



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Fargo Cass Public Health

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Commissioner Chad Peterson
Cass County Commission
Cass County Courthouse
211 9th St S
Fargo, ND 58103

Dear Commissioner Peterson,

I am writing to request that the Cass County Commission consider donating a recently decommissioned county vehicle to the Harm Reduction Division of Fargo Cass Public Health. The vehicle will be utilized by our Mobile Outreach Program.

The Mobile Outreach Program provides a number of transportation and crisis response services throughout the tri-city community. The goal of the program is to avert a more costly response to substance use related incidents. Referrals and requests for a response typically come from local law enforcement, emergency departments at Essentia and Sanford Health, withdrawal management programs, area shelters, etc. In many cases a trip by ambulance or transportation in a squad car is completely avoided. Transports provided total 200 per month on average. Additionally, when not responding to calls requesting service, the staff of the Mobile Outreach Program are doing outreach and promoting engagement in services such as health care, substance use treatment, housing programs, and COVID related prevention and programming. For the sake of clarity, I am attaching a document for your review that lays out 2021 monthly numbers and a few definitions related to the services provided by this program.

In conversations with Captain Andrew Frobig, I learned of a Chevy Tahoe that was going to be decommissioned in the very near future. The vehicle had been used by the Cass County Sheriff's Department as a K-9 unit. We are requesting that the Commission consider donating the vehicle to our Mobile Outreach Program. Initially, when the program started four years ago, we were able to purchase a new Ford Interceptor (Explorer). That vehicle was totaled last summer after being hit downtown. We are currently using a decommissioned squad car that has seen its share of time on the road and is often in need of service. If we are able to acquire another vehicle that meets the needs of the program we will have a backup during those times when the primary vehicle is in for service. We plan to use the Tahoe as the primary vehicle and the Interceptor as a backup if possible.

In closing, thank you for any consideration given this request. Please let me know if there is anything else I can provide that will be helpful. I can be reached by phone at 701-476-4117 or by email at jeliassen@fargond.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Jan Eliassen
Director

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Total Transports	184	178	173	185	222	239	238	180
Unique Individuals Served	97	86	90	95	96	113	112	130
Outreach Not Provided	19	19	10	14	22	30	35	14
Potential FM Ambulance	6	22	12	17	15	16	14	6

Definitions

Outreach Not Provided- Mobile Outreach staff were unable to complete the transport due to circumstances such as guest refusal, the guest being gone upon their arrival, or the guest needing a higher level of care than what Mobile Outreach staff could provide

Potential FM Ambulance- Mobile Outreach was able to avoid a potential call for ambulance by intervening/providing a transport. Prior to the start of the Mobile Outreach Program, any individual needing to go from Sanford or Essentia to Clay County Receiving Center required an ambulance transport.

Referral Points for Q1 2021

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
BID	0	2	1	0	1	1	3	0
Street (MOP Initiated)	41	35	29	11	41	49	55	43
Cass County Jail	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clay County Receiving Center	1	1	0	1	4	2	1	1
Community Medical Services	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Cooper House	2	1	4	3	3	10	5	14
Essentia	21	10	15	9	18	18	19	10
Fargo Police Department	24	16	24	12	17	28	22	18
Gladys Ray Shelter	35	47	36	27	62	60	44	42
Homeless Health Services	1	4	2	0	1	0	1	0
Micah's Mission	3	0	0	1	3	1	1	0
New Life Center	4	3	1	1	2	3	1	3
Other	12	19	16	7	8	12	23	12
Presentation Partners in Housing	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Sanford	16	11	12	6	14	18	30	13
SEHSC	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Withdrawal Management Unit	24	28	33	25	43	36	26	22

Destination Points for Q1 2021

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Cass County Jail	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Clay County Receiving Center	38	18	27	28	47	47	34	30
Cooper House	5	5	14	3	0	1	5	14
Essentia	9	3	7	3	2	10	7	5
Fargo Police Department	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gladys Ray Shelter	27	20	9	14	39	39	27	14
Harm Reduction Center	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
High Rise	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Homeless Health Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brought Client Home	14	17	13	10	22	20	10	9
Micah's Mission	1	4	5	0	6	3	4	4
New Life Center	5	4	3	3	3	8	6	2
Other	41	31	32	23	25	18	21	14
Prairie St. John's	0	0	0	0	2	7	1	0
Sanford	5	6	9	5	16	10	17	12
Sharehouse	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Southeast Human Service Center	0	0	0	0	3	3	5	1
Stepping Stones Resource Center	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Withdrawal Management Unit	36	27	40	18	54	68	100	74
YWCA	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0

Definitions

Housing Support- This would include Mobile Outreach Staff providing supports to those in housing by doing a home visit. These supports range from assisting the former guest with making sure their apartment is clean, ensuring that they are paying their rent, discussing any issues with their tenancy/neighbors/landlord, assistance with food insecurity, or simply just stopping in to make sure we remain connected to those who have moved into housing.

Housing Visit Attempted- This would include stopping by a former guest's apartment to provide a housing support but they are not home.

Street Outreach- This would include making contact with individuals on the street to assess a need for resources/check in. Staff are regularly assessing individual's needs for withdrawal management, shelter, hydration, sunscreen, warm winter clothing, etc. Mobile Outreach staff also regularly encourage better behavior when outreaching individuals so that issues of trespassing, panhandling, etc. are curbed. Often times law enforcement will call for Mobile Outreach staff to outreach to large groups of our guests downtown.

Quarantine and Isolation Support- This would include providing supports such as food boxes, rapid testing for COVID, hygiene supplies, etc. for those that are in quarantine/isolation due to COVID-19.

Clothing- Providing a guest with clothing items (shoes, sweatshirt, jacket, gloves, hat).

Mail- Bringing mail to guests that we see out on the street or to those that have moved into housing.

Snack- Providing sack lunches or snack items to those out on the street.

Water- Providing bottles of water to those out on the street.

SNAP Application Assistance- Assisting a guest with filling out an application for SNAP benefits.

Other: Could include items such as bandaids, assisting a guest with picking up medication, providing guest with narcan, cleaning supplies, etc.