

AGREEMENT

between

RAMSEY COUNTY

and

LOCAL 151

COUNCIL 5 OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF  
STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

**LOCAL #151 - LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES  
INDEX - 2022-2024 Contract**

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## **ARTICLE 1 PREAMBLE**

- 1.1 This Agreement entered into by Ramsey County, hereinafter referred to as the Employer, and Local #151 - Ramsey County Licensed Practical Nurses, affiliated with Council 5 and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, hereinafter referred to as the Union, has as its purpose the promotion of harmonious relations between the Employer and the Union; the establishment of an equitable and peaceful procedure for the resolution of differences; and the establishment of rates of pay, hours of work and other conditions of employment.

## **ARTICLE 2 RECOGNITION**

- 2.1 The employer recognizes the Union as the exclusive representative for the following job classifications in the recognized bargaining unit:
- Licensed Practical Nurse
  - Licensed Practical Nurse – Correctional Health
  - Public Health Licensed Practical Nurse 1
  - Public Health Licensed Practical Nurse 2
- 2.2 The employer shall not enter into any agreements covering terms and conditions of employment with the employees of the bargaining unit under the jurisdiction of this Agreement, either individually or collectively, which in any way conflicts with the terms and conditions of this Agreement, except through the certified representative.
- 2.3 In the event that any new or different classification not listed in Article 2.1 is established and such classification or title is not within the bargaining unit previously agreed upon by the parties, then the Union shall, nevertheless, be the sole representative of said employee, the employee shall be included within the terms and conditions of this Agreement, the wage rate of such classification or title shall be negotiated by the employer and the Union and the rate agreed upon shall become a part of this Agreement as of the date such classification or title was established, provided the new or different classification or titles as of the date of its establishment, involves functions substantially similar in their nature, character and scope to those performed in whole or in part by an existing classification or classifications which are now a part of the bargaining unit as listed in Article 2.1 of this Agreement.

### **ARTICLE 3 UNION SECURITY**

- 3.1 The employer agrees to deduct the Union dues from the pay of those employees who individually request in writing that such deductions be made. The amounts to be deducted shall be certified to the employer by a representative of the Union, and the aggregate deductions of all employees shall be remitted together with an itemized statement to the representative by the first of the succeeding month, after such deductions are made.
- 3.2 The Union agrees to indemnify and hold the employer harmless against any and all claims, suits, orders or judgments brought or issued against the employer as a result of any action taken or not taken by the employer under the provisions of this Article.
- 3.3 The employer shall furnish the Union each month a list of new employees hired subject to the bargaining unit.
- 3.4 The employer shall provide a payroll deduction for voluntary employee contributions to the Union's Political Action Committee.

#### **ARTICLE 4 NO STRIKE**

- 4.1 Neither the Union, its officers or agents, nor any of the employees covered by this Agreement will engage in, encourage, sanction or support any strike, or the withholding in whole or in part of the full performance of their duties during the life of this Agreement, except as specifically allowed by the Public Employment Labor Relations Act. In the event of a violation of this Article, the employer will warn employees of the consequences of their action and shall instruct them to immediately return to their normal duties. Any employee who fails to return to their full duties by the beginning of the employee's next scheduled shift after warning may be subject to the penalties provided by the Public Employment Labor Relations Act.
- 4.2 No lockout shall be instituted by the employer and/or its appointing authorities during the term of this contract.

## **ARTICLE 5 EMPLOYER AUTHORITY - EMPLOYEE RIGHTS**

- 5.1 It is recognized by both parties that except as expressly stated herein, the employer shall retain rights and authority necessary to operate and direct all the affairs of the department including, but not limited to, directing the work force; controlling all operations and services; determining the methods, means, organization and number of personnel by which operations and services are to be conducted; changing or eliminating equipment or facilities; and taking whatever actions may be necessary to carry out the missions of the employer in emergencies.
- 5.2 A. Employees shall have the right, freely and without fear of penalty or reprisal by the employer to join and participate in the Union.
- B. Employees choosing to participate in the internal affairs of the Union as an officer, steward or other capacity, may do so without fear of reprisal by the employer for such participation, consistent with the employee's job duties and responsibilities and the provisions of this contract.

## ARTICLE 6 HOURS OF WORK

- 6.1 This Article is intended only to define the normal hours of work and to provide the basis for the calculations of overtime pay. Nothing herein shall be construed as a guarantee of hours of work per day or per week.
- 6.2 Except as modified by this Agreement, work shifts, staffing schedules and assignment of employees thereto shall be established by the employer.
- 6.3 Regular Hours. The regular hours of work each day shall be consecutive.
- 6.4 The schedule for Nurses at 24-hour facilities will provide for two weekends off per month, and a minimum of twenty-six (26) weekends off per year. Other work schedules may be authorized to accommodate the services performed by the employer.
- 6.5 (1) 24-Hour Facilities:  
A work schedule showing the employees' shifts, work days and hours shall be posted ten (10) days prior to the start of the work period.  
Requests must be made in writing at least one week (7 calendar days) before the schedule due to be posted. Permanent changes in an employee's regular work schedule will require two (2) weeks advance notice by the employer.
- (2) Non-24-Hour Facilities:  
The normal work schedule for employees shall be five (5) eight (8) hour days and two (2) days off duty. Other work schedules may be authorized to accommodate the services performed by the Department.
- 6.6 At least eleven (11) hours shall elapse between the starting time for a new work shift and the end of an employee's previous work shift, except in emergencies or where there is a temporary change in schedule to accommodate the services performed by the employer.
- 6.7 It is the intent of the employer to continue present scheduling patterns for full-time employees as a result of the eight (8) and eighty (80) overtime Article for 24-hour facilities in this Agreement.
- 6.8 All employees' work schedules shall provide for a fifteen (15) minute rest period during each four (4) consecutive hours of work. Such rest period shall be duty free except when such breaks may be interrupted for reasons associated with residents' or client's needs. Employees may be granted an unpaid, duty free meal break not to exceed 30 minutes during each work shift. Rest periods and meal breaks for the individual employees shall be scheduled by the employer so as not to interfere with the operation of the facility or agency. Employees in the Public Health Department shall be granted a duty free forty-five (45) minute meal break.
- 6.9 It is understood and agreed that if an employee has a patterned absence from scheduled weekend work or is absent without supervisor's approval, said employee may be required to make-up such weekend absence.
- 6.10 Employees who are assigned to work beyond their regular quitting time into the next shift may receive a fifteen (15) minute rest period before they start to work on such next shift. In addition, they shall be granted



## **ARTICLE 6 HOURS OF WORK (Continued)**

the regular rest periods that occurred during the second shift. Employees working a full second shift shall receive a fifteen (15) minute rest period between the first and second shift worked.

- 6.11 When the employer determines that, due to low census, staffing levels on a specific shift need to be reduced, those reductions will be accomplished as follows: First, pool staff and temporaries will not be used; second, people who call in absent will not be replaced; third, volunteers willing to reduce their hours will be sought; fourth, if there are employees on overtime, reduce their number by inverse order of seniority; fifth, people working extra hours above their normal pro-rated schedule will be reduced in inverse order of seniority and by the shift where staffing levels need to be reduced. If the necessary reductions are not accomplished through the means above, the junior employee or employees scheduled to work in that department in a twenty-four (24) hour period will be required to reduce their hours in that period. Employees so required to reduce their hours may use vacation, holiday or compensatory time to replace the hours not worked, in order to maintain their pay. Employees whose hours are reduced under this Article will earn vacation, sick leave and insurance contribution benefits for the hours they would otherwise have worked.
- If the census reduction continues in to the next schedule to be prepared and posted, the necessary staffing reductions will be accomplished by reducing the hours of employees beginning with the junior employee in the classification, then the next least senior, then the next, until the necessary reductions are accomplished. The process described in this section may be continued for a maximum of sixty (60) days. Any staffing reductions beyond the sixty day limit will be accomplished through the layoff process described in Article 17.
- 6.12 Employees working unscheduled hours shall not be mandated onto a subsequent shift.

## **ARTICLE 7 PART-TIME EMPLOYEES**

- 7.1 Part-time employees shall be eligible to earn all employee benefits as described in Article 12 – Leaves of Absences and Article 13 – Wages on a pro rata basis provided that such employees work not less than thirty-two hours in each pay period and are assigned to a regular work schedule, as opposed to being subject to call or to work when available.
- 7.2 Part-time employees with provisional, probationary or permanent status shall be eligible for the County pro rata insurance program if such employees work not less than forty (40) hours per pay period. These employees shall be eligible for the County contribution towards insurance benefits on a pro rata basis based on average paid hours per pay period, with determination made each following six month period. Employees whose average paid hours are at least fifty percent (50%) but less than seventy five percent (75%) of full time shall receive two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of the County contribution towards insurance benefits. Employees who are regularly scheduled to work between sixty (60) and eighty (80) hours per pay period shall receive contributions towards health and dental premiums at the same rate as full-time employees.
- 7.3 An intermittent employee is defined as a person with permanent or probationary status not working a regular work schedule (e.g. on call). As established by the County Board (Resolution 2014-262) there is an Initial Measurement period of 12 months (new hires), and Standard Measurement Period of 12 months (current employees) for Intermittent employees to determine if they meet the ACA full-time standard of at least 30 hours per week; an Administrative Period of not more than 60 days to assess hours worked during the measurement period and enroll those who qualify as full-time and choose to elect coverage; and a Stability Period with 12 months medical insurance for those who elect coverage, provided they remain employed with the County. The County will offer single/family medical insurance to Intermittent employees who meet the ACA full-time standard of at least 30 hours per week as provided in this section, with the same County contribution provided to Regular Permanent employees.

## ARTICLE 8 HOLIDAYS

8.1 Employees for whom a holiday is a scheduled day of work shall be paid at their regular rate of pay for work performed on the holiday and be granted an alternative day off. Provisional, probationary and permanent employees are eligible for holidays as described in this Article, except as described in Article 8.4. Employees scheduled to work on Christmas Day, December 25, or New Year's Day, January 1, shall be paid their normal rate of pay for hours worked and be credited with an additional two (2) times the hours worked. No other overtime or differential pay shall be earned when this provision is in effect. When the employee utilizes their credited holiday time, whether by payout or alternative day off, no overtime or differential pay shall apply.

8.2 Holidays are defined as:

New Year's Day	January 1st
Martin Luther King's Birthday	The third Monday in January
Presidents' Day	The third Monday in February
Memorial Day	The last Monday in May
Juneteenth	June 19th
Independence Day	July 4th
Labor Day	The first Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11th
Thanksgiving Day	The fourth Thursday in November
Thanksgiving Friday	The Friday after Thanksgiving
Christmas Day	December 25th
*Floating Holidays	Two days each year (See Article 8.4)

Employees shall be eligible for holiday pay provided they are on paid status on the scheduled day before and the scheduled day after the holiday.

\*Employees working a Monday through Friday schedule shall have two (2) floating holidays and the Friday after Thanksgiving.

8.3 When New Year's Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Veterans Day or Christmas Day falls on Sunday, the following day shall be a holiday for employees who work a Monday through Friday schedule. When New Year's Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Veterans Day or Christmas Day falls on Saturday, the preceding day shall be a holiday for employees who work a Monday through Friday schedule. For employees who work a shift schedule, January 1, June 19, July 4, November 11 and December 25 shall be the holiday.

8.4 Shift Eligibility for Holidays. A shift worked for which a majority of the hours fall on the holiday, the employee shall be eligible for holiday pay pursuant to the above sections.

8.5 Every employee with probationary or permanent status shall be eligible for "floating holidays" based on the following:

(1) Effective 2022, employees shall be entitled to up to sixteen (16) hours\* per year.

\*Employees working a Monday through Friday schedule shall be entitled to up to eight (8) hours per year.

**ARTICLE 8 HOLIDAYS (Continued)**

- (2) Effective 2022, any floating holiday in excess of the maximum accumulation allowed shall be lost to the employee annually on the pay period including June 30.
- (3) Effective 2022, full-time and part-time employees shall receive sixteen (16) hours (or eight (8) hours for employees working a Monday through Friday schedule) of floating holiday annually on the first full pay period including June 30, pro-rated for part-time employees.
- (4) Employees who have worked less than 6 months will not be paid for unused floating holiday(s) if terminating employment.
- (5) Floating holidays shall be taken at a time mutually agreeable to the employee and the department.

8.6 It is the intention of the employer to grant holidays at a time mutually agreeable to the employee and the department within ninety (90) days of being earned. To accomplish this goal, the employee is expected to furnish their department with two (2) acceptable alternative days and such notice should be given with a minimum of two (2) weeks' notice. The department will attempt to schedule the holiday on one of these days, schedule permitting. The department will answer the request within ten (10) working days. Continuous rejection by the employer of dates provided by the employee will extend the ninety (90) day limit. If an employee has not provided alternative days after ninety (90) days of the holiday being earned, the department will schedule the holiday when the schedule permits.

## ARTICLE 9 SICK LEAVE

- 9.1 Each full-time provisional, probationary and permanent employee shall earn sick leave at the rate of 4.6154 hours per pay period. Sick leave accrual will be based on actual hours on paid status in a pay period. There will be no loss in accrual for unpaid union leave up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods.
- 9.2 Eligible employees may accumulate the unused portion of sick leave without any maximum restrictions.
- 9.3 Sick leave may be authorized for the following reasons with the limitations as specified:
- (1) For illness or injury, dental or medical treatment for the employee or their minor child. "Child" is as defined in Minnesota Statutes 181.940. [As of 1/1/2000, an individual under age 18 or an individual under age 20 who is still attending secondary school.] Sick leave usage by the employee shall be subject to approval and verification by the department head, who may require the employee to furnish a report from a recognized medical authority attesting to the necessity of the leave, ability to return to duty or other information deemed necessary for (a) an absence of forty (40) hours or more or (b) for full-time employees at the Ramsey County Care Center, four (4) absences of not less than eight (8) hours each in a three (3) month period, or (c) for part-time employees at the Ramsey County Care Center, three (3) absences from scheduled shifts in a three (3) month period; or (d) for sick leave use which is habitual, patterned or inappropriate. Sick leave verification under this article may be required by the department head for all sick leave usage for shifts voluntarily picked up by the employee above their base schedule.
  - (2) In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 181.9413, sick leave not to exceed one hundred sixty (160) hours in a calendar year may be used as a result of an illness or injury of the employee's adult child, spouse, sibling, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent. This paragraph does not apply to absences due to the illness or injury of a "child" as described in paragraph (1).
  - (3) An employee may use sick leave for safety leave for assistance to themselves or their relatives as described in paragraph (2). For the purpose of this paragraph, "safety leave" is leave for the purpose of providing or receiving assistance because of sexual assault, domestic abuse or stalking, as those terms have meaning in Minnesota Statutes 181.9413. Such use of sick leave is subject to the limitations included in paragraph (2).
  - (4) Sick leave not to exceed forty (40) hours in any one instance may be used as a result of a serious illness or serious injury of a person regularly residing in the employee's immediate household to attend to the needs of the ill or injured person.

## ARTICLE 9 SICK LEAVE (Continued)

- (5) Sick leave not to exceed eighty (80) hours may be utilized by employees for the birth or adoption of the employee's child or a child regularly residing in the employee's immediate household. The leave must be consecutive and taken within six (6) months of the birth or adoption.
- (6) Pregnant employees of Ramsey County shall be eligible for the use of paid and unpaid sick leave in the same manner as any other disabled or ill Ramsey County employee. Such sick leave eligibility shall begin upon certification by the employee's attending physician that due to pregnancy, the employee is disabled in terms of their ability to perform the duties of their position.  
Such employee shall then be eligible to receive sick leave benefits in the same manner as is provided for any other ill or disabled County employee during the remaining period of pregnancy and until such time as the employee is certified able to return to work by their attending physician.
- (7) In the event a pregnant employee elects to resign their employment because of pregnancy, such employee will be paid for accumulated sick leave up to but not exceeding one-hundred-twenty (120) hours.
- (8) Sick leave not to exceed forty (40) hours may be utilized upon the occasion of death in the employee's immediate family. Immediate family for the purpose of this section shall be defined as the employee's spouse, children, parents, siblings, grandchildren, grandparents, a person regularly residing in the employee's immediate household, or a person the employee regards as a member of the employee's family, and shall include parents and siblings of persons regularly residing in the employee's immediate household.

9.4 Twenty-Four (24) Hour Facilities: To be eligible for sick leave payment an employee must notify the employer or designee at least (\*) hours prior to the starting time of the employee's scheduled shift. This notice shall be waived if the employer determines that the employee could not reasonably be expected to comply with this requirement because of circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

- \* (1) One (1) hour prior to the morning shift.
- (2) Four (4) hours prior to the afternoon shift.
- (3) Four (4) hours prior to the night shift.

9.5 Full-time employees who do not utilize any sick leave hours in a full three (3) month period shall have the option of converting four (4) hours of sick leave to vacation or pay at the option of the employee. The three (3) month periods are from January 1-March 31, April 1-June 30, July 1-September 30, October 1-December 31.

Part-time employees who do not utilize any sick leave hours in a three (3) month period shall have the option of converting sick leave to vacation or pay at the option of the employee, on a pro-rated basis, based on hours worked for the three (3) month period. The three (3) month periods shall be the same as identified in the preceding paragraph.

## ARTICLE 9 SICK LEAVE (Continued)

- 9.6 An employee unable to work because of illness or accident whose paid sick leave is exhausted, shall be granted an unpaid leave of absence for a period not to exceed two (2) years. Employees will return at the same seniority in the salary schedule, will retain promotion rights and will earn vacation schedule seniority for leave under this paragraph. When there are fewer than three (3) months between periods of leave of absence under this section for the same illness or accident, the periods of absence will be added together to determine the length of leave that may not exceed two (2) years, except that this restriction will be reduced from three (3) months to thirty (30) calendar days for employees receiving Workers' Compensation. Existence and extent of illness or disability must be verified by a written statement from an appropriate authority when requested by the department head, their designee or the Human Resources Department.
- 9.7 An employee that has satisfied the elimination period for either short term or long term disability may, at the employee's option, retain a sick leave bank of up to eighty (80) hours when the employee begins an unpaid medical leave, provided the employee has a bank of paid sick leave hours remaining after satisfying the elimination period.
1. An employee with a paid sick leave bank of eighty (80) hours or less after satisfying the elimination period for either short or long term disability may elect to retain either all or none of their remaining sick leave bank.
  2. If the employee elects to retain a sick leave bank, the employee may not use any time from that bank until the employee returns from unpaid medical leave.
  3. If the employee does not return from unpaid medical leave, the time retained in the employee's sick leave bank will be lost to the employee, such that the employee will receive no compensation for the retained sick leave.
- In any other circumstances except those described above, employees will continue to be required to use all paid sick leave prior to going on an unpaid medical leave of absence, in accordance with Article 9.6.
- 9.8 An employee who is granted a leave of absence without pay for illness or disability shall be accorded an unqualified right to be reinstated to:
- (1) their former position in their department if the absence is for sixty (60) calendar days or less, or
  - (2) A position in their department in the classification held at the time the leave started, if the absence is longer than sixty (60) calendar days, except in either case when all positions in such class have been abolished.
- 9.9 If all positions in the classification in the department have been filled, in order to accommodate a person who returns to work after illness, the employee with the least amount of seniority in the department in the classification shall vacate their position subject to any eligibility for transfer or reduction that they may have acquired under this Agreement.

**ARTICLE 9 SICK LEAVE (Continued)**

- 9.10 Employees on sick leave with or without pay may not engage in other employment without the written approval of the employer.
- 9.11 An employee must present a statement from their physician attesting to their fitness to return to work at the request of the employer.
- 9.12 Should illness occur while an employee is on vacation the period of illness may be charged to sick leave and the charge to vacation reduced accordingly. An employee requesting such a change may be required to submit a written statement from a physician attesting to the illness and the period of disability.
- 9.13 Permanent and probationary employees who are injured while performing work within the scope of their employment for Ramsey County and by reason thereof are rendered incapable of performing their duties on or after January 1, 2000, shall upon approval by Human Resources, be granted sick leave for each work day up to a maximum of one hundred and thirty (130) days for which Worker's Compensation payments are made for said injury or illness, said sick leave not to be charged against normal sick leave they have accumulated. This additional sick leave shall be granted in an amount equal to and not exceeding the difference between any Workers' Compensation payment and eighty percent (80%) of the employee's normal daily wage.

If their recovery is not complete by the end of the period described in paragraph (1) of Article 9.13

employees shall use their own accumulated sick leave to make up the difference between any Workers' Compensation payment made and eighty percent (80%) of the employee's normal daily wage.

In the event an employee absence due to a work related injury does not qualify for Workers'

Compensation solely because of a statutory waiting period, each day of said absence shall be considered as a "day for which Workers' Compensation benefits are paid" under the provisions of this section.

In no event shall this section be construed or operate to permit an employee to receive a combined wage and Workers' Compensation payment exceeding 80% of the employee's normal daily wage.

Any such employee unable to resume the duties of their position within or at the end of the recovery periods and on the exhaustion of accumulated normal sick leave shall be eligible for the sick leave without pay provisions of this contract.

- 9.14 Sick leave may be used in quarter-hour (1/4) increments.



## ARTICLE 10 VACATION

- 10.1 Vacations shall be granted at the time requested by the employee. If the nature of the work makes it necessary to limit the number of employees on vacation at the same time, the employee with the greater seniority shall be given their choice of vacation period. Choice shall be by classification. Seniority shall prevail prior to May 1 of each year for the following six (6) months and prior to November 1 for the following six (6) months. All requests must be submitted by April 1 for vacations effective May 1 and October 1 for vacations effective November 1. A written response approving or denying vacation requests will be provided by April 15 for requests made by April 1, and by October 15 for requests made by October 1. For vacation requests made outside of the timeframe above, the employee will be notified in writing whether the request is approved or denied within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date the request was submitted.
- 10.2 If a holiday occurs during the calendar week in which vacation is taken by an employee, the employee's vacation used shall be reduced one (1) work day.
- 10.3 Any employee who is laid off, discharged, retired or separated from the service of the employer for any reason, prior to taking their vacation, shall be compensated in cash for the unused vacation they have accumulated at the time of separation.
- 10.4 Employees with an accumulation of sick leave credits in excess of one hundred and eighty (180) days may convert such excess days to vacation at the rate of two (2) days sick leave to one (1) day vacation but not to exceed five (5) days in any calendar year.
- 10.5 Each provisional, probationary and permanent employee shall be granted vacation with pay for each full month of actual service rendered on the following basis. Vacation accrual will be based on actual hours on paid status in a pay period. There will be no loss in accrual for unpaid union leave up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods:

<u>Number of years of Employment</u>	<u>Accrual in Hrs per pay period</u>	<u>Yrly Accrual in Hours</u>	<u>Maximum Accrual</u>
Less than 4 years	3.6923	96	240
At least 4 years, but less than 9 years	4.6154	120	300
At least 9 years, but less than 15 years	5.2308	136	340
At least 15 years, but less than 23 years	6.4615	168	420
23 years or more	7.6923	200	500

- 10.6 Effective January 1, 2022, vacation may be accumulated to a maximum of two and a half times (2.5) the annual vacation earning rate of the employee.
- 10.7 Effective January 1, 2022, any vacation accrued in excess of the maximum accumulation allowed shall be lost to the employee on the pay period including June 30 of each year.

**ARTICLE 10 VACATION (Continued)**

10.8 Vacation may be used in units of one-quarter (1/4) hour.

10.9 Employees who have successfully completed their initial probationary period may be advanced up to forty-hours (40) of vacation before it is accrued, subject to the following requirements:

- a) Requests for vacation advancement are subject to the same approval provisions as other vacation requests.
- b) Advanced vacation may not be placed in the employee's accrued vacation balance.
- c) Advanced vacation hours must be immediately repaid from future vacation accruals. If an employee leaves County employment before all hours are repaid, the dollar value of the hours will be deducted from the employee's final check. If there are not sufficient funds, the employee will be required to repay the County the value of those hours.
- d) All advanced vacation must be repaid to the County before any future vacation advancement requests will be considered.
- e) An employee may not have more than 40 vacation hours advanced to them at any time.
- f) Vacation hours advanced do not increase the employee maximum accumulation of vacation. The provisions regarding maximum vacation in Articles 10.6 and 10.7 continue to apply.
- g) An employee may not donate advanced vacation hours to another employee. An employee may not be required to request that vacation hours be advanced to them, before being eligible to receive donated hours.
- h) Denial of a request for vacation advance may be appealed in writing to the Department Director, with a response in writing to be received within ten (10) work days.

10.10 Adjustments to Initial Vacation Accrual – Credit for Previous Service

The appointing officer may, at their discretion, recommend to the Director of Human Resources (or designee), that a new hire be given credit for length of service for all or a portion of any employment experience directly related to the position to which the employee is being appointed or to match the current vacation accrual provided by the employee's most recent employer. The recommendation must be made in writing and be based on the appointing officer's assessment of the employee's qualifications beyond the minimum requirements, recruitment considerations or service accrual provided by the employee's previous employer. The appointing officer must submit documentation of the qualifying service with the recommendation. At their discretion, the Director of Human Resources may authorize length of service credit for all, none, a portion of the related experience, or the practice of the previous employer. This length of service credit, plus the employee's subsequent actual length of service with the County, will be the basis for future vacation accrual determinations. No additional length of service credit for qualifications obtained prior to County employment shall be granted after initial appointment to the County.

## **ARTICLE 11      SEPARATION PAY**

- 11.1    Upon separation, eligible employees may choose either Option A or Option B.
- 11.2    Option A - Upon separation from the service by resignation, layoff, expiration of a leave of absence or death, a permanent employee, their designated beneficiary, or their estate shall be paid one half (1/2) of all unused accumulated sick leave days provided:
- (1)     That at the time of separation, the employee has at least four hundred and eighty (480) hours of accumulated sick leave to their credit.
  - (2)     That at the time of separation from the County service, the employee must have been employed by the County in the classified service for at least ten (10) years prior to their separation, except that this section shall not apply to an employee whose cause of separation is death, layoff, whose position has been abolished, or who was required to retire from service under provisions of a compulsory retirement law.
  - (3)     An employee who is laid off or whose position has been abolished shall have the option of waiting until their eligibility for reinstatement expires before applying for separation pay.
  - (4)     That the rate of payment shall be based upon the regular hourly salary of the employee, in their permanent classification, at the time of separation. Separation as used in this rule means the last working day of the employee in the classified service.
  - (5)     That in the event an employee has been separated and paid for such accumulated sick leave and subsequently is re-employed, their sick leave shall be calculated as though they were a new employee.
  - (6)     Effective January 1, 2008, the maximum allowance shall not exceed \$13,000 for any one employee.
- 11.3    Option B - Upon separation from the service by resignation, layoff, expiration of a leave of absence or death, a permanent employee with at least twenty (20) years (41,600 hours) of service, their designated beneficiary, or their estate shall be paid according to the schedule below, to a maximum of \$7,000 effective January 1, 2008. An employee who is laid off or whose position has been abolished shall have the option of waiting until their eligibility for reinstatement expires before applying for separation pay: (no exceptions to 20 year requirement)
- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Effective January 1, 2008: | \$210 per year for the first 1-10 years of service |
|                            | \$280 per year for years 11-20                     |
|                            | \$350 per year for years over 20                   |
- 11.4    That no classified employee who is on a leave of absence to accept a position in the exempt service of the County shall be eligible for separation pay until their employment is finally terminated.

## **ARTICLE 12      LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

- 12.1 Eligibility Requirements. Employees shall be eligible for leaves of absence after thirty (30) days service with the employer.
- 12.2 Application for Leave. Any request for a leave of absence shall be submitted in writing by the employee to the employer or their designee. The request shall state the reason the leave of absence is being requested and the length of time off the employee desires. Authorization for a leave of absence shall be furnished to the employee by the employer or designee and it shall be in writing.
- 12.3 A request for a leave not exceeding one (1) month shall be answered within five (5) work days. A request for a leave of absence exceeding one (1) month shall be answered within ten (10) work days.
- 12.4 In addition to accruing seniority while on any leave of absence granted under the provisions of this Agreement, employees shall be returned to the classification they held at the time the leave of absence was requested. For leaves of less than thirty (30) days, the employee will return to their original position.
- 12.5 Employees shall be granted a leave of absence with pay any time they are required to report to jury duty or jury service. All fees shall be returned to the Employer except those paid for duty on the employee's normal day off and those paid for meals and mileage. Any hours not on jury duty shall be worked. The employer will make an effort to accommodate the schedules of employees called for jury duty.
- 12.6 Personal Leave. Leaves of absence not to exceed six (6) months may be granted. Such leave may be extended or renewed not to exceed a total leave of twelve (12) months.
- 12.7 Union Business. Employees elected to any Union office or selected by the Union to do work which takes them from their employment with the employer, shall, at the written request of the Union, be granted a leave of absence.
- 12.8 Maternity. Maternity leaves, not to exceed six (6) months, shall be granted at the request of the employee.
- 12.9 Paid Parental Leave. Effective 1/1/19, the County will provide three (3) weeks of paid parental leave (pro-rated for part-time employees) for the birth or adoption of a child. Effective January 1, 2022, paid parental leave shall be utilized within six (6) months following the birth or adoption of a children (or children). Paid parental leave must be exhausted prior to using unpaid leave time.
- 12.10 Either parent adopting a child or the spouse of the person having a child shall be granted a personal leave, not to exceed six (6) months, at the request of the employee. Employees under this provision shall not be eligible for paid sick leave during the period of leave.
- 12.11 Educational Leave. Employees wishing to improve their education may be granted a leave not to exceed two (2) years.
- 12.12 Employees placed on leave with pay pending an investigation as provided under Rule 26.5 of the Ramsey County Personnel Rules, shall be instructed by the employer regarding the employer's requirements for the employee's availability, and the employee will provide the employer with a means of contacting the

## **ARTICLE 12      LEAVES OF ABSENCE (Continued)**

employee by phone or other technology that provides same day telephone access within two business hours and in person access within one business day during the investigation.

12.13 Neither benefits or salary increases shall be earned by employees while on a leave of absence without pay. Employees returning to work after leave without pay will be paid at the same salary step held at the time the leave began.

12.14 Employees meeting the eligibility requirements of the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA) may take up to twelve (12) weeks of leave within any twelve (12) month period, for the following reasons, as provided in the FMLA:

1. Birth or adoption of the employee's child.
2. To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious medical condition.
3. A serious medical condition rendering the employee unable to perform their job.

The twelve weeks may be taken on an intermittent or reduced basis with appropriate medical evidence. If the reason for the intermittent or reduced work basis is the birth or adoption of a child, the approval of the employee's department is also required.

This leave shall be unpaid except as provided for, and under the limitations described in Article 9-Sick leave, and Article 10-Vacation.

"Child" under this section shall be defined as "son or daughter" as defined in the Family & Medical Leave Act. This definition is: a biological, adopted or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age 18 or age 18 or older and incapable of self care because of a mental or physical disability.

12.15 Up to twelve (12) weeks of unpaid leave shall be granted to an employee to care for a person regularly residing in the employee's immediate household, who is not the employee's spouse, child or parent, and who has a serious medical condition. This leave will be administered as if it were leave allowed under the Family & Medical Leave Act (FMLA), except when doing so would result in a violation of the Family & Medical Leave Act. FMLA time taken under Article 12.14 will count against time allowed under Article 12.15.

## ARTICLE 13 WAGES

- 13.1 Wage Schedules 2022-2024.
- **2022:**
  - 1.50% wage increase effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2022.
  - Employees shall progress through the wage schedule per the applicable salary plan in 2022.
  - A one-time, lump sum payment of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) will be made to employees who have been required to work on-site and provide direct in-person services/care throughout the ongoing pandemic, as determined by the employer, to be paid in the first quarter of 2022, to be determined by the Employer.
  - A one-time, lump sum payment of five hundred dollars (\$500) will be made to all other employees who were not required to work in-person and/or provide in-person services/care throughout the ongoing pandemic and have had the option to work from home, as determined by the employer, to be paid in the first quarter of 2022, to be determined by the Employer.
  - These lump sum payments set no precedence or guarantee of any future lump sum payments for same or similar purposes. Reference to these lump sum payments shall be removed from the contract following the 2022-2024 agreement.
- **2023:**
  - 2.25% wage increase effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2023.
  - Employees shall progress through the wage schedule per the applicable salary plan in 2023.
- **2024:**
  - 2.25% wage increase effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2024.
  - Employees shall progress through the wage schedule per the applicable salary plan in 2024.
  - Effective January 1, 2024, all applicable salary plans containing steps that require five (5) or more years between progression shall reduce the progression by one (1) year, not to result in less than four (4) years between steps. No change will be made to steps that require less than five (5) years between progression.

13.2 Comparable Worth - If the County is found to be out of compliance with the Minnesota Pay Equity Act, the County agrees to reopen the collective bargaining agreement for the purpose of negotiating pay equity adjustments.

13.3 When any classification not listed on the wage schedule is established under Article 2, the employer shall designate the rate structure for the position and notify the Union. In the event the Union does not agree that the rate is proper, the Union shall have the right to submit the issue as a grievance at Step 4 of the grievance procedure.

**ARTICLE 13      WAGES (Continued)**

- 13.4 Saturday-Sunday Differential: Effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2022, all full-time employees, or part-time employees receiving pro rata benefits, required to work on Saturday or a Sunday as part of their regular schedule shall be compensated at the rate of eighty cents (\$.80) per hour for each hour worked. Compensation under this section will be in addition to the employee's regular salary and will be earned for the entire period worked, provided at least five (5) hours of the period worked fall on the day for which the additional compensation is being paid. This differential shall be combined with 13.5 when the employee is eligible for both. These differentials will not be paid where such work constitutes overtime under the provisions of the Agreement.
- 13.5 All full-time employees or part-time employees receiving prorata benefits, who work as part of their regular schedule on a shift which includes time between 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m., shall be entitled to receive a night differential for the entire shift provided at least four (4) hours of the shift are worked between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The night differential shall be paid as additional compensation equivalent to 6.5% of the first step in the salary range established for the classification. This differential shall be combined with 13.4 when the employee is eligible for both.
- This differential will not be paid where such work constitutes overtime under the provisions of this Agreement. Employees working on a continual night shift assignment shall be paid this differential during all paid leaves.
- 13.6 Effective the first full pay period following January 1, 2022, LPNs working the overnight shift in Correctional Health, Juvenile Detention Center, or Detoxification Center will receive a night differential of \$3.25 per hour for all hours worked. This differential will not be paid where such work constitutes overtime under the provisions of this Agreement. Employees working on a continual night shift assignment shall be paid this differential during all paid leaves.
- 13.7 Call-Back Time. Any employee directed by an authorized person to return to work after their regularly scheduled shift shall be paid for a minimum of four (4) hours. All call-back time will be at the direction of the authorizing person. All call-back time must be authorized by supervisor regardless of where the work occurs.
- 13.8 Scheduled Weekend Off Differential: Effective the date of County Board approval of this Agreement, employees called in to work on a scheduled weekend off shall receive \$25.00 per day in addition to the employee's regular salary, provided the employee works at least eight (8) hours per day. This differential will not be paid where such work constitutes overtime under the provisions of this Agreement. This differential will not be paid in addition to the differentials described in 13.4, 13.5 and 13.12. The weekend shall be from 11:00 p.m. on Friday to 11:00 p.m. on Sunday.
- 13.9 Building Charge Pay: Effective the date of County Board approval of this Agreement, an employee specifically designated and assigned by the employer to be in charge of the building will receive building

**ARTICLE 13     WAGES (Continued)**

charge pay in the amount of \$1.25 per hour for all hours worked in said designated assignment. Building charge pay shall not be paid in addition to the scheduled weekend off differential set forth in section 13.11. This differential shall be paid in addition to overtime pay. Overtime pay for purposes of this section shall be calculated based on the employee's regular base pay, exclusive of differential. Building charge pay applies only to employees of the Ramsey County Care Center.

- 13.10 Any employee assigned to a position with a classification having a higher rate of pay shall receive the higher pay for each hour worked. Any part of an hour shall be considered a whole hour under this paragraph.
- 13.11 When a position is reclassified, the incumbent shall be promoted to the new classification provided they have not less than six (6) months' employment in the position and meets the minimum qualifications required. The employee shall serve the appropriate probationary period for a promotion.
- 13.12 Promotion in the career development classes, after having met the minimum qualifications of the higher class, will be based on satisfactory performance as determined by the employer. Full-time employees who receive a career development promotion shall have a probationary period of three (3) months. Part-time employees who receive a career development promotion shall have a probationary period of five-hundred twenty (520) hours or six (6) months, whichever comes first.
- 13.13 Changes in salary shall be effective on the date of eligibility.
- 13.14 Mileage and Parking - Employees will be reimbursed for work related mileage and parking as follows:
- (1) Mileage Rates - The mileage rate shall be the maximum allowed by the Internal Revenue Service. If the IRS rate should change during the term of the contract, the contract rate shall change also on the date specified by the IRS.
  - (2) Parking Plan - County employees will be designated by management as either "frequent" or "infrequent" drivers for parking reimbursement. Management designation as a "frequent" driver must be in writing.
    - (a) "Frequent" Drivers - Employees designated by management as "frequent" drivers (those who are required to have their car available for County business at least 10 days per month) will receive the following reimbursement:

Work-Site Parking - Employees will either be provided with free parking by the employer or be reimbursed up to ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) per month for the actual cost of parking at their regular work site if they provide a receipt or other appropriate documentation designated by the employer. Effective 1/1/19 this reimbursement will increase to a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month.



**ARTICLE 13      WAGES (Continued)**

Other Parking - All necessary out-of-pocket parking expenses incurred while conducting County business away from the regular work site will be reimbursed in full with a receipt or other appropriate documentation up to a maximum of ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) per month.

(b) "Infrequent" Drivers - Employees designated by management as "infrequent" drivers (those who are required to have their car available for County business less than 10 days per month) will receive the following reimbursement:

Work Site Parking - Employees will be reimbursed all necessary daily parking expenses (documented by a receipt or other appropriate documentation) incurred at their regular work site when having their car available for County business. Reimbursement for work site parking shall not exceed ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) per month. Effective 1/1/19 this reimbursement will increase to a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per month.

Other Parking - All necessary out-of-pocket parking expenses incurred while conducting County business away from the regular work site will be reimbursed in full with a receipt or other appropriate documentation up to a maximum of ninety-five dollars (\$95.00) per month.

- 13.15 Effective the first full pay period following 1/1/2022, the Employer will provide a matching contribution directly to the employee's deferred compensation plan provider of a maximum of \$35 per month or \$420.00 annual maximum, per contributing employee, provided the employee makes a minimum contribution of \$10.00 per month. This contribution will be prorated based on regular hours worked. In the event an employee contributes to more than one deferred compensation plan provider offered by the county, the employer contribution shall only be made to a single plan and will default to the plan that the employee contributes a greater amount to. In the event the employee contributes equally to the plan providers, the employer contribution will default to the MSRS administered plan..

## **ARTICLE 14 OVERTIME**

14.1 Overtime for employees in the classification Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN):

- (1) Employees not electing an alternate schedule described in (2) of this section, shall earn time and one-half for work performed beyond eight (8) hours in a day, or eighty (80) hours in a fourteen (14) day pay period.
- (2) Employees who elect an alternate schedule with shifts longer than eight (8) hours in a day, shall earn time and one-half for hours worked beyond their scheduled shift or beyond forty (40) hours in a seven (7) day work week.
- (3) Sick leave will not be considered time worked for purposes of calculating overtime.

14.2 Employees in the title Public Health Licensed Practical Nurse 1 and Public Health Licensed Practical Nurse 2, employed in the Public Health Department, shall earn time and one-half for work performed beyond eight (8) hours in a day, or forty (40) hours in a week.

14.3 Distribution. Overtime work shall be distributed as equally as possible to employees working within the same job classification within the same department. The distribution of overtime shall be equalized over each six (6) month period beginning on the first day of the calendar year. Upon request of the Union, the employer shall make available a list of the overtime distribution of employees.

14.4 Overtime work shall be voluntary, except in emergencies or should the required employees not be available on a voluntary basis. There shall be no discrimination against any employee who declines to work overtime. Emergency is defined as: An unanticipated set of circumstances that creates an immediate need for employees to work to safeguard public safety, prevent injury to clients, employees or the public, prevent catastrophic loss or maintain current standard staffing ratios. An employee calling in sick in accordance with established guidelines for calling in sick does not in itself constitute an emergency.

14.5 Time earned under this Article shall be compensated by pay or time off at the discretion of the department head. Employees may carry sixty (60) hours of compensatory time into the following year unless the department chooses to pay.

14.6 Overtime will be calculated to the nearest fifteen (15) minutes.

## **ARTICLE 15     DISCIPLINE**

- 15.1 Prior to disciplining an employee, the employer should make effort to work with the employee in an attempt to actualize appropriate behavior and/or optimal performance by utilizing training, familiarizing of countywide and department policies, or performance improvement plans.
- 15.2 Discipline shall be only for Just Cause, provided in writing including the reason(s) therefore, effective date, generally in the following order, and in the form of:
- Written reprimand
  - Suspension
  - Reduction or demotion
  - Discharge
- 15.3 The Employer shall not administer discipline unless the employee has had an opportunity to have a representative of the Union present.
- 15.4 Investigation. Employees may be afforded union representation when the employee is part of an investigation; that right shall be offered to employees upon notice of the investigation. It is the employee's responsibility to secure union representation.
- 15.5 Written Reprimand. Written reprimands will become part of an employee's personnel file. The employee will receive a copy of such reprimand.
- 15.6 Limited Retention. Upon agreement between the union and management, a written reprimand will be removed from an employee's personnel file provided that (1) no further disciplinary action has been taken against the employee for same or similar infractions six (6) months to one (1) year as agreed to from the date of written reprimand and (2) the employee submits a request for removal. Such request to remove a document from a personnel file under this section shall not be placed in the file. Materials removed pursuant to this section shall be provided to the employee. Removal of written reprimands shall be subject to the county's retention records and any applicable federal and state laws.
- 15.7 Loudermill. In the event of a reduction, demotion, suspension, or discharge, the employee shall be offered a Loudermill meeting for an opportunity to hear an explanation of the evidence against them, to present their side of the story, and shall be informed of the right to have a representative, which may be a union representative, at such meeting. The employee shall remain in pay status and disciplinary action shall not become effective during that period when the meeting may occur. However, if the employee was not in pay status at the time of the notice of discharge for other reasons, the requirement to be in pay status shall not apply.
- 15.8 Disciplinary Grievance Procedure. An employee receiving discipline may submit the disciplinary action to the grievance procedure beginning at Step 2 pursuant to Article 16 Grievance Procedure, or appeal the disciplinary action through the non-bargaining grievance procedures provided under the Ramsey County

**ARTICLE 15     DISCIPLINE (Continued)**

Personnel Act and Personnel Rules. An employee may not use more than one of these procedures in appealing a disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE 16      GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

- 16.1 Definition of Grievance. A grievance is defined as a dispute or disagreement as to the interpretation or application of the specific terms and conditions of this Agreement. An employee has the right to proceed under non-contractual remedies in the County Personnel Act and Rules and Veterans Preference Act. An employee may not employ both the grievance procedure under this Article and non-contractual remedies for the same grievance
- 16.2 Organization Representatives. The employer will recognize representatives designated by the Union as the representative or steward of the bargaining unit having the duties and responsibilities established by this Article. A list of union representatives or stewards will be provided to Labor Relations in Human Resources at least annually or in the event there are changes in representatives.
- 16.3 Processing of Grievance. It is recognized and accepted by the Union and the County that the processing of grievances as hereinafter provided is limited by the job duties and responsibilities of the employees and shall therefore be accomplished during normal working hours only when consistent with such employee duties and responsibilities. The aggrieved employee's union representative or steward shall be allowed a reasonable amount of time without loss in pay, if an employee, when a grievance is investigated and presented to the employer during normal working hours, provided the employee and the employee's union steward have notified the designated supervisor.
- 16.4 Grievance Procedure. Grievances as herein defined, shall be processed in the following manner:
- STEP 1. Informal - An employee claiming a violation concerning the interpretation or application of the express provisions of this Agreement shall, with or without the Union representative, within ten (10) work days after the first knowledge of the event giving rise to the grievance, present such grievance to their supervisor who is designated for this purpose by the employer. The supervisor shall give their oral or written answer within five (5) work days after such presentation.
- STEP 2. Formal - If the grievance is not settled in Step 1 and the employee wishes to appeal the grievance to Step 2 of the Grievance Procedure, it shall be referred in writing by the union representative or steward to the department head or their designated representative within ten (10) work days after the designated supervisor's answer in Step 1 and shall be signed by both the employee and the Union representative. The written grievance shall set forth the nature of the grievance, the facts on which it is based, the provision or provisions of the Agreement allegedly violated and the relief requested. The department head or their designated representative shall discuss the grievance within ten (10) work days with the employee and the Union representative or steward at a time mutually agreeable to the parties. If the grievance is settled as a result of such a meeting, the settlement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the employer or their designated representative and the Union. If no settlement is reached, the employer or their designated representative shall give a written answer to the Union within ten (10) work days following their meeting.

## **ARTICLE 16     GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Continued)**

STEP 3. Appeal - If the grievance is not settled in Step 2 and the Union desires to appeal, it shall be referred by the Union in writing as specified in Step 2, to the Director of Human Resources or their designated representative within ten (10) work days after the employer or their designated representative's answer in Step 2. A meeting between the Director of Human Resources or their designated representative, the employer or their designated representative, the employee and the Union shall be held ten (10) work days following the Union request for a Step 3 meeting, at a time mutually agreeable to the parties. If the grievance is settled as a result of such a meeting, the settlement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Director of Human Resources or their designated representative and the Union. If no settlement is reached, the Director of Human Resources or their designated representative shall give the employer's written answer to the Union within ten (10) work days following the meeting.

STEP 4. Arbitration - If the grievance is not settled in Step 3, and the Union wishes to refer the grievance to arbitration, the Union shall inform the Employer of its intent to arbitrate within ten (10) work days after the Union's receipt of the Employer's written answer in Step 3. The Union and the Employer will then select an arbitrator either under the alternate striking provisions of Minnesota Statutes 179A.21, Subdivision 2, or by another method mutually agreeable to the Union and the Employer.

- a. The arbitrator shall have no right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to or subtract from the terms and conditions of the contract. The arbitrator shall consider and decide only the specific issue(s) submitted in writing by the employer and the employee and the Union, and shall have no authority to make a decision on any other issue not so submitted.
- b. The arbitrator's decision shall be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days following close of the hearing or the submission of briefs by the parties, whichever be later, unless the parties agree to an extension. The decision shall be based solely on the arbitrator's interpretation or application of the express terms of this agreement and to the facts of the grievance presented.
- c. The fees and expenses for the arbitrator's services and proceedings shall be borne equally by the employer and the Union, provided that each party shall be responsible for compensating its own representatives and witnesses. If either party desires a verbatim record of the proceedings, it may cause such a record to be made, provided it pays for the record. If both parties desire a verbatim record of the proceedings, the cost shall be shared equally.

16.5 Waiver - If grievance is not presented within the time limits set forth above, it shall be considered "waived". If a grievance is not appealed to the next step within the specified time limit or any agreed extension thereof, it shall be considered settled on the basis of the employer's last answer. If the employer does not answer a grievance or an appeal thereof within the specified time limits or any agreed to extension, the grievance shall be considered settled on the basis of the Union's request.

**ARTICLE 16      GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE (Continued)**

- 16.6    The time limit in each step may be extended by mutual written agreement of the County and the employee Union in each step. The term "days" as used in this Article shall mean the days Monday through Friday inclusive, exclusive of holidays.
- 16.7    Grievance Representative - Employees presenting a grievance under Step 2 shall be represented by a representative of the Union.
- 16.8    Records - All documents, communications and records dealing with a grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the involved employee(s).

## **ARTICLE 17     SENIORITY**

- 17.1 Seniority means an employee's length of continuous service by classification and from their date of hire within the bargaining unit.
- 17.2 Classification Seniority - Classification seniority is defined as the length of continuous service in a specific job classification within any AFSCME bargaining unit to which the classification is common. When an employee returns to a previously held classification or exercises bumping rights under Article 18.3, classification seniority in that class shall include seniority in all non-supervisory equal or higher classifications in which the employee has served.
- 17.3 In the event there is a tie in classification seniority, it shall be broken in the following manner:
- (1) Continuous time within the bargaining unit.
  - (2) Continuous time within the County.
  - (3) Position on certification list.
- 17.4 Probation. New employees shall be subject to the following probationary period: Full-time employees shall have a six (6) month probationary period. Part-time and intermittent employees shall have a probationary period of one thousand forty (1,040) hours or twelve (12) months, whichever comes first.
- 17.5 Seniority Lists. On March 1 the employer shall post a seniority list showing the continuous service of each employee by classification. A copy of the seniority list shall be furnished to the Union when it is posted. If there is a grievance relating to seniority or a layoff, additional seniority lists shall be produced. There shall be a separate list for intermittent employees.
- 17.6 Breaks in Continuous Service. An employee's continuous service record shall be broken by voluntary resignation, discharge for just cause, and retirement.
- 17.7 An employee promoted or transferred to a new, equal or higher classification shall have the option of returning to their former classification if such employee fails probation, whether their promotion is within the bargaining unit or to another position of employment provided by the employer. In addition, during the probationary period an employee may return to their former classification upon request with the approval of the departments affected.



## **ARTICLE 18      WORK FORCE**

- 18.1      The employer shall post all vacancies in all departments covered by this Agreement. Employees desiring to transfer to other jobs shall submit an application in writing to the employer.
- 18.2      Job Bidding. Vacancies shall be posted in all departments containing LPN/PHPN positions. Postings shall include location, number of hours, and shift available.
- (a)      Employees, by classification, excluding intermittent employees, shall be eligible to bid for a vacancy. There shall be departmental preference on bids for vacancies. Notices shall be posted for at least five (5) work days.
  - (b)      The department, in the selection of employees for such vacancy or newly created position, shall consider classification seniority and the employee's ability and capacity to perform the job, including qualification requirements established by statutes or regulations.
  - (c)      An employee in one department who is selected to fill a vacancy in another department shall serve a three (3) month probationary period. If the full-time employee does not successfully complete the three (3) month probationary period (520 hours or six months, whichever comes first, for part-time employees), the employee shall have a right to return to the employee's previously held position.
- 18.3      (a)      In the event it becomes necessary to lay off employees for any reason, employees shall be laid off in the inverse order of their seniority within the classification, provided all temporary, provisional, and intermittent employees, in that classification, in that order, are released first. No permanent position shall be eliminated until all emergency, temporary and provisional employees in the same classification are released. Employees shall be recalled from layoff according to their seniority, provided they meet qualification requirements established by statutes or regulations. No new employees shall be hired in the classification until all employees on layoff status desiring to return to work have been recalled.
- (b)      Employees no longer working for the county will remain eligible for reinstatement from layoff status for a minimum of two years from the date of their layoff. After this initial two-year period, eligibility for reinstatement from layoff shall be extended each year that the employee notifies Human Resources of their continuing interest in reinstatement up to a maximum of ten years. Such notification of continuing interest shall be in writing to the Director of Human Resources and shall be made within 60 days following the anniversary date of the employee's layoff and include a current address and phone number of the employee on layoff. If no notice is received the employee's name will be removed from the recall list and the employee will no longer be eligible for reinstatement. After ten years the laid-off employee's eligibility for reinstatement shall expire.

It is the responsibility of the employee on lay-off to keep a current address and phone number on file in Human Resources any time such contact information changes. Inability to contact the employee caused by

**ARTICLE 18      WORK FORCE (Continued)**

the employee's failure to update their address or phone number will result in the employee losing their eligibility for reinstatement.

18.4 When a bargaining unit position is eliminated, the employee shall be assigned to an open position in that classification in the department employed. If no open position exists in the department, the junior employee in the classification in the affected department shall be subject to the following, provided the employee meets qualification requirements established by statutes or regulations:

- (1) The junior employee shall be assigned to an open position in the classification in another department within the bargaining unit.
- (2) If no open position exists in the classification, the employee shall be assigned to the position occupied by the junior bargaining unit employee in the classification, and the junior employee in the classification shall be laid off. When there are vacant positions to be filled, employees displaced shall choose an assignment to the vacated positions based on classification seniority. Displaced employees, by class seniority, shall make a decision as to available positions within twenty-four (24) hours of notification or forfeit their right to such seniority consideration.
- (3) Employees shall be permitted to exercise their seniority rights to any classification previously held before being subject to layoff.
- (4) No employee's regular hours of work will be reduced as the result of using "free labor". "Free labor" is defined as volunteers, community service people, restitution workers, etc.

18.5 An employee appointed to a position in another Ramsey County AFSCME bargaining unit or other non-supervisory Ramsey County bargaining unit shall maintain their AFSCME bargaining unit seniority in all job classifications in which the employee has been employed. The employee may return to the bargaining unit and may exercise their AFSCME bargaining unit seniority in any previously held class if subsequently laid off from a position in another Ramsey County AFSCME bargaining unit or other non-supervisory Ramsey County bargaining unit.

18.6 If an employee is notified in writing by the employer that they will be laid off, is on layoff or is in a lower class because they exercised their bumping rights under this Article, that employee shall be placed at the employee's request, on a re-employment register for any class for which the employee meets the minimum qualifications. When a requisition is received by the Human Resources Department for a class where the re-employment register contains the names of employees identified by this Article, those employees shall be included with the certification from the eligible register. If a requisition is received by the Human Resources Department for a job class for which there is no current register, employees on a re-employment register for the class under the terms of this Article, will be referred to the appointing officer for consideration.

Employees covered by this section will also be eligible for placement through the County's Job Mobility

**ARTICLE 18      WORK FORCE (Continued)**

Program for any job class for which the employee meets the minimum qualifications. Eligibility for this benefit shall expire after an employee has been on layoff for two years or when the employee passes probation for a position obtained under this Article.

- 18.7 If the County, or a County department, determines that employees in a specific job classification within a bargaining unit will be laid off, the employer may allow employees in that classification and bargaining unit to volunteer to be laid off, such that less senior employees would be retained. Employees responding to the employer's request for volunteers will be considered in order of their classification seniority within their department. Employees who accept a voluntary layoff will be recalled in order of their classification seniority among those on layoff status. Employees on voluntary layoff may waive reinstatement unless they are the least senior employee in the classification on layoff status.
- 18.8 For purposes of this Article, the Ramsey County Care Center, the Public Health Department, and the Ramsey County Detoxification Center (Detox) shall each be separate departments.
- 18.9 Employees appointed outside the bargaining unit shall maintain their seniority in the unit through the end of their probationary period.

## ARTICLE 19 INSURANCE

19.1 Employee Insurance – The County will provide the following insurance contributions on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following 30 (thirty) days of employment to provisional, probationary and permanent employees who elect insurance coverage: (All contributions shown for medical and dental are monthly and based on full-time employment.)

(1) Medical Insurance:

### 2022 –

- **Single:** Effective January 1, 2022, the total premium for single coverage is \$1,012.17 per month. The monthly premium shall be split 92% County/8% employee. The County will subsidize the employee's portion of the single insurance monthly contribution by \$3.00 per month for 2022, which results in an employee contribution of \$77.97 per month and a County contribution of \$934.20 per month per employee.
- **Family:** Effective January 1, 2022, the total premium for family coverage is \$2,412.21 per month. The monthly premium shall be split 75% County/25% employee. The County will subsidize the employee's portion of the family insurance monthly contribution by \$32.00 per month for 2022, which results in an employee contribution of \$571.05 per month and a County contribution of \$1,841.16 per month per employee.

Coverage	Total Premium Amount	Premium Split Percentage: Employer/Employee	Premium Split Dollars: Employer/Employee	Employer Provided Monthly Subsidy	Resulting Employee Contribution	Resulting Employer Contribution
Single	\$1,012.17	92% / 8%	\$931.20/\$80.97	\$3.00	\$77.97/mo	\$934.20/mo
Family	\$2,412.21	75% / 25%	\$1,809.16/\$603.05	\$32.00	\$571.05/mo	\$1,841.16/mo

### 2023 –

- **Single:** Effective January 1, 2023, the total premium for single coverage shall be split 92% County/8% employee. The County will subsidize the employee's portion of the single insurance monthly contribution by \$6.00 per month for 2023.
- **Family:** Effective January 1, 2023, the total premium for family coverage shall be split 75% County/25% employee. The County will subsidize the employee's portion of the family insurance monthly contribution by \$47.00 per month for 2023.
- In no case will the subsidies to the employee's 2023 single or family insurance contributions result in the employee's 2023 monthly insurance contribution being less than what the employee paid in 2022.

**ARTICLE 19 INSURANCE (Continued)**

Coverage	Total Premium Amount	Premium Split Percentage: Employer/Employee	Premium Split Dollars: Employer/Employee	Employer Provided Monthly Subsidy	Resulting Employee Contribution	Resulting Employer Contribution
Single	TBD	92% / 8%	TBD	\$6.00	TBD	TBD
Family	TBD	75% / 25%	TBD	\$47.00	TBD	TBD

**2024 –**

The County and the Union will reopen the contract to negotiate medical insurance for 2024.

Changes will be effective on January 1 of each year.

**(2) Dental Insurance:**

- **2022** – Effective January 1, 2022, the County and the employee will split the total premium for single or family dental coverage 50% County/50% employee.

Coverage	Total Premium Amount	Premium Split Percentage: Employer/Employee	Employee Contribution	Employer Contribution
Single	\$44.68	50% / 50%	\$22.34/mo	\$22.34/mo
Family	\$99.59	50% / 50%	\$49.80/mo	\$49.80/mo

- **2023** – Effective January 1, 2023, the County and the employee will split the total premium for single or family dental coverage 50% County/50% employee.

Coverage	Total Premium Amount	Premium Split Percentage: Employer/Employee	Employee Contribution	Employer Contribution
Single	\$46.02	50% / 50%	\$23.01/mo	\$23.01/mo
Family	\$102.57	50% / 50%	\$51.29/mo	\$51.29/mo

- **2024** – The County and the Union will reopen the contract to negotiate dental insurance for 2024.

Changes will be effective January 1 of each year.

**(3) Life Insurance:**

The County will provide group life insurance equal to one times an employee's annual salary. (minimum \$10,000, maximum \$50,000). Optional life insurance will be employee paid.

**(4) Long-Term Disability:**

The County will provide a basic long-term disability benefit providing 40% income replacement. Employees may buy an additional 20% income replacement at their own expense for a total of 60%.

**(5) Short-Term Disability:**

The County will offer an employee paid short-term disability plan to employees effective 1/1/2000 subject to meeting insurance carriers enrollment requirements.

The Union will allow the Employer to offer a pre-tax cafeteria plan that includes Health Care Expense Account-Premium Option, Health Care Reimbursement Account, and the Dependent Care

## ARTICLE 19 INSURANCE (Continued)

Reimbursement Account to members of the bargaining unit. Participation is voluntary. The employer will contact the Union representative thirty (30) days or more prior to implementing any substantive changes in the program. If the Union disagrees with the proposed changes, the changes will not be implemented for the members of the bargaining unit unless legally required.

### 19.2 Eligibility

Retiree Insurance: Employees who retire from Ramsey County under provisions of the Public Employment Retirement Act may participate at their option under the health and welfare insurance plans for retired Ramsey County employees. There is no County contribution to dental insurance premiums. County contribution for medical insurance is as follows:

**Employees hired before July 1, 1992** – Employees hired before July 1, 1992 must have 10 years (20,800 hours) of County service to be eligible for the full County contribution to retiree medical insurance premiums. If an employee retires under PERA disability retirement, the employee must have 5 years (10,400 hours) of County service to be eligible for the full County contribution to retiree medical insurance premiums.

**Employees hired on or after July 1, 1992** – Employees hired on or after July 1, 1992 must have 20 years (41,600 hours) of County service to receive 50% of the County contribution to retiree medical insurance premiums. This amount will increase by 4% for each additional year (2,080 hours) of County service until there is a maximum of 90% of the County contribution after 30 years (62,400 hours).

**Current insurance eligible employees hired between 7/1/92 and 12/31/05** – Current insurance eligible employees hired between 7/1/92 and 12/31/05 elected in writing prior to 11/1/06 whether they would maintain their current retiree insurance benefit, **or** opt out of the current retiree benefit and participate in the Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) option. **This was a one time, irrevocable decision. Employees who *did not* make an election in writing prior to 11/1/06, were deemed to have elected to retain their current retiree insurance benefit.** Effective the 1st full pay period following 1/1/07, employees opting out of the current retiree insurance benefit contribute 1% of salary on a per pay period basis to the HCSP.

The County will contribute five hundred twenty five dollars and twenty cents (\$525.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's five (5) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to five hundred thirty dollars and forty cents (\$530.40) per year. The County will contribute six hundred twenty nine dollars and twenty cents (\$629.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis effective the 1st full pay period following the employee's ten (10) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to six hundred thirty four dollars and forty cents (\$634.40) per year. The County will contribute seven hundred thirty three dollars and twenty cents (\$733.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1st full pay period following the employee's fifteen (15) year

## **ARTICLE 19      INSURANCE (Continued)**

employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to seven hundred thirty eight dollars and forty cents (\$738.40) per year.

Contributions will be pro-rated based on the number of hours on paid status in a pay period for both full-time and part-time employees. There will be no loss in accrual for full-time employees for up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods for unpaid union leave.

Only insurance-eligible employees are eligible to participate in this HCSP option.

**Employees hired on or after 1/1/06** - Employees hired on or after 1/1/06 will not receive any County contribution toward retiree insurance. Employees who meet the eligibility requirements for retiree insurance may participate in the County's retiree insurance plan but will be responsible for the entire premium. All new employees hired on or after 1/1/06 will contribute 1% of salary on a per pay period basis to a Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP).

The County will contribute five hundred twenty five dollars and twenty cents (\$525.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1<sup>st</sup> full pay period following the employee's five (5) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to five hundred thirty dollars and forty cents (\$530.40) per year. The County will contribute six hundred twenty nine dollars and twenty cents (\$629.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis effective the 1st full pay period following the employee's ten (10) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to six hundred thirty four dollars and forty cents (\$634.40) per year. The County will contribute seven hundred thirty three dollars and twenty cents (\$733.20) per year to the HCSP on a per pay period basis beginning the 1st full pay period following the employee's fifteen (15) year employment anniversary date. Effective the first full pay period after 1/1/17 this contribution will increase to seven hundred thirty eight dollars and forty cents (\$738.40) per year.

Contributions will be pro-rated based on the number of hours on paid status in a pay period for both full-time and part-time employees. There will be no loss in accrual for full-time employees for up to forty (40) hours per pay period for no more than two (2) consecutive pay periods for unpaid union leave.

Only insurance-eligible employees are eligible to participate in this HCSP option.

### **County Contributions**

**Early Retiree Contributions:** For employees retired from Ramsey County who are less than the age of Medicare eligibility (early retirees), the County will make the same contribution to medical insurance premium as for active employees, subject to the years-of-service requirements listed above.

**Regular Retiree Contributions:** For employees retired from Ramsey County who are eligible for Medicare, or are at or exceed the age of Medicare eligibility (regular retirees):

## **ARTICLE 19     INSURANCE (Continued)**

2022- The County will contribute toward the premium for single medical coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for single coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$75.00 per month; and will contribute toward the premium for family coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for family coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$150.00 per month.

2023 - The County will contribute toward the premium for single medical coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for single coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$75.00 per month; and will contribute toward the premium for family coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for family coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$150.00 per month.

2024 - The County will contribute toward the premium for single medical coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for single coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$75.00 per month; and will contribute toward the premium for family coverage up to the same amount as the County contribution for family coverage for active employees, except the retiree pays no less than \$150.00 per month.

County contributions are subject to the years of service requirements listed above. All changes effective January 1 each year.

- 19.3 The County will make a payroll deduction for the premium for the voluntary Group Term Life Insurance Program offered through the Public Employees Retirement Association, for those employees who choose to participate.
- 19.4 County Board Resolution 9-1811. Ramsey County shall defend, save harmless and indemnify each of its officers and employees, whether elective or appointive, against a tort claim or demand, whether groundless or otherwise, arising out of each alleged act or omission occurring in the performance of duty, except malfeasance in office or willful or wanton neglect of duty.
- 19.5 Labor/Management Committee on Insurance: This Committee shall have sixteen (16) members as follows: Three members from AFSCME Council 5; one each from other Ramsey County employee unions (Teamsters Local 320, Operating Engineers Local 49, Operating Engineers Local 70, Law Enforcement Labor Services, Ramsey County Deputy Federation, and Technical Employees Association); six members from County administration; and one member selected from among non-represented County employees (employee selected shall be submitted to Council 5, which shall have a right of refusal).

Each bargaining unit may select one (1) alternate, who, together with the business agents, may attend meetings and participate in discussions, but will not participate in determining consensus, unless designated by their union to replace an absent member. The County may also select up to six (6) alternates, who may



**ARTICLE 19      INSURANCE (Continued)**

attend meetings and participate in discussions, but will not participate in determining consensus, unless designated by the County to replace an absent member. Attendance at Committee meetings by Committee members and alternates will be without loss of pay.

The committee shall be advisory to the County Board on all insurance matters, and shall operate by consensus. All members of the Committee shall have access to all relevant statistics and information.

## **ARTICLE 20      GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 20.1 Neither the Union nor the employer shall discriminate against any employee because of Union membership or non-membership, age, color, creed, disability, national origin, parental or marital status, political belief, race, religious belief, sexual or affectional preference, sex, receiving public assistance or social services, or because of a previous emotional or mental disturbance. Sexual harassment shall be considered discrimination under this Article.
- 20.2 Union Bulletin Boards. The employer agrees to furnish and maintain suitable bulletin boards in convenient places. The Union shall limit its posting to official notices and bulletins of the Union to such bulletin boards.
- 20.3 The Union may designate certain employees from the bargaining unit to act as stewards and shall, within ten (10) days of such designation, certify to the employer in writing of such choice, and the designation of successors to former stewards. The employer agrees to recognize stewards certified by the Union as provided in this section subject to the following stipulations:
- (1) There shall be no more than one (1) steward and one (1) alternate designated at any one time for the bargaining unit at the Ramsey County Care Center, and no more than one (1) steward and one (1) alternate designated at any one time for the Public Health Department and Ramsey County Detoxification Center (Detox).
  - (2) Stewards and other employee Union officers shall not leave their work stations without the prior permission of their designated supervisor(s) and they shall notify their designated supervisor(s) upon return to their work stations. Permission to leave a work station for Union business will be limited to the investigation and presentation of grievances.
  - (3) Non-employee representatives of the Union shall be permitted to come on the premises of the employer for the purpose of investigating and discussing grievances if they first notify the employer's designated representative and provided the Union representative does not interfere with the work of the employees.
- 20.4 Work Rules. The employer shall have the right to establish reasonable work rules which shall be equitably and uniformly applied. Prior to the effective date, except for rules relating to patient or employee safety, any work rule shall be posted on all bulletin boards for a period of ten (10) consecutive work days. In addition, copies shall be furnished to the Union, and when effective, all existing work rules shall be furnished to all employees. New employees shall be furnished a copy of all work rules when hired. Any complaint as to the reasonableness of any new or existing rule, or any complaint involving discrimination in the application of new or existing rules, shall be resolved through discussion by the parties.
- 20.5 All in-service training shall be at the expense of the employer. Training other than in-service training required by the employer shall be prepaid. In the event the course is not completed by the employee, or the employee resigned employment within six (6) months from the date of training, the cost of such training shall be deducted from the employee's pay.

**ARTICLE 20      GENERAL PROVISIONS (Continued)**

- 20.6 (1) During the term of the Agreement, the employer shall not contract out or subcontract any public work performed by employees covered by this Agreement which would result in a layoff.
- (2) In the event the employer feels it is necessary to contract out or subcontract any public work performed by employees covered by this Agreement, the employer will notify the Union in writing no less than ninety (90) calendar days in advance. During the ninety (90) days the employer will meet with the Union and discuss possible ways and means to minimize the elimination of positions. The ninety (90) day notice requirement will not apply to contracting or subcontracting out during emergencies. "Emergency" in this context means either as defined in Article 14.3 of the collective bargaining agreement, or as declared by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners under the terms of the Ramsey County Charter, Section 5.03.
- (3) As a result of merger, transfer or reorganization of any department, no employee may be laid off or suffer any reduction in classification, pay or seniority except in the single instance where an employee refuses a job assignment consistent with their classification pay and seniority rights provided by this Agreement.
- 20.7 Any subject matter submitted by the employer to the employee's personnel file which could be detrimental to the employee's future promotion, transfer, present or future employment, shall be served upon the employee in writing. Such matters shall be a proper subject for the grievance procedure.
- 20.8 In the event new technology is introduced changing the skill requirement of any position covered by this Agreement, the employer will provide training to assist the employee in the affected position to acquire the necessary proficiency in the utilization of the newly introduced technology.
- 20.9 Education Allowance: Any employee who, in order to improve their work performance, takes courses which have a direct relationship to their current or future work or a position they can reasonably hope to advance to, may, upon submission of evidence of successful completion of such courses, be refunded the amount of the tuition. An employee desiring to take advantage of this training program must have the course work approved previous to enrollment by their department head. Factors upon which an employee's eligibility depends include the relevance of the course work to the employee's position; the status of the educational institution and availability of funds, pursuant to the County's Tuition Reimbursement guidelines. Effective 1/1/19, tuition payments shall be limited to \$4,000 annually for any one employee. Employees otherwise eligible for a refund shall not submit claims for tuition reimbursement when such tuition has been or shall be paid by a federal plan of "benefits for veterans and service personnel" or by other sources.
- 20.10 If an employee is required to wear a uniform by the employer, the employer will furnish said uniform, unless otherwise modified by this agreement. For employees working at the Ramsey County Care Center, reimbursement for uniforms will be paid according to the rates below, to a maximum of 2,080 hours per year: \$.07 per hour (paid in January of the following year) - \$50 minimum (must work at least 320 hours per year).

## **ARTICLE 21      COMPLETE AGREEMENT AND WAIVER OF BARGAINING**

- 21.1 This Agreement shall represent the complete Agreement between the Union and the employer.
- 21.2 The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations which resulted in this Agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make requests and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining, and that the complete understandings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this Agreement. Therefore, the employer and the Union, for the life of this Agreement, each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right, and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to bargain collectively with respect to any subject or matter referred to or covered in this Agreement or with respect to any subject or matter not specifically referred to or covered in this Agreement, even though such subject or matter may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time that they negotiated or signed this Agreement.
- 21.3 Savings Clause. Should any article, section or portion thereof, of this Agreement be held unlawful and unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall apply only to the specified article, section or portion thereof directly specified in this decision; upon the issuance of such a decision, the parties agree immediately to negotiate a substitute for the invalidated article, section or portion thereof.

## ARTICLE 22 TERM OF AGREEMENT

This Agreement shall be effective as of the first day of January, 2022, and shall remain in full force and effect until the last day of December, 2024. It shall be automatically renewed from year to year thereafter unless either party shall notify the other in writing by June 1 that it desires to modify this Agreement. In the event that such notice is given, negotiations shall begin not later than July 1. This agreement shall remain in full force and be effective during the period of negotiations or until notice of termination of this Agreement is provided to the other party in the manner set forth in the following paragraph.

In the event that either party desires to terminate this Agreement, written notice must be given to the other party not less than ten (10) days prior to the desired termination date. The termination date shall not be before the anniversary date set forth in the preceding paragraph.

This Agreement was approved by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on February 1, 2022, Board Resolution B2022-036, and signed by the parties as dated below

### WITNESSES:

Alison Kelly 02/08/2022

Sandi Blasser 02/08/2022

### RAMSEY COUNTY

Trista L MatasCastillo 02/09/2022  
Trista L MatasCastillo (Feb 9, 2022 10:20 CST)

Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

R. T. O. C. 02/09/2022

Ramsey County Manager

Approved as to form by:

Elisabeth A. Brady  
Elisabeth A. Brady (Feb 9, 2022 08:50 CST)

Assistant County Attorney

Date: 02/09/2022

COUNCIL #5, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE,  
COUNTY & MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

By: Dane Ryan 02/08/2022  
Dane Ryan - Field Representative (Feb 8, 2022 17:43 CST)

Dawn Flores 02/08/2022  
Dawn Flores (Feb 8, 2022 19:18 CST)



**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
NURSING DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION**

This Memorandum is entered into between the County of Ramsey and AFSCME Council 5, Local 1076 (Ramsey County Care Center) and Local 151 (Licensed Practical Nurse Unit).

WHEREAS, The parties have entered into a collective bargaining agreement effective January 1, 2018; And

WHEREAS, The parties have agreed to an annual renewal of this Memorandum of Agreement; And

WHEREAS, The parties have agreed to allow certain employees in the Nursing Department of the Ramsey County Care Center Unit to receive additional compensation in the form of an Unscheduled Weekend Bonus, Election of Alternate Work Schedule for Overtime Earnings, employees with 20 years of service or more in the Nursing Department of Ramsey County Care Center Unit to be granted a change in the nursing work rule concerning use of vacation time for a weekend off, and establishment of specific salary rates for employees who are nursing home classifications only to include the special compensation differentials; NOW THEREFORE,

The parties agree as follows:

A. Unscheduled Weekend Bonus

1. Nursing Department permanent employees who are NA/R 1's, NA/R 2's and LPN's will be paid a bonus for unscheduled weekends if the employee works the weekend.
2. The bonus for a full eight (8) hour shift worked will be as follows:  
NA/R 1     \$30.00 shift bonus\*  
NA/R 2     \$35.00 shift bonus\*  
LPN        \$40.00 shift bonus\*  
\*Management maintains flexibility to approve pro-rated bonus based on six (6) hour minimum shift.
3. Employees would receive overtime if overtime applies in addition to the bonus.

B. Election of Alternate Work Schedules for Overtime Earnings

1. Employees shall not be allowed or required to change from one overtime earning to the other (i.e., 8/80 vs. over 40) as defined in Article 14 Overtime, stated specifically in 14.1 of the contract, more frequently than a minimum of every three (3) months.

C. Nursing Employees Work Rule Change for Employees with 20 or More Years of Service

1. Nursing employees in the RCCC Unit with 20 or more years of service, will be allowed to use thirty-two (32) hours of vacation when requesting vacation for a weekend off instead of the current work rule practice of having to request and use forty (40) hours of vacation for a weekend off. Nothing in the referenced work rule precludes the granting of other vacation requests where staffing permits.


D. Specific Salary Rates for RCCC Classifications of Employees

1. Salary rates for RCCC employees on Salary Schedules 33A/33I include \$1.20 special Nursing Home compensation approved by the State Legislature. This portion of the salary is dependant on continued state funding. The special Nursing Home compensation portion of the salary rate is not included when calculating general wage increases.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The undersigned have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed this

1<sup>ST</sup> day of January, 2018.

RAMSEY COUNTY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gail Blackstone

LOCAL 151 (Licensed Practical Nurses)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Flores


**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
PHASED RETIREMENT OPTION**

Ramsey County and AFSCME Council 5, representing AFSCME Locals: 8 (General County), 8 (Professional), 8 (Public Health Registered Nurses), 151 (Social Services Department, Financial Assistance Services Department, and the Administrative Division of the Health and Wellness Service Team), 151 (Licensed Practical Nurses), 151 (Workforce Solutions), 707 (Lake Owasso Residence), 1076 (Ramsey County Care Center), and 1935 (Parks & Recreation), (collectively "the Union") agree to the following with respect to the Phased Retirement Option Program (PRO):

1. All AFSCME represented employees will be eligible to participate in the PRO Program offered by Ramsey County, as outlined in County Board Resolution 2010-035 (copy attached)
2. AFSCME represented employees shall not be released from employment anytime during the first six (6) calendar months of the initial PRO period.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The undersigned have caused this Memorandum of Agreement to be executed this 1<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2018.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY

  
Neil Blom

FOR AFSCME Council 5

  
Dawn Flores



# Resolution

Board of

## *Ramsey County Commissioners*

Presented By: Commissioner Rettman Date: January 19, 2010 No. 2010-035

Attention: Budgeting and Accounting  
Gail Blackstone, Human Resources  
Jean Gramling, Human Resources

Page 1 of 2

WHEREAS, Ramsey County is supportive of employees preparing themselves for retirement; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County participates in several PERA program offerings; and

WHEREAS, In the 2009 Omnibus Pension Bill, the Minnesota Legislature authorized a Phased Retirement Option (PRO) through the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA) which allows PERA Coordinated and Basic members age 62 and over the option to begin receiving a PERA pension without formally resigning employment if they meet the requirements of the PRO; and

WHEREAS, Each covered employer has sole discretion on offering the PRO; and

WHEREAS, There are advantages of participating in the PRO plan for both the County organization and employees; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the requirement of reducing work hours, the following terms and conditions will also apply to Ramsey County PRO agreements for unrepresented employees:


a) Benefits

Employees covered by a PRO Agreement with Ramsey County are: a) not subject to the provisions of the Benefits Policies; b) not eligible to participate in County employee insurance programs or Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP); and, c) not eligible for the County contribution to deferred compensation.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

	YEA	NAY	OTHER
Tony Bennett	X		
Toni Carter	X		
Jim McDonough	X		
Rafael Ortega	X		
Jan Parker	X		
Janice Rettman	X		
Victoria Reinhardt	X		

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair

By:   
Bonnie C. Jackelen  
Chief Clerk - County Board

# Resolution

Board of

## *Ramsey County Commissioners*

Presented By: Commissioner Rettman Date: January 19, 2010 No. 2010-035

Attention: Budgeting and Accounting  
Gail Blackstone, Human Resources  
Jean Gramling, Human Resources

Page 2 of 2

- b) Wages  
Employees will receive wages in accordance with Ramsey County Personnel Rules.
- c) Position Complements  
Employees in PRO positions will be treated similar to temporary employees and consequently will not be counted against the department's personnel complement. However, departments that utilize the PRO must remain within their authorized personnel budget.
- d) Personnel Rules  
Ramsey County Personnel Rules will apply to employees entering into a PRO agreement.

Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the Ramsey County Human Resources Director, or their designee, to enter into PRO agreements as appropriate and in accordance with PERA requirements, with County employees for the duration authorized by the Minnesota Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Ramsey County benefit policies will be amended to indicate that employees covered by a PRO Agreement with Ramsey County are: a) not subject to the provisions of the Benefits Policies; b) not eligible to participate in County employee insurance programs or Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP); and, c) not eligible for the County contribution to deferred compensation, and Be It Further


RESOLVED, The Human Resources Department is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement for PRO Agreements with individual bargaining units, as outlined for unrepresented employees.

Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

	YEA	NAY	OTHER
Tony Bennett	X		
Toni Carter	X		
Jim McDonough	X		
Rafael Ortega	X		
Jan Parker	X		
Janice Rettman	X		
Victoria Reinhardt	X		

Victoria Reinhardt, Chair

By:

  
Bonnie C. Jackelen  
Chief Clerk - County Board

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
COVID TESTING**

This Memorandum of Agreement is in effect from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 between Ramsey County and the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 5, representing Locals 8 (General County), 8 (Professional), 8 (Public Health Registered Nurses), 151 (Social Services Department, Financial Assistance Services Department, and the Administrative Division of the Health and Wellness Services Team) 151 (Licensed Practical Nurses), 151 (Workforce Solutions), 707 (Lake Owasso Residence), 1076 (Ramsey County Care Center), and 1935 (Parks & Recreation), (collectively "the union") agree to the following.

The County will provide employees thirty (30) minutes of paid time if the employee is required to report to the workplace for mandatory Minnesota Department of Health testing on a scheduled day off.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, The undersigned have caused Memorandum of Agreement to be executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY

*Alison Kelly*

*Sandi Blasser*

FOR AFSCME COUNCIL 5

*Dane Ryan*  
Dane Ryan (Apr 7, 2021 15:00 CDT)

*Dawn Flores*  
Dawn Flores (Apr 7, 2021 15:17 CDT)

During the course of the 2022-2024 contract negotiations, the parties agreed to renew this agreement through 12/31/2024.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY

*Alison Kelly*

02/08/2022

*Sandi Blasser*

02/08/2022

FOR AFSCME COUNCIL 5

*Dane Ryan*

Dane Ryan - Field Representative (Feb 8, 2022 17:43 CST)

02/08/2022

*Dawn Flores*

Dawn Flores (Feb 8, 2022 19:18 CST)

02/08/2022

## **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT**

### **Temporary Unscheduled Shift Incentive 2021**

This Memorandum is entered into between the County of Ramsey and AFSCME Council 5, local 1076 (Ramsey County Care Center) and local 151 (Licensed Practical Nurse Unit).

WHEREAS, The parties have entered into a collective bargaining agreement that includes an MOA titled "Memorandum of Agreement Nursing Department Additional Compensation" that was renewed for the time period of January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021 that provides an incentive-payment for picked up non-scheduled weekend shifts; And

WHEREAS, The parties completed contract negotiations to include the year 2021; And

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has presented an unprecedented challenge to staffing and the duration of the pandemic is unknown; And

WHEREAS, The parties have agreed to allow certain employees in the Nursing Department of the Ramsey County Care Center Unit to receive additional compensation in the form of an hourly shift differential; And

WHEREAS, The parties have agreed to a temporary picked up shift incentive payment in the form of a two dollar (\$2.00) per hour differential on hours worked on a non-scheduled picked-up shift when employees in the referenced job titles pick up an unscheduled shift;

NOW THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

The following shall replace the current MOA titled "Nursing Department Additional Compensation" during the application of the temporary unscheduled shift differential as outlined herein.

1. Unscheduled picked up shift incentive differential-
  - a. Nursing Department employees, excluding temporary who are NA/R 1's, NA/R 2's and LPN's will be paid a \$2.00 per hour shift differential for unscheduled picked-up shifts when the employee works an open shift in addition to their regular schedule.
  - b. The Shift differential will be applied for all hours worked after a minimum of one (1) hour and above.
  - c. Employees will receive overtime if overtime applies in addition to the shift differential.
2. No employee shall be eligible for double payment for any single shift worked.
3. Any traded or even exchange shifts between employees will be ineligible for the picked-up shift incentive differential.
4. Sick leave will not be considered time worked for purposes of unscheduled shift incentive differential.
5. The shift incentive will not be paid on a worked holiday, on holiday reserve hours or in the event the employee receives holiday pay on a day not worked (holiday not worked pay).

6. The shift incentive may be applied to intermittent employees who pick up shifts on the dedicated COVID unit. No other picked-up shifts within the facility are eligible for the additional \$2.00 compensation due to their intermittent status which doesn't provide for, or guarantee regular schedules and shifts.
7. The application of the picked-up shift differential incentive is temporary and limited in duration. The expansion will be effective January 1, 2021 (or thereabout) and last until December 31, 2021 or until staffing levels meet the state minimum requirement. While COVID-19 may still exist, the urgent staffing need is stabilized, and the shift incentive will terminate upon a one (1) week (7 calendar days) notice to employees. The incentive may resume prior to December 31, 2021 in the event staffing levels again reach an urgent level requiring the use of a shift incentive in order to ensure safe staffing for all residents and staff at the Ramsey County Care Center as determined by the Administrator.
8. Upon termination of the picked-up shift incentive pursuant to #7 above, the "Nursing Department Additional Compensation" MOA shall be in effect upon the conclusion of the 1-week notice. At no time will this Agreement and the Nursing Department Additional Compensation MOA be simultaneously administered.
9. The use of the picked-up shift differential incentive is non-precedent setting and cannot be used in attempt to guarantee any future shift differential, incentive or bonus of any kind.
10. Extension of the Agreement shall only be upon written mutual agreement between the parties.
11. This Agreement will sunset upon the expiration of the 2021 Collective Bargaining Agreement unless the parties review the Agreement and determine to continue or modify the terms.

In witness whereof, the undersigned have caused this Memorandum of Agreement to be executed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_.

Ramsey County

*Alison Kelly*

*Sandi Blasser*

AFSCME Council 5, Local 1076 & 151  
(Ramsey County Care Center)

*Dane Ryan*  
Dane Ryan (Apr 7, 2021 15:00 CDT)

*Dawn Flores*  
Dawn Flores (Apr 7, 2021 15:17 CDT)

During the course of the 2022-2024 contract negotiations, the parties agreed to renew this agreement through 12/31/2024.

FOR THE COUNTY OF RAMSEY

*Alison Kelly*

02/08/2022

*Sandi Blasser*

02/08/2022

FOR AFSCME COUNCIL 5

*Dane Ryan*

Dane Ryan - Field Representative (Feb 8, 2022 17:43 CST)

02/08/2022

*Dawn Flores*

Dawn Flores (Feb 8, 2022 19:18 CST)

02/08/2022