Democrats. On Wednesday, the Committee agenda included two capital investment policy bills:

- [HF5287](#) (Lee) – clarifies what is included in ‘state share’ and ‘non-state share’ for local projects. Under current law, the intent is for the state capital grants to make-up no more than 50% of project costs. The clarification would be that the ‘state-share’ includes state assistance in any manner, including but not limited to a direct appropriation, a grant awarded through a grant program administered by a state entity, or a combination of state assistance appropriated and granted by multiple state entities. The nonstate share of a project may be funded by federal, local, private, or other funds, or a combination thereof, from nonstate sources.
- [HF5384](#) (Lee) requires recipients of certain state capital grants to display notice on the property of the state contribution for the local project. For water infrastructure projects, the notice must be included in utility bills and for performance venues, the notice must be included on the website where the venues performances are advertised, and on-site.

The Senate Capital Investment Committee did not meet last week.

THIS WEEK

On Wednesday, the [House Capital Investment Committee](#) has scheduled a dozen mainly local project requests for hearing, as the Committee continues to build toward an overall bonding package for 2024.

Our intel is that the House will reveal its 2024 bill early the week of April 30, setting in motion the formal final push of Committee hearings and floor action.

The Senate Capital Investment Committee is not scheduled to meet this week.

TRANSPORTATION

The House and Senate met on Monday and Thursday. The two houses did not vote on any transportation related bills. On Monday, the county engineers and lobbyists held their regular weekly meetings. Several one-on-one legislators meetings also occurred. It was a busy committee week with the third committee deadline on Friday, April 19th. The House and Senate transportation committees met five times with their work focused on the presentation, discussion, amending and passing of the Omnibus Transportation Supplemental Finance Bill which concluded on Friday, April 19th.

LAST WEEK

Some of the major items in the House and Senate Transportation bills being considered by the committees in both bodies include:

- \$9 to \$10 million general funds for small cities to compensate for a delay in receiving funds from the Transportation Advancement Account;
- \$10 million for the Blue Line anti displacement community prosperity program;
- A requirement that the Met Council design, construct and fund ADA and other required improvements to all four quadrants on intersections where there is a BRT top, the provision prioritizes areas benefit for areas where BRT lines are most prevalent (Hennepin, Ramsey, parts of Anoka in the near term);
- A requirement that all buses purchased in Minnesota after 2030 be zero-emission buses;
- Designation of a bridge on US Highway 212 in Granite Falls as the Dave Smiglewski Memorial Bridge.
- Spending out of the Trunk Highway Fund for: Priority bridges, capital facilities, truck parking improvements, greenhouse gas emission analysis and planning and landscape partnerships.
- Pilot program for speed camera enforcement in trunk highway work zones.
- Modifications to Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment language passed last year.
- Requirement for purchasing zero-emission buses.

Work continues on the requirement that the Met Council design, construct and fund certain aspects of BRT projects.

Improvements were made to the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Assessment language passed last year. Counties prefer and support the Senate language related to membership of the Technical Advisory Committee and their approach to funding.

The following were the committee agendas for the week:

Monday, April 15 — Senate Transportation

Agenda:

- **SF 5117** Hawj, Lights On grant program establishment
- **SF5285** Dibble, Metropolitan Council annual transportation financial review requirement provision
- **SF5353** Dibble, County transportation sales and use tax county requirements modification; deduction to sales tax proceeds allowance.

Tuesday, April 16 -- House Transportation Finance and Policy

Agenda:

- **HF5242** (Hornstein) Tribal worksite training program authorized, transportation facilities capital program established, collection of passenger rail user fees and revenue authorized, previous appropriations modified, driver's license testing funding provided, and money appropriated.
- **HF5057** (Tabke) Lights On grant program established, and money appropriated.
- **HF5182** (F. Lee) Annual transportation financial review by Metropolitan Council required.

- **HF5220** (F. Lee) Spending authorized to acquire and better public land and buildings and for other improvements of a capital nature, new programs established, and existing programs modified, prior appropriations modified, bonds issued, and money appropriated. (Informational, no official action.)
- **HF3588** (F. Lee) Zero-emission transit bus transition provided, and money appropriated.

Wednesday, April 17 – Senate Transportation

Agenda:

- **SF5284** Dibble, Tribal worksite training program authorization, transportation facilities capital program establishment, appropriations modifications, and appropriations SF 5284 is the Transportation supplemental fiscal omnibus bill.
 - [scs5284a-3 omnibus DE \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Supp Transpo Finance Bill List rev \(PDF\)](#)
 - [SF 5284 Supp Transpo Finance spreadsheet \(PDF\)](#)
 - [scs2026ce2 \(PDF\)](#)

Thursday, April 18—House Transportation

Agenda:

- Rollout, testimony, markup and vote of HF5242 (Hornstein) Transportation Supplemental Budget Bill.
- H5242DE1 is the Transportation Supplemental Budget Bill (Linked Below).
- Public Testimony: If you would like to testify you must email the request to Matt.Baumann@house.mn.gov by 2:00 PM Wednesday, April 17. Testifier time may be limited.

Committee Documents:

- [HF5242 DE1 - Transportation Budget Bill](#)
- [Transportation Budget Bill Spreadsheet](#)
- [HF5242 A6 Author's Amendment](#)
- [HF5242 A3 Author's Amendment](#)
- [HF5242 DE1 - Transportation Budget Bill Research Summary](#)

Friday April 19 – Senate Transportation

Agenda:

- **SF5284** Dibble, Tribal worksite training program authorization, transportation facilities capital program establishment, appropriations modifications, and appropriations
 - [scs5284a-3 omnibus DE \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Supp Transportation Finance Bill List rev \(PDF\)](#)

BILL INTRODUCTIONS OF INTEREST

- **Senators Carlson and Dibble introduced: S.F. No 4896**, amending requirements governing pavement life-cycle cost analyses.
- **Senators Howe and Jasinski introduced: S.F. No. 5310**, amending a surcharge on all-electric vehicles.
- **Koznick; Anderson, P.E.; McDonald; Backer; Igo; Robbins; Harder; Niska; Schomacker and Gillman introduced: H.F. No. 4504**, repealing the retail delivery tax.
- **Schultz, Petersburg, Scott and Torkelson introduced: H.F. No. 5334**, requiring a legislative report on trunk highway project cultural resources expenditures; appropriating money.

THIS WEEK

The legislature will not be in session Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday morning due to Passover. The Transportation Omnibus Finance Bill contains some controversial provisions, passing the House Transportation Committee on a party-

line vote. It now advances to the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill passed the Senate Transportation Committee on a bi-partisan vote but many amendments were offered with several accepted. Discussion will continue on several issues including BRT funding involving the Met Council, Hennepin County and the suburban collar counties.

Serious work will continue on a bonding bill. MICA's top priorities of increased funding for local roads and bridges and the Local Road Wetland Mitigation Program are in play. MICA continues to work hard to get them into the House and Senate bonding bills. Finally, several meetings are scheduled with individual legislators.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LAST WEEK

Most committees held their final meetings last week with members marking up, debating and voting on comprehensive supplemental budget bills to meet Friday's final deadline. That deadline does not apply to the taxes, bonding, or ways and means committees, however, so they will soon take center stage.

OMNIBUS BILLS:

SENATE OMNIBUS HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET BILL

[SF5335](#) (Hoffman; DFL-Champlin)

[SF5335 Delete-All Spreadsheet](#)

[SF5335 Bill List](#)

On Wednesday, the Senate Human Services Finance Committee approved SF5335; it now goes to the Senate Finance Committee – where it will be heard on Friday. The bill appropriates \$42.4 million in FY25 and \$14.96 million in FY26-27 to the Departments of Human Services and Corrections for disability services, aging services, substance use disorder services, civil commitment matters, and direct care and treatment services. The bill creates a new office dedicated to preventing homelessness and promoting housing support services.

What's in the bill:

Disability Services:

- Eliminates parental fees for families when a child is living in a children's residential facility (CRF), a psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF), a residential treatment center (RTC), or an Intermediate Care Facilities for persons with Developmental Disabilities (ICF/DD). *\$239,000/year; ongoing*
- Modifies home and community-based services standards for out-of-home respite services for children and requires background studies. *\$155,000 (FY25); \$1.7 million (FY26-27).*
- **Modifies experience requirements for certified MnCHOICES assessors who are RNs and extends the validity of MnCHOICES assessments from 60 days to 365 days.** An amendment was added which **allows for 20 "business" days for initial visit and allows reassessments to be done every 3 years for individuals whose situation will not change.** DHS testified that this intersects with the Federal government and, therefore, will carry a cost. Senator Hoffman left the provision in for now and will further review when the bill gets to Finance.
- Establishes the advisory task force on family residential services. Includes one county member; first meeting no later than 10/1/24; report due 3/15/25. *\$653,000 (FY25).*
- Permits lead agencies to establish assistive technology partnerships to facilitate timely authorizations of allowable technology and assess the benefits of the use of technology among HCBS waiver recipients. Allows counties to prioritize individuals who desire to participate in the partnership. No cost
- Establishes the **Legislative Task Force on Guardianship**; includes one member appointed by MACSSA. Task Force report due 1/16/27. Task Force expires upon submission of report. *\$400,000 (FY25)* to the Council on Disabilities.
- Permits state-only funding of PCA services provided by parents and spouses beginning 10/1/24. *\$4.8 million*

(FY25).

Aging Services:

- **Establishes elderly waiver budget and rate exceptions for high-need participants** and require the commissioner to propose EW reforms to address the needs of older adults with high support needs. Effective 1/1/26 or upon federal approval - whichever is later.

Priority Admissions and Civil Commitment; \$5.7 million (FY25); \$10.2 million (FY26-27):

- Modifies the priority admissions standards for patients being admitted to DCT programs from jails and correctional institutions; requires exceptions to the priority given to patients in jails and correctional institutions for 10 patients in community hospitals; and establishes a priority admissions review board to develop further recommendations regarding admissions to DCT programs and monitor implementation of the new prioritization standards.
 - Mental Health/Substance Abuse; \$977,000 (FY25); \$2 million (FY26-27).
 - **Forensic Services; \$7.12 million (FY25); \$13.2 million (FY26-27).**
 - Cost of Care Collections; *state savings (\$3.1 million) (FY25); (\$6.2 million) (FY26-27).*
- **Beltrami and Todd Counties debt forgiveness** for certain cost of care payments; \$725,000 (FY25).
- **Prohibits the closure** of or modification of the population served by the community addiction recovery enterprise (CARE) program in Carlton County.
- Creates an **Engagement Services Pilot Program in Otter Tail County; \$250,000 (FY25).**
- Establishes a Civil Commitment Reform Task Force; includes two county representatives. Report required by 8/1/25; Task Force expires 1/1/26.
- Establishes Direct Care and Treatment as a separate agency; specifies the organization and requirements of the executive board. CEO appointed by Governor; requires Senate approval; CEO would be the chair. Voting members:
 - (1) one licensed physician;
 - (2) two members with experience on hospital or non-profit board; and
 - (3) **three members with experience:**
 - (i) public labor union representative;
 - **(ii) in the delivery of behavioral health or care coordination** or traditional healing services;
 - (iii) licensed health care professional;
 - (iv) within health care administration; or
 - (v) residential services.

Voting members must not have been an employee of DCT, a county, an employee of a labor union representing DCT employees, or a member of the Legislature the year prior to appointment. Voting members must be approved by the Senate.

Spreadsheet only:

- Line 155: Reducing Recidivism and prevention overdoses – funding for a federal reentry 1115 Medicaid waiver; \$636,000 (FY25)
- Line 277: Funding for a Health Awareness Hub Pilot Project and HCBS Compliance Support Grants; \$1 million (FY25)
- Line 284: Additional funding for caregiver respite care services grants; \$4.4 million (FY25)
- Line 291: Funding for caregiver support programs with an ALS-specific respite service; \$5 million (FY25)
- Line 303: **Establishes a Dakota County Disability Services Workforce Shortage Pilot; \$1.2 million (FY25)**

HOUSE OMNIBUS HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET BILL

[HF5280](#) (Noor; DFL-Minneapolis)

[HF5280 Delete-All Spreadsheet](#)

[HF5280 Bill List](#)

On Thursday, the House Human Services Finance Committee approved HF5280; it now goes to the House Ways and Means Committee. The bill appropriates \$42.13 million in FY25 and \$14.86 million in FY26-27 to the Departments of Human Services and Corrections for disability services, aging services, substance use disorder services, civil commitment matters, and direct care and treatment services.

What's in the bill:

- **The biggest appropriations are \$7.18 million in FY25 and \$13.22 million in FY26-27 for forensic services - specialized mental health treatment for patients who have been charged with a crime and are civilly committed as mentally ill and dangerous.**
- \$7.69 million in FY25 to expand a nursing home loan program.
- \$4.83 million in FY25 for a new program to pay parents and spouses for serving as PCAs for their loved ones who require physical assistance with daily living activities. The Minnesota program was approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.
- \$1.65 million in FY25 and \$4.29 million in FY26-27 for a **new program to help individuals eligible for MA to enroll prior to re-entering their community after serving time in a correctional facility.**

Disability Services:

- Elimination of parental fees for parents with incomes over 275% of FPG whose children receive MA in disability or residential settings; \$239K (FY25); *ongoing*.
- Sec. 9, 12, 15, 17; targeted case management provided under contract; counties required to issue an RFP at least every 2 years.
- Sec. 10-11: **MnCHOICES; credentialing change by striking requirement of two years' experience in home and community based services.** Increases **duration of validity of assessments from 60 to 365 days.**

Aging Services:

- Sec. 4: **Amends 2023 nursing home facility loan program by expanding eligibility to all providers of long term services and supports.** *Spreadsheet, line 291; \$7.7 million (FY25).*

Article 3: Substance Use Disorder Services:

- Section 1: Modifies the Opiate Response Fund allocation and eliminate OEARC sunset; no cost.
- Sec. 11, 19: Adds the director of the Office of Addiction and Recovery as an ex officio non-voting member of OERAC. Eliminates sunset of OERAC fund.
- Sec. 12: Allows counties and Tribes to use its portions of the opioid settlement dollars for prevention and modifies distribution formula based on intake data from previous three calendar years.
- Sec. 13, 14, 17, 18: **Directs DHS to submit an 1115 waiver application to CMS to implement an MA demonstration project to provide health care and coordination services in state, local, or Tribal correctional facilities prior to community reentry.** Directs DHS to establish capacity-building grants for local correctional facilities to prepare to implement demonstration services. Effective 1/1/26, or upon federal approval.
 - DOC: *\$1.65 million (FY25); \$4.3 million (FY26-27)*
 - DHS: *\$4.9 million (FY25); \$8.3 million (FY26-27)*
- Social Determinants of Health; *\$500K (nutrition supports); Spreadsheet, line 201*
- Subd. 7 creates a **Reentry Services Working Group** that includes appointments from AMC and MACSSA. Effective 7/1/24.

Priority Admissions and Civil Commitment: *\$12.6 million (FY25); \$8.9 million (FY26-27)*

Spreadsheet: 124-137:

- Mental Health/Substance Abuse Treatment Services: *\$977K (FY25); ongoing*
- **Forensic Services: \$7.2 million (FY25); \$13.2 million (FY26-27)**
- DCT Support Services; *\$2.4 million (FY25); \$31K (FY26)*
- **Cost of Care Collections: savings; (\$3.067 million) (FY25); (\$6.2 million) (FY26-27)**

- **Mental Health Innovation Grants; \$2.3 million (FY25)**
- **Engagement Services Pilot Program; \$1.5 million (FY25)**
- **Injectable Medication Pilot; \$1 million (FY25)**
- **Repeal of 2024 Locked IRTS appropriation; state savings (\$2.8 million) (FY24)**
- **Locked IRTS Start-Up Grant; \$1 million (FY25)**
- **DCT Support Services Miller Building Planning; \$1.8 million (FY25)**
- **Sec. 3: Beltrami County cost of care reimbursement for 7/1/22, through 6/30/23. \$336,680 (FY25).**
- **Sec. 4: Creates MI&D Civil Commitment Reform Task Force;** includes appointments by AMC and MACSSA. Effective 7/1/24; first meeting shall occur no later than 9/1/24. A legislative report is due 8/1/25. The Task Force expires on 1/1/26.
- **Sec. 5: Creates the Engagement Services Pilot program** to provide grants to counties or certified community behavioral health clinics that have a letter of support from a county for those services. *\$1.5 million (FY25).*
- **Sec. 6: Permits DHS to approve an exception to add up to 10 civilly-committed patients awaiting hospital admission to the waiting list for admission to medically-appropriate DCT beds.**
- **Sec. 7: Directs DHS to establish a pilot program that provides payments to counties to support county correctional facilities in delivering injectable medications.** A summary of program results is due 12/15/25. *\$1 million (FY25).*

DCT Executive Board; Spreadsheet, line 251; \$482,000 (FY25)

- **Sec. 34: Executive Board Membership; Governance. Effective 7/1/24.**
 - Voting members:
 - (1) one licensed physician;
 - (2) two members with experience on hospital or non-profit board, and
 - (3) **three members with experience:**
 - **(i) in the delivery of behavioral health or care coordination** or traditional healing services;
 - (ii) licensed health care professional;
 - (iii) within health care administration; or
 - (iv) residential services.

Voting members must not have been an employee of DCT, a county, an employee of a labor union representing DCT employees, or a member of the Legislature the year prior to appointment.

Appropriations: Spreadsheet

- **Line 238: Dakota County Disability Services Workforce Shortage Pilot Project; \$1.2 million (FY25)**

SENATE OMNIBUS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET BILL

[SF4699](#) (Wiklund; DFL-Bloomington)

[SF4699 Delete-All Spreadsheet](#)

[SF4699 Bill List](#)

On Thursday, the Senate Health and Human Services Finance Committee passed SF4699 and sent it to the Finance Committee. The bill appropriates \$36.5 million in FY25 and \$24.8 million in FY26-27 to the Departments of Human Services and Health.

What's in the bill:

DHS Appropriations:

- **SSIS modernization; \$10.4 million (FY25)**
- **County Administered Rural MA; \$272,000 (FY25)**

Child Protection:

- African American Preservation Act; *\$1.8million (FY25)*
- Child Maltreatment Reporting System Study; *\$136,000 (FY25)*
- Child Protection Advisory Council; *\$317,000 (FY25)*
- Child Mortality Review Panel Modifications; *\$275,000 (FY25); \$638,000 (FY26-27)*
- Child Protection Advisory Council; *\$464,000 (FY25)*

Mental Health:

- Ramsey County Youth Mental Health Urgency Room; *\$1.5 million (FY25)*
- Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation; *\$1 million (FY25)*
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) modifications; *\$225,00/year; ongoing*
- Additional funding for Respite Services; *\$3 million (FY25)*
- Additional funding for School-Linked Behavioral Health grants; *\$3 million (FY25)*
- Mental Health provider rate increases; *\$5.7 million (FY25); \$14.1 million (FY26-27)*
- **MA Mental Health Benefit Development; \$1.2 million (FY25)**
 - Clubhouse services
 - Children's residential step down service
 - **Children's crisis stabilization services; \$300,000 (FY25)**
 - First Episode Psychosis

Child Care:

- Weighted Risk System for Licensed Child Care Providers; *\$228,000 (FY25); \$244K (FY26-27)*
- Department of Children, Youth and Families; *\$824,000 (FY25); \$3.3 million (FY26-27)*
- Child Care Improvement Grants; *\$500,000 (FY25)*
- Family Child Care Ombudsperson; *\$350,000/year; ongoing*

Housing/Homelessness:

- Pregnant/Parenting Homeless Youth Study; *\$102,000 (FY25)*

MDH Appropriations:

- Grant to MMA to address health care worker well-being; *\$526K (FY25)*
- RFI: Statewide Health Care Needs and Capacity and Future Health Care Needs; *\$250,000 (FY25)*
- American Indian Birth Center Planning Grant; *\$368,000 (FY25)*
- Grant to Birth Justice Collaborative for African American-Focused Homeplace Model; *\$263,000 (FY25)*

HOUSE OMNIBUS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET BILL

[HF4571](#) (Liebling; DFL-Rochester)

[HF4571 Delete-All Spreadsheet](#)

[HF4571 Bill List](#)

Chair Liebling was able to increase her committee's \$9.5 million [budget target](#) to a \$43 million budget proposal through reappropriations and access to other budget resources. The House Health Finance and Policy Committee passed the bill on Friday. Major budget categories include \$26 million for mental health; \$8 million for insurance improvements; and \$3.5 million for pharmacy provision. On a vote of 11-7, the House Health Committee passed the bill and referred it to Ways and Means.

What's in the bill:

- **Directs DHS to consult with stakeholders, including counties, to develop a covered benefit under MA for children's residential mental health crisis.**
- Child mental health grants; *\$8.11 million (FY25); \$17.89 million (FY26-27).*

- Pharmacies; \$552,000 (FY25); *\$1.35 million (FY26-27)* to increase the MA dispensing fee under fee-for-service from \$10.77 to \$11.55, effective July 1, 2024.
- Requires health insurance plans and MA to cover orthotics and prosthetics devices, supplies, and services; *\$1.05 million (FY25); \$5.42 million (FY26-27)* for MA grants and MinnesotaCare grants.

Policy provisions:

- **Bans flavors in cannabis products; note flavor ban in tobacco NOT included.**
- Establishes requirements for the conversion of nonprofit health service plan corporations and nonprofit HMOs, and gives the Health Department oversight authority for health maintenance organization transactions.
- Prohibits health plans and MA from requiring prior authorization or step therapy for HIV preexposure prophylaxis, unless certain conditions related to access to a therapeutic equivalent are met.
- **Allows pharmacists to prescribe, dispense, and administer drugs to prevent HIV, and to order, conduct, and interpret related lab tests.**
- Requires health plans and MA coverage of scalp hair prostheses to include coverage for other health conditions (beyond alopecia areata) and the treatment of cancer; also covers related equipment and accessories.
- Requires providers to make their policy on medical debt collection publicly available; prohibits providers from denying services due to medical debt; and regulates billing and payment for miscoded medical services.
- Requires hospital and hospital campuses to provide notice of public hearing for any voluntary closure, curtailment of operations, relocation, or cessation of certain services, and establishes a right of first refusal for a local unit of government before a hospital or hospital campus may be sold or offered for sale.
- Establishes licensure and requirements for natural organic reduction (human composting).
- Establishes requirements for health plan coverage of amino acid-based formula and requires MA coverage to comply with the requirements for private sector coverage.
- Establishes requirements for health plan coverage and MA coverage of rapid whole genome sequencing.

NOT included in the House HHS bill is the expansion of MinnesotaCare to allow a public option for low-income Minnesotans. Note that Governor Walz’s budget recommendations included an appropriation of \$72 million for the proposal.

HOUSE OMNIBUS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES BUDGET BILL

[HF2476](#) (Pinto; DFL-St. Paul)

[HF2476 Delete-All Spreadsheet](#)

[HF2476 Delete-All Summary](#)

On Thursday, the House Children and Families Committee passed its omnibus bill and sent it to Ways and Means. It appropriates \$34.37 million from the General Fund in the 2024-25 biennium in supplemental funding for early childhood programs. It also modifies some child welfare and child care licensing programs and makes technical changes to existing laws. **One of the largest appropriations is the \$9 million to continue work to fix the outdated Social Services Information System (SSIS) used by more than 6,000 workers around the state to track and manage child welfare case work. Nonpartisan House Fiscal Analysis staff said the appropriation would also draw down federal funds, so total funding would be \$16.6 million at this time.** Members on both sides of the aisle have said repeatedly that the system must be overhauled due to its lack of functionality and efficacy. It is anticipated that it would require \$80 million to \$100 million to replace the system - although the federal government could pick up as much as half of that cost.

DHS indicated that the funds would be a start to help modernize and replace the system, stating that “[t]his will help us begin to ease the administrative burden on frontline child welfare workers.” However, the Department urged the committee to provide the full \$15 million appropriation sought by the Governor in his supplemental budget proposal.

What’s in the bill:

- \$10.2 million appropriation to provide the state match to participate in the federal Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program which provides preloaded cards families can use to buy groceries.

- An additional \$5 million one-time appropriation to fight food insecurity, with \$2 million going to food shelves, \$2 million to food banks, and \$1 million to the American Indian food sovereignty funding program.
- Updates how child care providers are regulated by moving to a weighted risk system to reflect the level of risk a violation poses to children as a way to ensure greater consistency in how child care programs are reviewed and enforced.
- **\$4 million for additional emergency services grants to fight homelessness.**
- **\$760,000 to provide resources and support to caregivers who are relatives of children, while attempting to keep those kids out of the formal foster care system** when it is appropriate.
- \$360,000 to fund child care resource and referral programs to increase professional development and credentialing to help grow the pool of child care employees.
- \$275,000 to fund a **requirement that each county establish a child mortality review team and participate in critical incident reviews based on safety science principles to support a culture of learning.** A new process for reviewing the incidents would also be created;
- \$170,000 to hire a **third-party independent consultant to conduct a fiscal analysis of the state's child welfare system and submit a report by 6/30/26,** that includes recommendations on whether the state should increase its investment in the system.
- \$136,000 for a **review of current child maltreatment reporting processes and systems and develop recommendations for implementation of a common entry point system for reporting child maltreatment.**
- \$136,000 for a **requirement that foster children or their guardians be notified if they are eligible for Social Security benefits.** Counties can currently collect those benefits on behalf of the children, but no notification is required.
- \$100,000 for the Wilder Foundation to study the number and needs of pregnant and parenting youth experiencing homelessness and best practices to support them.
- \$100,000 to the Wilder Foundation to conduct a needs analysis for an emergency shelter for LGBTQIA+ youth experiencing homelessness and develop a plan for building an emergency shelter.

SENATE OMNIBUS HOUSING FINANCE BILL

[SF4158](#) (Port; DFL-Burnsville)

[SF4158 Spreadsheet](#)

[SF4158 Summary](#)

On Tuesday, the Senate Housing Committee reviewed SF4158; it passed and was sent to Senate Finance, which heard the bill on Friday. The bill appropriates \$10 million in FY25 for various homelessness and housing assistance programs.

What's in the bill:

- Reflects the work of the workgroup on Expediting Rental Assistance.
 - requires MHFA to work with DHS to develop criteria for measuring the timeliness of processing rental assistance applications, collect data on application processing speeds for the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance program, and report to the Legislature in 2027 about whether application processing goals have been met.
 - Requires MHFA to develop uniform e-signature options for the Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance program.
 - Requires MHFA to develop recommendations to simplify the process of verifying information for Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance program applications, adopt the recommendations, and provide assistance to administrators to implement the recommendations.
- Encourages clean energy, climate resilience, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and decarbonization, in addition to energy conservation.
- Adds a subdivision to the housing infrastructure bonds section authorizing an additional authorization of up to \$50 million.
- **Modifies the Greater Minnesota Housing Infrastructure Grant Program to allow grants to be made to counties and expands eligible projects to include manufactured home development projects.** The maximum allowable

grant award per lot for one to four home developments increases to \$40,000, and the maximum allowable grant award per manufactured home housing lot is \$60,000. A county or city may receive a maximum of \$500,000 in two years under this program, except that the \$500,000 limitation would not apply to manufactured housing developments.

HOUSE OMNIBUS HOUSING FINANCE BILL

[HF4194](#) (Howard; DFL-Richfield)

[HF4194 Delete-All Spreadsheet](#)

[HF4194 Delete-All Summary](#)

Focusing on housing stability, a \$10 million supplemental budget increase for housing was approved by the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee on Wednesday; it was referred to House Ways and Means. An [amendment](#) from Representative Howard reduced the allocations [initially proposed](#) for the Family Homelessness Prevention Assistance Program from \$9.53 million to \$8.95 million. The reduction frees up \$545,000 for the Supreme Court for its work on retroactively expunging rental evictions, which is allowed by statute under certain conditions.

What's in the bill:

- Establishes a task force on long-term sustainability of affordable housing tasked with providing recommendations to the Legislature to promote sustainable, affordable housing and rental housing security. The task force would be required to assess the underlying financial challenges for affordable housing providers that aim to develop and preserve safe, affordable, dignified housing.
- Creates a working group to study the prevalence and impact of common interest communities and homeowners associations in Minnesota and how the existing laws regulating them help homeowners and tenants access safe and affordable housing.
- Directs the Housing Finance Agency and DHS to develop recommendations for emergency rental assistance that are simple enough for applicants to understand across all emergency rental assistance programs and that embrace culturally-responsive and trauma-informed approaches.
- Creates a grant program to support recapitalization of distressed buildings where the units are limited to households at or below 60% of the area median income and that are in foreclosure, have two or more years of negative net operating incomes replacement and other requirements.
- Requires contractors and developers seeking financial assistance from the Housing Finance Agency to disclose any conviction, court judgment, agency determination, legal settlement, ongoing criminal or civil investigation, or lawsuit involving alleged violations of law in the previous five years on their proposed construction project. Also requires contractors and subcontractors to pay workers statutorily required wages.

HOUSE OMNIBUS HUMAN SERVICES POLICY BILL: [HF4392](#)/SF4399* (Fischer; DFL-Maplewood) was heard on the House floor on Monday.

[Summary](#)

What's in the bill:

- **Phases out the special minimum wage program for people with disabilities, which some refer to as “subminimum wage.”** Employers would not be allowed to hire for less than minimum wage beginning 8/1/26, and would have to pay all existing employees with disabilities the relevant minimum wage by 8/1/28. The House voted against [an amendment](#) that would have left the special minimum wage provision in place, offered by Representative Debra Kiel (R-Crookston).
- In other areas of disability services, the bill would reduce the burden for those receiving MA for Employed Persons with Disabilities (MA-EPD) by requiring recipients to qualify once each year – rather than the current two times per year.

Substance Use Disorder Services: Several provisions would clarify substance use disorder statutes:

- Service providers for adults could qualify to receive higher reimbursement rates for providing on- or off-site child care during treatment hours or for offering culturally responsive programs, disability responsive programs, medical services, or services for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
- Changes the definition of peer recovery support services to denote that peers serve as mentors or recovery-support partners for individuals in recovery, and may provide encouragement, accounts of their own recovery, transportation to appointments, and assistance identifying resources for housing, employment, and support groups.
- Recovery peers would have to be classified as employees rather than independent contractors.
- Recovery community organizations eligible as peer support vendors would have to be certified by an accrediting organization.
- **Requires sober homes to allow residents to use legally prescribed drugs for the treatment of opioid use disorder** and other medications to treat co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health conditions.
- **Requires sober homes to keep opiate antagonists such as naloxone or naltrexone** in a conspicuous location to prevent opiate overdose. An amendment offered by Representative Dave Baker (R-Willmar) to push back the effective date to 6/1/26, to allow sober homes to prepare for the new requirements, was adopted.
- Modifies what a practitioner must review and document before dispensing treatment doses to patients for their unsupervised use on one weekend day, state and federal holidays, and days the client's clinic is closed.

Aging Services: Individuals in assisted living facilities are now counseled on long-term care options so they may make informed choices. The bill expands that provision to individuals across all critical care spectrums; also provides for continuity of care for seniors receiving personal assistance and transitioning onto the MA elderly waiver program.

Community residential settings serving up to six individuals exempted from rental licensing regulations imposed by any town, municipality, or county.

The House passed the bill on a vote of 69-62 and sent it back to the Senate where its version passed on a vote of 59-9 on April 4. The Senate which did not concur with the House language; therefore a conference committee has been appointed to work out the differences. Senate conferees: Senators John Hoffman, Alice Mann (DFL-Edina) and Paul Utke (R-Park Rapids); House conferees: Representatives Peter Fischer, Luke Frederick (DFL-Mankato) and Dave Baker (R-Willmar).

OTHER BILLS

HOUSE OMNIBUS CANNABIS BILL: [HF4757](#) (Stephenson; DFL-Coon Rapids) was addressed on the House floor on Thursday night. After a several-hour debate, it passed on a vote of **69-62**. It now goes to the Senate.

[Summary](#)

Much of the bill originated from Office of Cannabis Management [recommendations](#) on fine-tuning the legal and inter-governmental relationships among medicinal cannabis (legalized in 2014), hemp-derived THC edibles and other products (legalized in 2022), adult recreational cannabis (legalized in 2023), and the different regulatory structures governing each substance. Makes changes to the recreational cannabis law that allows up to eight cannabis plants in a single residence without a license. Medical cannabis patients permitted to possess 16 plants and transfer half of their allotment to a registered designated caregiver approved to assist patients enrolled in the medical cannabis program.

Licensing processes: Much of the debate and several amendments focused on the lottery process. The Office of Cannabis Management would create preapproved retail licenses for “social equity applicants” - people harmed by over-prosecution of cannabis laws in the past. A random lottery system would be implemented if there are too many applicants for retail licenses allotted to an area.

Other provisions:

- Allows THC beverages to be sold on tap under the current “registration” provision for edible cannabinoid products.

- Allows veterans receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to be automatically eligible to enroll in the state's medical cannabis program.
- Makes medicinal cannabis available for any medical condition approved by a patient's licensed health care practitioner.
- Makes changes in testing procedures to measure THC levels in employees.
- Prohibits the sale of lower-potency hemp edibles to an obviously intoxicated person.
- Permits products having only hemp-derived cannabinoids to be sent out of state for testing.
- Prohibits selling empty cannabis packaging that looks like an existing brand and gives the Attorney General power to enforce the ban.

Amendments: Several amendments were adopted, including:

- Adds to the duties of the Cannabis Advisory Council, requiring it to [study the impact of legalized adult-use cannabis on the rate of cannabis use by minors](#).
- Establishes [strict restrictions](#) on data collected by the Office of Cannabis Management and establishes an audit trail for that data.
- Moves up the date that the cannabis management office must announce the [commencement of an initial application period](#) for license preapproval to 11/15/24.

Amendments NOT adopted include:

- Making [cannabis cultivators](#) qualified to receive preapproved licenses.
- [Changing penalties](#) for possession of cannabis by a minor from a petty misdemeanor to a misdemeanor and changing the selling penalty from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor.
- [Prohibiting flavored](#) TCH-containing gummies.

MODIFICATIONS TO MINNESOTA INDIAN FAMILY PRESERVATION ACT (MIFPA):

Both the Senate and House Judiciary Committees have moved their bills:

- [SF4480](#) (Kunesh; DFL-New Brighton); the Senate Judiciary passed the bill on Monday and referred it to Finance.
- [HF4838](#) (Becker-Finn; DFL-Roseville); the House Judiciary Committee passed the bill on Tuesday and referred it to Children and Families Finance and Policy.

SENATE OMNIBUS COMMERCE FINANCE BILL:[SF5301](#) (Klein; DFL-Mendota Heights):

The Omnibus Commerce bill was heard in the Senate Commerce Committee on Tuesday. It passed and was referred to the Finance Committee where it was heard on Friday. The bill includes the following language relating to cannabis and substance misuse prevention and education programs:

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 144.197, is amended to read:

33.2 144.197 CANNABIS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION AND

33.3 EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

33.4 Subdivision 1. Youth prevention and education program. The commissioner of health, 33.5 in consultation with the commissioners of human services and education and in collaboration 33.6 with local health departments and Tribal health departments, shall conduct a long-term, 33.7 coordinated education program to raise public awareness about ~~and address the top three~~ 33.8 substance misuse prevention, treatment options, and recovery options. The program must 33.9 address adverse health effects, ~~as determined by the commissioner~~, associated with the use 33.10 of cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived 33.11 consumer products by persons under age 25. In conducting this education program, the 33.12 commissioner shall engage and consult with youth around the state on program content and 33.13 on methods to effectively disseminate program information to youth around the state.

33.14 Subd. 2. Prevention and education program for pregnant and breastfeeding

33.15 individuals; and individuals who may become pregnant. The commissioner of health,

33.16 in consultation with the commissioners of human services and education, shall conduct a

33.17 long-term, coordinated prevention program to educate focused on preventing substance use
33.18 for pregnant individuals, breastfeeding individuals, and individuals who may become
33.19 pregnant and raising public awareness of the risks of substance use while pregnant or
33.20 breastfeeding. The program must include education on the adverse health effects of prenatal
33.21 exposure to cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or
33.22 hemp-derived consumer products and on the adverse health effects experienced by infants
33.23 and children who are exposed to cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp
33.24 edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products in breast milk, from secondhand smoke, or by
33.25 ingesting cannabinoid products. This prevention and education program must also educate
33.26 individuals on what constitutes a substance use disorder, signs of a substance use disorder,
33.27 and treatment options for persons with a substance use disorder. This prevention and
33.28 education program must also provide resources, including training resources, technical
33.29 assistance, or educational materials for local public health home visiting programs, Tribal
33.30 home visiting programs, and child welfare workers.

33.31 **Subd. 3. Home visiting programs.** The commissioner of health shall provide training,
33.32 technical assistance, and education materials to local public health home visiting programs
33.33 and Tribal home visiting programs and child welfare workers regarding the safe and unsafe
33.34 use of cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived
33.35 consumer products in homes with infants and young children. Training, technical assistance,
and education materials shall address substance use, the signs of a substance use disorder,
34.2 treatment options for persons with a substance use disorder, the dangers of driving under
34.3 the influence of cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or
34.4 hemp-derived consumer products, how to safely consume cannabis flower, cannabis products,
34.5 lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer products in homes with infants
34.6 and young children, and how to prevent infants and young children from being exposed to
34.7 cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, or hemp-derived consumer
34.8 products by ingesting cannabinoid products or through secondhand smoke.

34.9 **Subd. 4. Local and Tribal health departments.** The commissioner of health shall
34.10 distribute grants to local health departments and Tribal health departments for these
34.11 departments to create and disseminate educational materials on cannabis flower, cannabis
34.12 products, lower-potency hemp edibles, and hemp-derived consumer products and to provide
34.13 safe use and prevention training, education, technical assistance, and community engagement
34.14 regarding cannabis flower, cannabis products, lower-potency hemp edibles, and hemp-derived
34.15 consumer products. programs focusing on substance misuse prevention, treatment, and
34.16 recovery. The programs may be created for the uses described in Minnesota Statutes, section
34.17 342.72, and specific cannabis-related initiatives.

HOUSE OMNIBUS AGRICULTURE FINANCE BILL:

[HF3763](#) (Vang; DFL-Brooklyn Center)

[HF3763](#) (Vang) -- Agriculture Bill DE Spreadsheet.pdf

[HF3763](#) (Vang) -- Agriculture Bill DE1 MN House Research Summary.pdf

HF3753 was heard in the House Agriculture Committee on Thursday; it passed and was referred to Ways and Means. It includes the following language relating to the **Private Well Drinking-Water Assistance Program**:

(p) \$223,000 the second year is for transfer to

5.30 the commissioner of health for the private well

5.31 drinking-water assistance program. This is a

5.32 onetime transfer and is available until June

5.33 30, 2027.

52.3 Sec. 28. [18C.90] PRIVATE WELL DRINKING-WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

52.4 Subdivision 1. Account; appropriation. A private well drinking-water assistance account
52.5 is established in the agricultural fund. Money in the account, including interest earned, is
52.6 appropriated to the commissioner for aid payments to community health boards under
52.7 subdivision 2.

52.8 Subd. 2. Aid payments.(a) At least annually, the commissioner must make aid payments
52.9 to community health boards established under chapter 145A for purposes of assisting eligible
52.10 residents under subdivision 3.

52.11 (b) The commissioner must award proportional aid payments to eligible community
52.12 health boards based on each board's share of total private drinking-water wells in the state
52.13 with documented nitrate in excess of ten milligrams per liter, as determined by the
52.14 commissioner in consultation with the commissioners of health and the Pollution Control
52.15 Agency.

52.16 Subd. 3. Provision of safe drinking water.(a) For purposes of this section, "safe
52.17 drinking water" means water required for drinking, cooking, and maintaining oral hygiene
52.18 that has a nitrate level of no more than ten milligrams per liter.

52.19 (b) Community health boards must use aid payments received under subdivision 2 to
52.20 assist residents in obtaining safe drinking water when the documented level of nitrate in the
52.21 resident's private drinking-water well is more than ten milligrams per liter, with priority
52.22 given to pregnant women and children under the age of one.

52.23 (c) Community health boards must assist eligible residents in obtaining safe drinking
52.24 water through one or more of the following methods:

52.25 (1) convenient bottled water distribution or delivery;

52.26 (2) reverse osmosis treatment unit acquisition, installation, and maintenance;

52.27 (3) connection to a public water system; or

52.28 (4) another method, as determined by the commissioner of health, that provides eligible
52.29 residents with a sufficient quantity of safe drinking water.

52.30 Subd. 4. Reports. No later than January 15 each year, the commissioner must report
52.31 outcomes achieved under this section and any corresponding recommendations to the chairs
53.1 and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture
53.2 and health.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS OF INTEREST

- [SF5427](#) (Abeler; R-Anoka) Equal access to human services electronic verification system data for electronic verification vendors establishment; weekly electronic documentation of certain services authorization
- [SF5433](#) (Rasmusson; R-Fergus Falls)/HF5399 (Backer; R-Browns Valley) **Onetime aid to certain licensed ambulance services authorization and appropriation**
- [SF5461](#) (Rarick; R-Pine City) **Fire protection and emergency medical services special taxing districts local aid program establishment and appropriation**
- [HF5371](#) (Anderson, Paul; R-Starbuck) Prior appropriation for **Eagle's Healing Nest** campus improvements amended
- [HF5392](#) (Acomb; DFL-Minnetonka) Electronic monitoring requirements modified, private enforcement of rights established, hospice bill of rights modified, licensed home care provider advisory council membership expanded, assisted living facility provisions modified, health care agent powers modified, and guardianship provisions modified
- [HF5400](#) (Schomacker; R-Luverne) **Public postsecondary institutions required to maintain supply of opiate antagonists on system campuses**

THIS WEEK

There will be no legislative activity on Monday and Tuesday in observance of Passover. Legislative action will resume on Wednesday at noon. **Hearings of Note as of Sunday night:**

MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

Passover; no legislative business

TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024

Passover; no legislative business

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024

8:30 AM

Meeting Time Note: The Hearing will convene at 6pm or Call of the Chair

House Workforce Development Finance and Policy

Chair Jay Xiong

Agenda:

- [HF5363](#) (Frazier) Minnesota Paid Leave Law; paid leave provisions modified.

12:00 PM

House Ways and Means

Chair: Representative Liz Olson

Agenda:

- [HF5181](#) (Newton) Omnibus Military Affairs and Veterans Affairs
- [HF4124](#) (Lillie) Omnibus Outdoor Heritage, Clean Water, Parks and Trails, and Arts and Cultural Heritage
- [HF4194](#) (Howard) Omnibus Housing

THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2024

FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024

10 AM

Senate Finance

Chair: Sen. John Marty

Agenda:

- [SF5266](#) (McEwen) Omnibus Labor
- [SF5284](#) (Dibble) Omnibus Transportation
- [SF5335](#) (Hoffman) Omnibus Human Services provisions modifications, technical changes, human services contingency fund establishment, and appropriations

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND OTHER

LAST WEEK

PENSIONS: The recommendations of the [Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement \(LCPR\)](#) have now moved to consideration by the full legislature. On Thursday, the House State and Local Government Committee approved [HF5040 as amended](#), authored by Rep. Kaohly Her (DFL-St. Paul), Chair of the LCPR. The bill has financial implication for counties and certain local employees:

- Sections 14 and 15 increase the annuity multiplier for PERA-Correctional Plan, from 1.9% to 2.2%. The increase will align the annuity multiplier for that of the state correctional officer plan. The cost for the benefit

enhancement will be funded by proportionate increases in the employee and employer contribution levels totaling an estimated \$4 million annually. The effective date was pushed back to July 1, 2025, to provide local employers time to plan for and implement the change.

- Most PERA related changes are in Article 4.
- **Omnibus Pensions – SF4643**, authored by Senator Nick Frentz (DFL-Blue Earth), Vice-Chair of the LCPR, was heard and approved by the [Senate State and Local Government and Veterans](#) on Friday with similar provisions for PERA participants and employers.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT -- Capital Project Replacement Fund Required: On Thursday (4/18), the House State and Local Government Committee passed HF3431 (Klevorn), as amended, is now the omnibus supplemental committee bill. The bill was rereferred to House Ways and Means.

- Article 2, section 16 of the [DE4 Amendment](#) requires local governments and other non-state recipients of capital grants to establish, and fund at levels set by the state, a Capital Projects Replacement Fund as a condition of receiving the state grant. MICA and [other local entities](#) have raised many concerns about the language.
- An [A23 Amendment](#) modifies the review and approval process for comprehensive planning Metropolitan Council.
- Section 35 of the DE4, as [amended by the A22](#), creates a new mandate for local governments to report certain cybersecurity threats and incidents to state Mn.IT. The aim is to have better awareness of threats facing Minnesota's public sector.

SF3915 (Gustafson), the Senate companion bill, which was introduced as a state agency technical fix bill, remains in Senate State and Local Government and Veterans, which has not yet acted on an omnibus bill.

LABOR POLICY: [SF3852](#) (McEwen), the Senate version of the Labor Policy bill passed the Senate by a vote of 34 – 30 on April 2 ([summary 1E](#)). The House amended the bill to contain the language of the companion file, HF5217 (Nelson, M), and passed the bill as amended 70-61. Conferees were appointed by both bodies this past week. (McEwen, Hauschild, and Oumou Verbeten for the Senate, and Nelson, M., Berg, and Myers for the House).

LABOR AND INDUSTRY OMNIBUS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET: On Thursday, House Labor and Industry Committee approved [HF5217](#) as amended (Nelson, M.). Budget modifications have few direct implications for counties. However, the bill was [amended](#) to now include modifications to the **Earned Sick and Safe Time** law enacted in 2023, and that MICA has been working with bill authors, counties, and various stakeholders to clarify implementation. The Senate companion file, [SF5266-1E](#) (McEwen), passed by Senate Labor Committee as amended on April 11, and was re-referred to Finance Committee. A hearing is set for April 26. Earned Sick and Safe Time provisions are Article 5 of the Senate bill.

Paid Family Medical Leave: On Wednesday, the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee heard SF5430 ([bill summary](#)), a bill authored by Senator Alice Mann, making modifications to the Paid Family Medical Leave Program enacted in 2023. The bill requires regular actuarial analysis to smooth rate setting, clarifies benefits when an employee has multiple covered employers, and other proposed modifications include:

- Section 14 removes language requiring DEED to notify an applicant and employer(s) when an application is submitted, and eligibility is determined.
- Sections 16, 17, 18 clarify who is ineligible, and that an employee may take and employer may provide wage replacement benefit, and access disability benefits, as well as how that offsets leave benefits.
- Section 22 lays out an entirely new appeals process.
- Section 23 removes the 480-hour cap on intermittent leave within a 12-month period
- Section 25 modifies reinstatement requirements related to employees who departed for leave from a position that provided overtime pay or premium pay (shift differential).
- Section 26 clarified when an employer is not required to maintain group health plan benefits.
- Section 41 pushes back the annual PFML payroll tax rate adjustment to November 15 each year.
- Section 49 provides for data collected under the program to be private data.

An [A-7 Amendment](#) was adopted that included various author's changes, including limitations on PFML benefit if the employee had access to 80 or more hours of paid leave available from the employer with whom they are taking leave. Labor groups noted opposition the language coordinating benefits with access to PTO and employer provided leave, and Committee Chair Sen. Bobby Joe Champion indicated discussion would continue. Note that the bill now authorizes DEED to modify the premiums (tax) rate beginning in 2024, instead of 2026. The bill was passed, as amended, and rereferred to Senate Commerce.

Prior to taking up the bill, the Committee received an [update](#) from Commissioners of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) discussing the merits and differences between the micro-study and actuarial study, which are yielding different recommended tax rate to fund the program. However, the actuarial study noted that the 40 percent (of projected expenses) as a fund balance was higher than needed, and 25 percent of projected expenses was more standard practice. Here is a link to a [video](#) of the hearing.

ELECTION POLICY BILL: [HF4772 \(Freiberg\)](#), an Elections Policy Bill was passed by the House on April 8 by a vote of 69-62, and was passed last week by the Senate by a vote of 35-32. The House and Senate versions are not identical and a conference committee will be held. The House appointed three conferees – Committee Chair Rep. Mike Freiberg, Vice-Chair Rep. Emma Greenman, and Rep. Bianca Virnig. The Senate Has not yet appointed conferees.

- The two bills have many overlapping provisions – such as language creating a Minnesota Voting Rights Act, modifications to state and local campaign finance, to regulation of deep fake campaign influencers, requirements for counties, cities and towns to use a “.gov” domain, and certain timelines and processes for county canvass, state canvass, federal elector challenges, and threshold for major party status, among other changes.
- Sections 57 and 58 of HF4772, and sections 88 and 89 of HF4772-1 UE, allow the option for county boards to either make an appointment or call a special election to fill a vacancy in the offices of County Attorney or County Sheriff. Currently, the County Board is required to make an appointment.

ELECTIONS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET: [SF4260 \(Carlson\)](#) was passed Senate Finance on April 11, and is awaiting action by the full Senate ([summary spreadsheet](#)). The bill amends 2021 session law to make funding for two grant programs – the Voting Equipment Grant Account (VEGA) and grants to local units of government for costs related to absentee ballot drop boxes—and redirects that ongoing funding to **permanent increase for the Voting Operations, Technology, and Election Resources (VOTER) account**. Additionally, the bill allocates \$450,000 of the committee's total target of \$500,000, to increased VOTER account transfers for FY2025 only.

HF4411 (Freiberg), the House companion, passed House Elections Finance and policy, and re-referred to House Ways and Means Committee. HF4411 includes statewide authorization for **Ranked Choice Voting**, which is not yet in the Senate bill. Article 3 of HF4411 also contains various **local candidate campaign finance law changes**. During committee deliberations, an [A4-Amendment](#) that would have clarified that elections judges are not employees of the appointing authority was considered but did not pass.

HOUSING: See Housing update under Health and Human Services in this document on pages 14-15.

JOBS, WORKFORCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS: On Monday, the Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee passed [SF5289-DE A-1](#) (Champion), as amended, the supplemental budget adjustments for the Department of Employment and Economic Development and related agencies ([Bill Summary](#); [bill spreadsheet](#)). SF5289 was re-referred to Senate Finance. Changes directly impacting member counties are limited, although the bill does authorize a Shakopee Area Workforce Development Scholarships Pilot Program in Scott County.

- Section 1 removes a requirement for the Targeted Population Workforce Grants that a community-based organization have an annual budget of no more the \$1,000,000 to be awarded funding to provide skills training.
- The House companion, [HF5205](#) (Hassan) allocates more from the Workforce Development for various programs along with some policy differenced. The House position is also anticipated to incorporate [HF3449-DE A2](#), from

Economic Development Finance Committee ([spreadsheet](#)). Article 2, section 2 modifies the Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program, which could impact county or local government applicants.

CANNABIS: See update on cannabis under Health and Human Services section in this document on pages 16-17.

THIS WEEK

Due to the Passover break, legislative work will not resume until noon on Wednesday. Committee schedules are sparse at this point but are expected to fill up for the second part of the week, with postings expected late Tuesday.

CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY

LAST WEEK

SENATE Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus Budget Bill, SF5337 (Latz) was heard, amended ([A-1 DE](#)) & [Spreadsheet](#), and passed by the committee on Friday, April 19th, the last day for moving the bill to the full Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is scheduled to take up the bill on April 25th. The Judiciary committee amended the vehicle bill, adopting language in part or whole from several other bills.

- Article 3 of the DE1 addresses the **formula for distribution of money derived from savings from the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRA) to Community Corrections Act counties (CCA) and non-CCA counties**. As reported in last week's MICA Update, the language clarifies that the same MRRA incentives for those individuals serving supervised release terms will also apply to those who are subject to a term of conditional release. Additionally, the language regarding the community supervision funding formula is amended to include the appropriation of MRRA savings under section 244.50 to CCA and non-CCA jurisdictions providing supervision services. Omission of this provision was an oversight in the 2023 Judiciary and Public Safety funding bill.
- **Communications Costs and Access for Incarcerated individuals** would be the subject of a study in an amendment added to the bill. Each February, counties, regional correctional facilities, juvenile detention centers, jails, and workhouses would have to report information about phone calls, video visits and e-messages sent or received by confined people and any revenue generated by vendors and received by facilities and counties. The DOC must compile a report and submit it to the legislature in March of each year.

HOUSE Judiciary Budget Bill:

HF5245 (Becker-Finn) Judiciary Committee ([summary and spread sheet](#)) mostly involves the state's court system. However, Article 3 addresses the Safe at Home program, a confidentiality program that is administered by the secretary of state to benefit individuals with personal safety concerns. Counties interface with this program in several areas, notably in their property tax records. The bill language addresses data classification of name and addresses of the Safe at Home enrollees.

HOUSE Public Safety Budget Bill

HF5216 (Moller)

The House and Senate provisions relating to public safety are quite different. The House version places considerable emphasis on efforts to address drug abuse and addiction, crime victims and public safety emergency telecommunicators (Art 3). Here is the [summary](#) of the bill. The bill met the deadline and is in Ways and Means.

THIS WEEK

Due to the Passover break, legislative work will not resume until noon on Wednesday. Committee schedules are sparse at this point but are expected to fill up for the second part of the week, with postings expected late Tuesday.

House [Ways and Means](#) and Senate [Finance Committee](#) are both anticipated to schedule and have fluid agendas over the coming weeks to process bills approved by lower-level committees. Senate [State and Local Government and Veterans](#) will also meet.

ENVIRONMENT

THIS WEEK

This week saw the release, walk through, and markup of many omnibus finance bills, as well as some floor action for the House and Senate Environment policy bills. On Monday, April 15, the House floor took up [SF2904](#), which the House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Chair Rick Hansen (DFL-South St. Paul) used as the vehicle for his policy bill this session. The bill includes the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) policy bill, [HF3550](#) authored by Rep. Hansen, which makes modifications to provisions governing soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed districts, the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program, and the Wetland Conservation Act. The House policy omnibus also includes [HF4320](#), also authored by Rep. Hansen, an MPCA policy bill that would align the state's groundwater protection rule (under MPCA) and feedlot permitting process (under MDA) to require a person who applies manure in a level 2 or higher drinking water supply management area (DWSMA) to follow a manure management plan. The bill passed the House floor and was sent to the Senate.

On the Senate floor, the Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy Chair, Sen. Hawj (DFL-St. Paul), advised his chamber to concur with the House bill, and it passed the Senate on Thursday, April 18. While Chair Hawj’s original environment policy omnibus, [SF3631](#), included other provisions that were not contained in the House bill, we expect those could resurface during conference committee discussion of the environment omnibus finance bill later this session.

Moving on to budget bills, there are three main committees we’re monitoring for relevant environment funding: agriculture, environment and legacy. Reference documents are linked here, and we’ll call out items of note below.

AGRICULTURE (HF3763 / SF3955)	ENVIRONMENT (HF3911 / SF3887)	LEGACY (HF4124 / SF5116)
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- The **HOUSE AGRICULTURE FINANCE** bill provides:
- \$3.072 million in one-time funds for **nitrate treatment**,
 - an additional \$300,000 for **soil health equipment grants**
 - \$223,000 in one-time funds for the Minnesota Department of Health’s (MDH) **private well drinking water assistance program**.
 - This bill also extends the existing **Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) 40 cent per ton fertilizer fee in perpetuity**, but redirects the \$1.27 million generated through this tax to private well contamination mitigation efforts.

The **SENATE AGRICULTURE FINANCE BILL** provides:

- \$2 million to MDH to establish a mitigation program for contaminated wells in the southeast Minnesota Karst region,
- \$750,000 for home water treatment programs targeted to low income households
- \$500,000 for the soil health financial assistance program for projects in this same region.

While the House and Senate agriculture bills are more aligned than not, the **HOUSE AND SENATE ENVIRONMENT BUDGET BILLS** have some major differences that will need to be worked out in conference committee.

First, for the similarities, both bills include:

- the **Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act**,
- establishment of a **boat wrap stewardship program**,
- funding for a **critical materials recovery task force**,
- require **scheduled waste composition studies for solid waste facilities**, and
- requirement that the MPCA Commissioner's approval to end the **post closure care period for a solid waste disposal facility**.

The House bill also includes:

- funding of over **\$11 million for community tree planting grants**,
- funding for a **report on state fertilizer use and establishes a reduction goal**,
- language regarding **local government notification before CLIF/MLCAT funds are redirected for other purposes**,
- **increased fines** that counties or watershed districts can levy for violations of the water resources riparian protection requirements from \$500 to \$10,000, and
- requirement **environmental impact statements (EIS) for all animal feedlots** with a capacity of 10,000 or more animals.

The Senate bill provides:

- \$2 million for composting grants in multifamily units,
- another \$2 million to BWSR for manure management grants
- funding for a small electronics recycling study.

The **LEGACY FINANCE BILLS** are also similar, with the biggest difference being that the Senate Legacy bill funds a \$5.4 million 50-year clean water study. This pulls Clean Water funding away from other nitrate testing, monitoring, and public health response measures. The House Legacy bill, released this week, aligns with the Clean Water Council's recommendations and the Governor's proposed supplemental budget.

Finally, the **HOUSE TAX BUDGET BILL**, [HF5247](#) authored by Chair Gomez (DFL-Minneapolis), was also released this week. The bill includes \$1.8 million in SCORE funding for counties, and while this is a small amount, it represents a strong marker heading into next budget year. The House taxes bill also includes \$1 million in tax credits for certain communities to cover the cost of treatment or removal of trees affected by emerald ash borer. We expect it will be at least a couple more weeks before we see a companion Senate taxes bill released.

ON THE GOVERNOR'S DESK

Environment Policy Bill: On Thursday, the Senate voted to concur with the House amendments to SF2904, and passed the **2024 Omnibus Environmental Policy Bill** by a vote of 40-24. The House had amended in its version of the policy bill on Monday and passed the bill 72-58. The [bill](#) awaits the Governor's for approval. The bill does not include repeal or change to the shotgun only deer hunting zone.

NEXT WEEK

Next week will be a short one, with the Legislature on break for Passover on Monday and Tuesday, returning at noon on Wednesday, April 24. At 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, the House Ways and Means committee will hear Chair Lillie's Legacy finance bill, [HF4124](#). At 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, the Senate Environment, Climate and Legacy committee will mark up its budget bill, [SF3887](#). There will be a quick turnaround for this bill to be heard in the Senate Finance committee and then pass the Senate floor. We expect that this will be the vehicle for the final environment supplemental budget, so the Senate needs to fast-track this bill to ensure there is enough time to conference before session ends.

COMBINED HEARING SCHEDULES

[Next 7 Days Combined Hearing Schedule](#)

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