

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, January 10, 2012 Board Meeting

This page is a brief view of the actions taken by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. For further information, please telephone 651-430-6001.

Washington County's mission is to provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.

County will contract with Canvas Health for social services

Washington County will contract with Canvas Health, formerly Human Services, Inc., (HSI) for social service programs, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the contract at its Jan. 10 meeting.

Canvas Health provides services to children, adolescents, adults, the elderly and families who struggle with aging, crises, chemical and mental health, and domestic and sexual abuse. Many of the services are mandated by state law.

The county has worked with the organization for many years to provide many state-mandated mental health and other services to county residents, such as adult and children's mental health services, crisis response, diagnosis, psychiatric testing, outpatient treatment, and case management. The organization also provides after hours and emergency social services, as well as crisis response, which aides law enforcement and prevents out-of-home placements.

Children's Mental Health Case Management provides assistance to children with severe emotional disturbance and their families, and the number of children needing this service continues to increase, with 310 cases in 2010, the most recent year for which statistics are available. In 2010, only 15 percent required an out-of-home placement for longer than 30 days to receive more intense care.

Adult Outpatient Services assist those with mental illnesses in remaining healthy and stable in the community. In 2010, the number of clients increased by 10 percent, to 1,485, and their service hours increased by 36 percent over the previous year. Treatment plan reviews showed that 92 percent of those served demonstrated improved functioning after three months of Adult Outpatient Services. The 2012 contract Canvas Health, Inc., is for \$3,573,755.

Library starts out new year with \$32,000 to buy library materials

The Washington County Library will start the new year with a \$32,000 deposit in its Library Fund, which is used to buy library materials. The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted the gifts at its meeting Jan. 10.

The RAFT Foundation has again donated \$30,000 to the library, and Barbara Smead, a patron of the R.H. Stafford Branch of the county library, presented staff with a check for \$2,000 Dec. 21, 2011. The donations will be used to purchase library materials.

Board hears report on Metropolitan Mosquito Control District

The Washington County Board of Commissioners heard a report from Jim Stark, executive director of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District, during its Jan. 10 meeting.

The district levied \$22,007,439 in 2011 and will levy \$20,607,546 in 2012 to do insect control in the metropolitan area. Washington County taxpayers were levied \$1,444,928 in 2011, which was a 3 percent reduction from 2010, and will be levied \$1,455,641 in 2012, an increase of .7 percent.

The district works to control biting gnats and monitor deer ticks in the area, as well as controlling mosquitoes.
