

Mental health and chemical health

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Provide effective and efficient safety-net systems

Hennepin County has a responsibility to care for our communities' most vulnerable residents, including those who have significant mental health and chemical health concerns. To be effective, our systems must efficiently lay the groundwork for better outcomes for clients and create smart long-term investments for taxpayers.

Accordingly, Hennepin County urges the Minnesota Legislature to:

- Fund sustainable mental health solutions that specifically address the multiple barriers faced by people in the justice system
- Pursue Federal Medicaid Substance Use Disorder 1115 waiver
- Reinvest fines imposed on counties as a result of Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center (AMRTC) patients who no longer need hospital care into the development of the local community mental health system

Mental health solutions for people in the justice system

More people receive mental health services at the Hennepin County jail than at any other location in the state. Approximately 30 percent of the Hennepin County jail population show some form of mental illness indicator while in custody. This venue is the least appropriate for the clients we serve.

The State Legislature should support reforms that increase state investment in sustainable, multi-pronged approaches that broaden community treatment options to address the numerous and specific barriers faced by justice involved persons.

Federal Medicaid waivers

Hennepin County currently spends about \$4.5 million a year in uncompensated care at our detox facilities. Under a substance use

Contacts

Hennepin County Intergovernmental Relations

Mary Beth Davidson

Director

Office: 612-348-5120

Cell: 651-450-1335

mary.davidson@hennepin.us

Kareem Murphy

Deputy Director

Office: 612-596-9711

Cell: 612-801-0954

kareem.murphy@hennepin.us

Human Services and Public Health

Leah Kaiser

Area Manager

Office: 612-596-1779

Leah.Kaiser@hennepin.us

Website

hennepin.us

disorder (SUD) Medicaid waiver, approximately \$3 million of this spending would be eligible for federal funding, by removing limits on facility size currently required by Institution of Mental Disease (IMD) regulations. In January 2016, the state changed the classification of an additional 16 treatment facilities in Hennepin County to IMDs, placing increased financial burdens on the county, providers and the overall system.

Minnesota needs the federal 1115 waiver to provide more flexible Medicaid funding and connect people with the appropriate care setting. This will improve care, enhance treatment and offer recovery supports for eligible people with chemical dependencies. Waivers could also allow more flexibility in the scope of services by removing limits on facility size, creating an economy of scale and saving taxpayer dollars.

Community investments

While Hennepin continues to invest in community-based treatment options for our residents, demand outpaces provider capacity. The current system places significant burdens on county tax payers. State-imposed cost shares and cost shifts require \$32 million in Hennepin County property taxes to support the mental health system. Furthermore, Minnesota enacted legislation in 2015 that requires counties to pay for all costs for AMRTC patients who no longer require hospital care but have nowhere else appropriate for their care needs. This 2015 policy change placed an additional \$2.65 million cost burden on Hennepin County. These penalties are placed into the state's general fund and do not support state or community-based treatment options. Minnesota should support funding for community supports that could provide better outcomes at lower costs over time.

