



Administration

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MEMO

TO: County Commission

FROM: Robert W. Wilson

Date: November 2, 2022

Subject: Updated Agreement Between Cass County and Fargo Cass Public Health

Fargo Cass Public Health (FCPH) provides health services for Cass County and cities within the County that do not have an approved health department. FCPH has proposed adopting an updated agreement that more accurately reflect the current services provided.

FCPH has requested Cass County consider action to approve the attached updated agreement. The agreement was first discussed on October 17th and is now scheduled for potentially Board action on November 5th. This agreement has been reviewed by County Administration, the State's Attorney's Office, Jail Administration and Information Technology.

If approved, the updated agreement will have no financial impact in 2023. The Cass County – FCPH budgets for Public Health and Jail Nursing were considered and approved during budget deliberations this summer.

One of the stated reasons for updating this agreement is it would make it easier for Cass County and the City of Fargo to partner and jointly utilize opioid litigation proceeds. A partnership is not finalized, but the city and county have had initial discussions about jointly managing these funds and using them for opioid addiction prevention efforts.

Ms. Fleming is planning to attend the November 5th Commission meeting and be available to answer any questions the board may have.

**AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
FOR CASS COUNTY BY
FARGO CASS PUBLIC HEALTH**

Cass County and the City of Fargo hereby enter into an agreement in accordance applicable ND Century Code Sections 23 and 54-40, under which public health services will be provided by Fargo Cass Public Health throughout Cass County and within those cities within the County that do not have approved health departments. This revised agreement will be effective as of date of acceptance, and will continue annually thereafter, subject to renegotiation or cancellation by either Cass County ("County") or the City of Fargo ("City") upon 90 days notice to the other by certified mail.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed between the parties as follows:

1. HEALTH OFFICER:

The City Health Officer will act as health officer for Cass County and provide oversight and consultation on all programs provided to Cass County through Fargo Cass Public Health. The position will also assist in verifying program compliance with the standards for public health agencies as set by the North Dakota State Health Department. The Health Officer will provide expertise and advisement on any public health issues or emergency and engage in media and messaging opportunities as appropriate.

2. NURSING SERVICES:

The nursing services provided in Cass County by Fargo Cass Public Health will include, but not be limited to the following services:

A. Home Health Care: Referrals accepted from any source. Eligibility will be based on established referral criteria. An evaluation visit is made, and nursing assessment is done to determine care needed by client. Individualized plan of treatment is developed to address specific needs of the client and will require a primary medical provider to sign and authorize care on recurring basis per Medicaid, Medicare, and agency policy. Services may include medication assistance, chronic disease management and education, INR checks, safety assessments, supervision of HHA services, and referrals to community resources.

- B. Home Health Aide (HHA) / Qualified Service Provider (QSP):** Referrals accepted from Cass County and Lake Agassiz Human Service Zones. Authorized services may include light housekeeping duties, meal prep, money management, laundry, shopping, communication, and personal cares to include assistance with bathing, dressing, incontinence, skin, and hair care. Supervision for QSP services by FCPH Nursing Manager and Human Service Zone case worker.
- C. Maternal and Child Health Services:** Referrals accepted and screened for eligibility, from a variety of sources including medical provider, community agency, family, etc. Home visits for high-risk prenatal and/or postnatal families. Eligible referrals will be assigned to the Nurse Family Partnership program or the Maternal Child Health program. Home visits may include nursing and developmental assessments, health and safety education, anticipatory guidance, referral to community resources, and other interventions or services as indicated.
- D. Communicable Disease:** Activities include but not limited to immunizations for children and adults, and tuberculosis case management. FCPH staff may also work with the Regional State Epidemiologist as needed for communicable disease cases and/or outbreaks in the community or educational setting.
- E. School Health:** FCPH school nurses will be housed and provide direct services to students and/or staff at Kindred, Casselton, Northern Cass Schools, and Mapleton. Other Cass County schools may request public health nursing coverage for screening or education needs, such as health, safety, or health promotion topics. Consultation with school staff as requested.
- F. Community / Senior Outreach Services:** Fargo Cass Public Health will provide clinics to various senior centers and community housing facilities according to identified needs or requested services. These clinics may include but are not limited to blood pressure screening, health education, and various immunization clinics, including seasonal influenza. Any individuals with identified health risks will be referred to their primary provider or other appropriate community resource.
- G. Correctional Health:** Fargo Cass Public Health will provide nursing services at the Cass County Jail and coordinate medical services from other providers, as mandated by the North Dakota Correctional Facilities Standards published by the ND Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. While FCPH will coordinate medical services with other providers, Cass County shall be responsible for the costs of any services obtained from other providers. FCPH nursing staff work in partnership with

the Cass County Jail staff and the Sheriff's Office shall be responsible to ensure adequately trained mail staff are on duty to perform medication pass coverage as needed. The nurses will work under the medical direction of the contracted medical provider (presently Family HealthCare Center), along with various community mental/behavioral health providers. Services include but are not limited to nursing assessment, triage, acute care, medication assistance, consultation and referral, and health education/promotion activities. The services will also include HIV testing and counseling, required by law. (North Dakota Century Code 23-07-07.5) along with TB screening. Nursing services are guided by standards set forth by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

3. COMMUNICATIONS / PUBLIC INFORMATION: Fargo Cass Public Health communication, internal and external, serves to provide education, public awareness, and/or crisis communication. Messaging may be provided in written materials, advertising, online or other forms of social media. Media interviews, when requested, will be directed to the Public Information Officer who will notify the appropriate department within FCPH to fulfill the media request. Serves as the point of contact for public inquiries for the agency.

4. HEALTH PROTECTION AND PROMOTION SERVICES:

A. Health Promotion: Activities may include group and/or individual wellness and health education programs including nutrition, tobacco, substance abuse prevention, breastfeeding, mental health, physical activity, and obesity prevention.

B. Family Planning: Reproductive health services including STD counseling, testing, and treatment, breast and pelvic exams, colposcopy, birth control, and PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis) are available at Fargo Cass Public Health and accessible for all residents of Cass County. Fees for services are based on household size and income. No one will be denied services due to inability to pay.

C. Women's Way: A free breast and cervical cancer early detection program for eligible ND women. May provide financial assistance for office visits for breast and cervical cancer screenings, mammograms, Pap tests, HPV tests, and for breast or cervical diagnostic tests.

D. ND Ryan White Program: Provides case management and reimbursement of services for individuals living with HIV. This program provides financial assistance, transportation, outpatient medical care, dental, vision, mental health, and medications. Also provides supportive services to help individuals manage their HIV and maintain their health, as well as prevent further transmission of HIV.

5. WIC SERVICES (The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children):

The Special Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children serves residents of Cass County who are pregnant, breastfeeding and recently delivered, infants, and children under age five who meet an income guideline and live in North Dakota. WIC is an effective health program, which provides quality nutrition education, health assessment, referral, and nutritious food.

6. LABORATORY SERVICES:

Laboratory services are accessible to all residents of Cass County to test/screen sexually transmitted diseases (including HIV and Hepatitis C). Other tests are available including hemoglobin, cholesterol, urinalysis, pregnancy testing, along with other provider ordered testing. If testing analysis is not available on-site, reference or State labs will be utilized as warranted.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:

This contract applies to Environmental Health services rendered in Cass County; however, Fargo Cass Public Health also has a provision for Environmental Health services for the City of West Fargo, ND, that is a separate contract signed with the City of West Fargo.

Fargo Cass Public Health will provide the expertise, facilities, equipment, and staff necessary to review, inspect, analyze, permit, and enforce the various local, state, and federal statutes and regulations governing environmental health issues within Cass County. The principal environmental health programs included under this agreement shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A. Water Wells:** Perform such periodic sampling, analysis, and reporting to assure community and non-community water wells comply with applicable health standards and regulations.
- B. Aquatic Facilities:** Conduct aquatic facility inspections to assure compliance with applicable health standards and regulations. Cass County specifically retains the right to promulgate, amend, and repeal the aquatic regulations to be enforced under this Agreement
- C. On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems:** Conduct on-site sewage treatment system inspections and/or evaluations to assure compliance with

applicable health standards and regulations. Cass County specifically retains the right to promulgate, amend, and repeal the on-site regulations to be enforced under this Agreement.

- D. Nuisances:** Respond to citizen complaints to verify compliance with applicable health, safety, public nuisance, or other statutes, regulations, or ordinances enacted in the public interest.
- E. Food Service:** Perform periodic inspections, as necessary, to verify all licensed school and childcare kitchens comply with applicable health standards and regulations, and to report such findings to school and state officials as required by law.
- F. Miscellaneous:** Perform such other inspections, sampling, and analysis, and file such reports as may be necessary during the term of this agreement which otherwise would be the obligation of County to perform under such statutes, rules or regulations as may hereafter be promulgated by the State or Federal governments.
- G. Enforcement:** In the event enforcement of the foregoing environmental health services should require legal assistance, Fargo Cass Public Health will approach the office of Cass County States Attorney for such legal assistance.

8. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS SERVICES:

Provides emergency preparedness planning and response for Cass County and acts as a liaison between the North Dakota Department of Health and local public health to strengthen the infrastructure between emergency services and public/private healthcare to respond to public health emergencies. Coordination and planning for the deployment of the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, along with bioterrorism and emergency response for Cass County. Assists county as needed with local emergency public health plans.

9. HARM REDUCTION SERVICES:

- A. Gladys Ray Shelter:** provide a safe, comfortable temporary shelter to people who cannot access other shelter options in the community, and to help connect people to housing and services.
- B. Withdrawal Management Unit (WMU):** provides short term residential, social model (non-medical) detoxification services for adult men and women.
- C. Mobile Outreach:** Staff teams provide a less costly response to substance use related incidents in the community, especially the downtown area. Referrals and requests for a response typically come from local law enforcement, emergency departments, withdrawal management programs, and other area shelters.

- D. **Syringe Services Program (SSP):** offers harm reduction services, safety, and disease education, supplies for persons who inject drugs, Overdose response and Narcan/naloxone administration training, and referrals to healthcare, treatment, behavioral health, social services, housing, and peer supports for recovery.
- E. **Downtown Engagement Center (DEC):** The Engagement Center engages homeless residents to connect with social service and health resources along with an opportunity to build relationships and trust. The DEC offers a place to be out of the elements of weather, with activities, laundry, and showering facilities.

10. INDEMNIFICATION:

County hereby agrees to indemnify and hold City, its officers, agents, employees, and members harmless from any and all claims, demands, and causes of action which may be asserted against City as a result of rendering of any of the services by City which are described in this agreement. The obligation of County under the terms of this provision shall include the duty to provide a legal defense of such claims.

11. NOTIFICATIONS:

Should unexpected difficulties arise in interpreting or implementing this agreement, or other formal notification to the parties become necessary, the primary contact persons for the respective parties are hereby designated to be:

Director of Public Health Fargo Cass Public Health 1240 25 th St S Fargo, ND 58103-2367 701.241.1360	Cass County Commission Chairman Cass County P. O. Box 2806 Fargo, ND 58108-3106 701.241.5609
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12. BILLING FOR FARGO CASS PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES:

A. Vehicles:

The City of Fargo will provide necessary vehicles, and maintenance on those vehicles, for the staff providing services in the County. For staff covering services in closer proximity, personal cars may be used with mileage charged at the current City of Fargo reimbursement rate.

B. Annual Budget:

The annual operating budget for Fargo Cass Public Health Services will be submitted annually for approval by the Cass County Commission for the reimbursement of the foregoing services.

C. Monthly Billings:

Fargo Cass Public Health will bill Cass County monthly for actual expenses incurred in providing the foregoing services. A report of activities will be provided as requested.

D. Refunds to Cass County:

Fees received for any on-site septic services will be credited to Cass County on the final billing for each month.

WHEREFORE, the parties have duly caused their representatives to execute this Agreement on their behalf this _____ day of _____, 2022.

CASS COUNTY:

FARGO CASS PUBLIC HEALTH:

Rick Steen
CHAIRMAN, COUNTY COMMISSION

Tracie Newman, MD, MPH, FAAP
HEALTH OFFICER

Brandy Madrigga
COUNTY FINANCE DIRECTOR

Desi Fleming, RN, MSN
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Timothy J. Mahoney
MAYOR, CITY OF FARGO

Attest:

Steve Sprague
CITY AUDITOR