

Agreement Number: A154691

Agreement Between
HENNEPIN COUNTY
and the
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

AFSCME Council 5 Local #34, Social Services Unit (FF)

January 1, 2016- December 31, 2018

Note: New language is ***bold/italic and/or shaded***. Please exercise care in administering such new language. Contact your Labor Relations Representative at 612-348-5010 with any questions.

Table of Contents

ARTICLE 1 - PREAMBLE	5
ARTICLE 2 - RECOGNITION	5
ARTICLE 3 - DEFINITIONS.....	6
ARTICLE 4 - UNION SECURITY.....	7
ARTICLE 5 - EMPLOYER AUTHORITY	8
ARTICLE 6 - SENIORITY	8
ARTICLE 7 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE.....	10
ARTICLE 8 - NO STRIKE-NO LOCKOUT	12
ARTICLE 9 - WORK SCHEDULES/PREMIUM PAY	12
ARTICLE 10 - HOLIDAYS	15
ARTICLE 11A - VACATIONS	15
ARTICLE 11B – PAID TIME OFF (PTO).....	16
ARTICLE 12A - SICK LEAVE	18
ARTICLE 12B – SICK LEAVE	19
ARTICLE 13 - LEAVES OF ABSENCE	20
ARTICLE 14 - ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE	21
ARTICLE 15 - LEAVE BENEFITS AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS.....	21
ARTICLE 16 - FUNERAL LEAVE	21
ARTICLE 17 - MILITARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY	21
ARTICLE 18 - MILITARY RESERVE TRAINING.....	21
ARTICLE 19 - COURT DUTY.....	21
ARTICLE 20 - ELECTION DAYS.....	22
ARTICLE 21 - TIME OFF FOR TESTING.....	22
ARTICLE 22 - INSURANCE	22
ARTICLE 23 - SEVERANCE PAY	27
ARTICLE 24 - STABILITY ADJUSTMENTS	28
ARTICLE 25 - PART-TIME / LIMITED DURATION EMPLOYEES	28
ARTICLE 26 - WORK UNIT VACANCIES	29
ARTICLE 27 - WORK RULES	29
ARTICLE 28 - PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS.....	30
ARTICLE 29 - EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE	30
ARTICLE 30 - FITNESS FOR DUTY	30
ARTICLE 31 - MEET AND CONFER.....	30
ARTICLE 32 - DISCIPLINE.....	31
ARTICLE 33 - EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE	32
ARTICLE 34 - NON-DISCRIMINATION.....	32
ARTICLE 35 - SCOPE OF AGREEMENT	32
ARTICLE 36 - SAVINGS CLAUSE	33
ARTICLE 37 – SPECIAL LEAVE WITHOUT PAY	33
ARTICLE 38 - SALARY RATES	33
ARTICLE 39 - AUTOMOBILE TRAVEL EXPENSES.....	37
ARTICLE 40 - HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	37
ARTICLE 41 – UNIFORM ALLOWANCE.....	37
ARTICLE 42 - CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES.....	37
ARTICLE 43 - TRAINEES.....	38
ARTICLE 44 - EFFECTIVE DATES.....	38
ARTICLE 45 - TERM OF AGREEMENT.....	38
ATTACHMENT A - Hennepin County Map	39
ATTACHMENT B.....	40
ATTACHMENT C.....	41
ATTACHMENT D.....	42
Letter - Local 34 Issues.....	44
Letter of Understanding – Workload/Caseloads	45
Clarification of Health Insurance Article	46
Clarification of Seniority Letter	47
Letter of Agreement – Social Worker & Senior Social Worker.....	48
Wage Steps & Health Insurance Plan Design	49
<i>Consensus Model Based Insurance Proposal and LMHCC Structure</i>	50

Index 52
Wage Steps & Health Insurance Plan Design 52
Consensus Model Based Insurance Proposal and LMHCC Structure..... 52

ARTICLE 1 - PREAMBLE

This AGREEMENT, hereinafter referred to as the AGREEMENT, is entered into between the County of Hennepin, hereinafter called the EMPLOYER, and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council No. 5 and its affiliated locals as identified in the Article herein titled "Recognition," hereinafter called the UNION. *The purpose of the AGREEMENT is to fulfill the mutual desire of the EMPLOYER and UNION to encourage and promote a culture of dignity and respect between the parties and a mutually satisfactory relationship with respect to the terms and conditions of employment in the county. The EMPLOYER and the UNION recognize that it is in the best interest of both parties that all dealings between them be characterized by mutual responsibility and respectful treatment.* The parties hereto agree as follows:

ARTICLE 2 - RECOGNITION

Section 1 The EMPLOYER recognizes the UNION as the exclusive representative for the following unit of Hennepin County employees under the Minnesota Public Employment Labor Relations Act (M.S. 179A.01-179A.25). Social Service Unit (AFSCME Council No. 5, Local 34). A unit of all non-hospital employees in Hennepin County employed fourteen (14) hours or more per week and more than sixty-seven (67) work days per year in the classifications of:

Case Management Assistant	Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistant
Chemical Clinical Health Specialist	Medical Examiner's Technician
Chemical Health Counselor	MHP Medical Services Coordinator
Chemical Health Counselor, Sr.	Nurse, Licensed Practical
Child Support/Collection Service Officer	Nurse, Public Health
Child Support/Collection Service Officer, Principal	Nursing Specialist, Clinical
Child Support/Collection Service Officer, Senior	Psychologist
Clinical Psychologist, Senior	Psychologist, Clinical
Community Health Worker	Record Information Specialist
Community Health Worker, Senior	Sentencing to Service Crewleader
Corrections Counselor	Social Worker
Dental Assistant	Social Worker, Child Protection
Dental Hygienist	Social Worker, Psychiatric
Financial Case Aide	Social Worker, Senior
Health Care Assistant	Social Worker, Senior Psychiatric
Health Care Quality Improvement Specialist (MHP)	Special Programs Counselor
Human Services Representative	Sterile Processing Technician
Human Services Representative, Senior	Training Specialist
Interpreter	Veterans Service Representative
Interpreter, Senior	Volunteers, Coordinator of
Medical Assistant	Volunteers, Senior Coordinator of
	WIC Public Health Nutritionist

Excluding supervisory, confidential and all other employees.

Section 2 The UNION recognizes the Labor Relations Representative designated by the Labor Relations Director, as the representative of the EMPLOYER and shall meet and negotiate exclusively with such representative, except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this AGREEMENT. No agreement establishing terms and conditions of employment or other matters made between the UNION and the EMPLOYER shall be binding upon the EMPLOYER unless the signature of the EMPLOYER's designated Labor Relations Representative is affixed thereon.

Section 3. The EMPLOYER, in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statute 179A.06, subd. 1, agrees not to enter into any agreements establishing terms and conditions of employment with members of the bargaining unit under jurisdiction of this AGREEMENT either individually or collectively which in any way conflict with the terms and conditions set forth in this AGREEMENT, except through the certified representative.

Section 4. Disputes which may occur between the EMPLOYER and the UNION over the inclusion or exclusion of job classes, with respect to the bargaining unit identified in Section 1 of this Article, may be referred to the Bureau of Mediation Services (hereinafter BMS) for determination in accordance with applicable statutory provisions. Determination by the BMS shall be subject to such review and determination as provided by statute and rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.

Section 5. If the EMPLOYER establishes new job classes within the bargaining unit identified in Section 1 of this Article, both parties agree to negotiate on wages. However, it is understood that all other terms and conditions of this AGREEMENT will apply.

ARTICLE 3 - DEFINITIONS

The following terms used in this AGREEMENT shall be defined as follows:

- A. **BASE PAY RATE:**
Non-Exempt - The employee's basic hourly rate exclusive of overtime premium, shift premium, stability or any other special allowances.
Exempt - The employee's basic monthly rate of pay exclusive of overtime premium, shift premium, stability or any other special allowances.
- B. **CLASS:** One or more positions sufficiently similar with respect to duties and responsibilities that the same descriptive title can be used with clarity to designate each position; that similar general qualifications are needed for the performance of duties; that comparable selection procedures may be used to recruit employees, and that the same schedule of compensation can be applied to all positions.
- C. **COMPENSATED PAYROLL STATUS:** Receipt of cash payment for scheduled time worked or for time on approved compensated leave.
- D. **CURRENT:** Shall mean the present time period as designated such as hour, day, month, year.
- E. **DAYS:** Unless otherwise indicated, means calendar days.
- F. **DEMOTION:** A change from a position in one work classification to a position in another work classification with less responsible duties and a lower salary range maximum.
- G. **DEPARTMENT:** The term department(s) as referenced in this AGREEMENT shall be those established by the EMPLOYER in its organizational structure. For reference purposes, a current description of such department(s) is included in Attachment B.
- H. **EMERGENCY:** An unforeseen crisis situation or condition so defined by the EMPLOYER.
- I. **EMPLOYEE:** A member of the exclusively recognized bargaining unit as identified in the Article herein titled "Recognition," who has been employed on the basis of **regular** appointment to a continuing position.
- J. **EMPLOYER:** County of Hennepin or its designated representative(s).
- K. **FULL TIME:** A work schedule equivalent to an average of 2,080 regular hours per year.
- L. **LAYOFF:** Separation from service with the EMPLOYER necessitated by lack of work, lack of funds or other reasons without reference to incompetence, misconduct or other behavioral considerations. When such separation is due to emergency circumstances, only a separation in excess of fifteen (15) calendar days shall be considered a layoff.
- M. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** An approved absence from work duty during a scheduled work period with or without compensation.
- N. **LIMITED DURATION EMPLOYEE:** Limited duration employees include the following three categories of **regular** employees: (a) **regular** employees who are hired for six (6) months or less; (b) an employee appointed to a **regular** position that is expected to last for more than six (6) months but less than two (2) years; or (c) **regular** employees whose work schedule is intermittent, non-continuous or irregular in nature regardless of the anticipated duration of the appointment.
- O. **PART TIME:** An individual so designated by the EMPLOYER whose normal work schedule consists of fewer hours than the full-time schedule.
- P. **PROBATIONARY PERIOD:** Probationary periods are as follows:
 - (1) Newly Employed: The first six (6) calendar months service of newly hired or rehired employees. (The probationary period for **rehired** employees may be modified or waived at the discretion of the EMPLOYER, provided such modification or waiver is stated in writing.)
 - (2) Promotional and Transfer: The first six (6) calendar months of service following a promotional appointment or a transfer.
 - (3) Newly employed, promotional and transfer employees in the job classifications of STS Crewleader will serve a 12 month probationary period.**
- Q. **PROMOTION:** A change of an employee from a position in one work classification to a position in another work classification with a higher salary range maximum.
- R. **REGULAR EMPLOYEE:** A member of the exclusively recognized bargaining unit identified in the Article herein titled "Recognition" who has completed the required probationary period for newly employed, re-employed or reinstated employees, who has been employed on the basis of **regular** appointment to a continuing position.
- S. **REGULAR HOURS:** Time on compensated payroll status exclusive of overtime hours and exclusive of on-call hours.

- T. **REINSTATEMENT:** Re-employment of a former **regular** or probationary employee in a work classification to which he/she was assigned prior to termination.
- U. **STEWARD:** An employee designated by the UNION for the purposes of communicating with the EMPLOYER on matters of interest to either party.
- V. **TERMINATION IN GOOD STANDING:** Any termination other than dismissal for disciplinary reasons and for which terminating employee has given the required minimum notice in advance of leaving.

ARTICLE 4 - UNION SECURITY

Section 1. In recognition of the UNION as the exclusive representative:

- A. The EMPLOYER shall once each payroll period deduct an amount sufficient to provide the payment of regular dues established by the UNION from the wages of all employees authorizing, in writing, such deduction on a form designated and furnished for such purpose by the UNION. Only the duly certified exclusive representative shall be granted payroll deduction of dues for employees covered by this AGREEMENT.
- B. The EMPLOYER shall remit such deductions each payroll period to the appropriate designated officer of the UNION with a list of the names of the employees from whose wages deductions were made.
- C. The UNION shall certify to the EMPLOYER, in writing, the current amount of regular dues to be withheld each payroll period and any fair share assessments authorized by law.
- D. Such dues deductions shall be cancelled by the EMPLOYER upon written request by the employee.
- E. ***The EMPLOYER will provide to the UNION the add/drop report each pay period and the quarterly report electronically at no charge to (monthly data is available on the quarterly reports). The EMPLOYER will charge the UNION \$25.00 for production of a report request that varies from this schedule.***

Section 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 under the provisions of this Article.

Section 3. The UNION may designate certain employees from the bargaining unit to act as stewards and shall, within thirty (30) days of the execution of this AGREEMENT and upon occurrence of any change thereafter, certify to the EMPLOYER a current list of business representatives, officers and stewards who are authorized by the UNION to investigate and present grievances to the EMPLOYER. The EMPLOYER agrees to recognize such representatives for the purpose of investigating and presenting grievances to the EMPLOYER subject to the following stipulations:

- A. There shall be not more than forty-five (45) bargaining unit employees designated as stewards, subject to alteration upon mutual agreement between the UNION and the EMPLOYER.
- B. Not more than one employee representative (steward or officer) will be authorized time off with pay to investigate or present any one grievance matter to the EMPLOYER. Nothing in this clause is intended to limit the number of union stewards who may request to use their own time (vacation, compensatory, or time without pay) to investigate and present grievances.
- C. Bargaining unit employee stewards and officers may leave their work stations with the concurrence of their designated supervisor(s), and they shall notify their designated supervisor(s) upon return to their work stations. Concurrence of the supervisor to leave a work station for union business will be limited to the investigation and presentation of grievances to the EMPLOYER.
- D. Employee representatives of the UNION shall receive paid time off to participate in joint labor-management committee meetings and meet and confer sessions with the EMPLOYER. Time off with pay under this subsection shall be limited to those activities specifically initiated and/or approved by the EMPLOYER and occurring during the employee's regularly scheduled work time.
- E. The EMPLOYER shall make reasonable adjustments to the workloads of employee representatives of the UNION who receive paid time off for union related activities under the provisions of subsections B, C, and D above. Such adjustments shall be made only for those employees who perform these activities on a regular, ongoing basis.

Section 4. Non-employee business representatives of the UNION as previously designated to the EMPLOYER as provided herein may, with concurrence of the EMPLOYER, come on the premises of the EMPLOYER for the purpose of investigating and presenting grievances.

Section 5. The UNION agrees there shall be no solicitation for membership, signing up of members, collection of initiation fees, dues, fines or assessments, meetings or other union activities on the EMPLOYER's time.

- Section 6.** The UNION may use the EMPLOYER's facilities for UNION business with prior approval of the EMPLOYER. The UNION shall have access to the EMPLOYER's internal mail distribution system and electronic (e-mail) system consistent with the practice existing on the effective date of this agreement. However, the UNION agrees to request prior authorization from the EMPLOYER's Labor Relations Department prior to use of the e-mail system for any mass communication
- Section 7.** The EMPLOYER agrees to allow the UNION to use designated bulletin boards for the purpose of posting notices of union meetings, union elections, union election returns, union appointments to office, union recreational and social affairs, arbitration awards, decisions of the BMS and the courts, and other items specifically approved by the EMPLOYER. It is agreed that items which reflect negatively on the UNION, employees, or the County shall not be posted. All posted materials must be union publications or legibly signed by an authorized union representative.
- Section 8.** Employees have the right to join or to refrain from joining the UNION. Neither the EMPLOYER nor the UNION shall discriminate against or interfere with the rights of employees to become or not to become members of the UNION and further, there shall be no discrimination or coercion against any employee because of union membership or non-membership. The UNION shall, in its responsibility as exclusive representative of the employees, represent all employees without discrimination, interference, restraint or coercion.
- Section 9.** Nothing in this AGREEMENT shall be construed to affect the status of veterans in contravention of existing veterans preference laws relating to the employment, discharge or promotion of veterans.
- Section 10.** The EMPLOYER shall give all new bargaining unit employees, at the time of new employee orientation, a copy of this AGREEMENT, which is to be provided by the UNION.
- Section 11.** The EMPLOYER shall provide the UNION with a report each payroll period which shall identify new hires by name, job class and bargaining unit.

Further, the EMPLOYER shall refer newly hired AFSCME employees who attend the EMPLOYER's New Employee Orientation program to a UNION orientation session which shall follow the EMPLOYER's orientation session, be limited to thirty (30) minutes in length and held in the same room as the EMPLOYER's New Employee Orientation.

ARTICLE 5 - EMPLOYER AUTHORITY

The UNION recognizes the right of the EMPLOYER to operate and manage its affairs in all respects in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of appropriate authorities. All rights and authority which the EMPLOYER has not officially abridged, delegated or modified by this AGREEMENT are retained by the EMPLOYER.

ARTICLE 6 - SENIORITY

- Section 1.** Seniority is an employee's length of service for the EMPLOYER from the most recent date of employment, re-employment or reinstatement.
- A. Seniority is not interrupted during the period an employee is on approved leave, including leave for UNION business or layoff, if the employee returns to active work status having complied with all the terms and conditions of this AGREEMENT and the conditions the EMPLOYER established in approving the leave.
 - B. If in the event of layoff or recall from layoff two or more employees possess the same seniority date, seniority in such cases shall be in order of the date of acquisition of **regular** status in the class from which layoff is to occur or has occurred. If the tie cannot be broken by this method, seniority shall be determined by the last four digits of the employee's Social Security Number, with the employee having the highest such number being the more senior.
 - C. Seniority in work classes covered by this AGREEMENT shall be retained and continue to accrue during the probationary period if an employee leaves a unit covered by this AGREEMENT for another position with the EMPLOYER because of promotion, demotion or transfer.

- D. An employee appointed to a **regular** position in the same job class and department as he/she was employed as a limited duration employee (except for an employee whose work schedule is intermittent, non-continuous or irregular in nature) shall have seniority for purposes of layoff and recall from the employee's most recent date of hire as a limited duration employee, provided such limited duration and **regular** appointments are contiguous and sequential.

Section 2. Seniority rights under this AGREEMENT shall terminate under the following conditions:

- A. Termination of employment.
- B. Layoff in excess of a period equal to an employee's length of employment but not more than three years.
- C. Failure to return to work in accordance with the terms and conditions of an approved leave of absence.

Section 3. Seniority lists shall contain the names of bargaining unit employees by class arranged in order of most to least senior.

- A. Upon request of the UNION, but not more often than once each calendar year, the EMPLOYER shall establish a seniority list for the designated class(es) and unit. A seniority list shall also be established for affected class(es) within the unit at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the effective date of a layoff. A copy of seniority lists when established shall be furnished to the UNION's designated representative.
- B. Employees and the UNION shall be obligated to notify the EMPLOYER by certified mail of any error in the seniority list within thirty (30) days of the date the seniority list is furnished to the UNION's designated representative. Within thirty (30) days of notification of errors, the EMPLOYER shall correct errors in the seniority list and furnish the corrected list to the UNION's designated representative. If no error is reported within thirty (30) days after the date the seniority list is furnished or within thirty (30) days after the date a correction in such list is furnished to the UNION's designated representative, the list will stand correct as posted.

Section 4. Except in those instances where senior employees are not qualified to perform remaining work duties, seniority shall determine the order of:

- A. Layoff which shall be in inverse order of seniority within each work classification and department*, provided that any employee who is to be laid off and has previously served in a lower work classification covered by this AGREEMENT may request to exercise seniority rights in such lower classification or its designated equivalent.
- B. Recall from layoff which shall be in order of seniority within each work classification and department*, provided that if an employee does not return to work upon recall, as directed by the EMPLOYER or on an extended date mutually acceptable to the employee and EMPLOYER, he/she shall automatically have terminated his/her employment.
- C. If a senior employee requests exercise of seniority rights over a less senior employee for purposes of layoff, the senior employee, as a condition of the EMPLOYER granting such a request, must accept the work schedule (days of week, work shift, and number of hours per shift) and work location of the least senior employee. The senior employee, as an alternative to replacing the least senior employee in the department may, if such least senior employee's work location is outside the senior employee's geographical work area, request exercise of seniority rights over the least senior employee in the senior employee's geographical work area. Geographical work areas for the purposes of this section shall be as contained in Attachment A. In situations when more than one (1) employee in a job class is simultaneously requesting to exercise seniority rights to positions in the same lower job class, the EMPLOYER will make reasonable efforts to match scheduled hours by seniority.

Section 5. The EMPLOYER shall issue written notice of layoff or recall from layoff to affected employees at least ten (10) calendar days in advance of the effective date. Such notice shall be made by certified mail to the employee's last known address as shown by the EMPLOYER's records except when the employees are present at the work site to receive notice.

*Certain departments are treated as a single department for purposes of layoff and recall from layoff; see Attachment B.

Section 6. Assignment of employees to designated departments shall be at the discretion of the EMPLOYER. When it is necessary for the EMPLOYER to assign/re-assign an employee to a different work assignment, the EMPLOYER will provide such employee with two (2) weeks advance notice when practicable.

Section 7. The UNION will reimburse the EMPLOYER the expense of furnishing seniority lists required by this AGREEMENT in an amount equal to \$25.00 per list or \$.05 per employee on each list, whichever is greater, up to a maximum of \$50.00. When more than one copy of the list is requested or required by this AGREEMENT, the UNION shall reimburse the EMPLOYER for such copies at the rate \$.20 per page.

Section 8. The above provisions shall not apply to the seniority list established by the EMPLOYER and provided to the UNION prior to the effective date of a layoff as provided in Section 3A herein.

Section 9. Employees on layoff will be recalled to fill vacancies in other classes and departments for which qualified, provided they may not exercise seniority rights to create such vacancies. Such employees may waive the recall if the salary rate offered by the EMPLOYER for the position to which recalled is more than twenty (20%) percent below the salary rate of the employee when laid off. The name of an employee so recalled will remain on the layoff list for the class from which laid off, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in this AGREEMENT.

The parties agree to provide employees who are laid off and in the "Alternative Placement Process" the opportunity to state their preference when there is more than one placement opportunity available to them. (The County would be obligated to take the employee's preference into consideration but would not be required to grant the employee's preference).

The parties agree that if there are alternative placement opportunities available and placement is not accomplished within 2 weeks of the layoff notice, the UNION may appeal the matter to the County Ombudsperson. If placement is not accomplished within 3 weeks of the layoff notice, and if there is an alternative placement opportunity available, the employee will be compensated at the rate of the available position subject to offset by any County derived earnings (i.e. temporary or intermittent wages, or Reemployment Insurance).

Section 10. For purposes of layoff and recall, the job classes of Financial Worker and Senior Financial Worker shall be considered a single job class, subject to continuation of the "junior/senior" plan for those two classes through the completion of the Financial Worker redesign implementation. For purposes of layoff and recall, the Financial Worker series is equivalent to the Human Services Representative series.

Section 11. For purposes of layoff and recall, the following job class series shall be considered a single job class: Social Worker and Senior Social Worker, Chemical Health Counselor and Senior Chemical Health Counselor, Clinical Psychologist and Senior Clinical Psychologist, Child Support/Collection Service Officer, Principal and Child Support/Collection Service Officer, Senior.

ARTICLE 7 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Section 1. A grievance shall be defined as a dispute or disagreement raised by an employee against the EMPLOYER involving the interpretation or application of the specific provisions of this AGREEMENT.

Section 2. It is specifically understood that any matters governed by statutory provisions, County Human Resources Rules, or departmental personnel rules, except as expressly provided for in this AGREEMENT, shall not be considered grievances under this AGREEMENT. If by law an appeal procedure, other than the grievance procedure contained herein, is available for resolution of a dispute arising from any provision covered by this AGREEMENT and the aggrieved party pursues the dispute through such appeal procedure provided by law, the aggrieved employee(s) shall be precluded from making an appeal under this grievance procedure.

Except that with respect to statutes under the jurisdiction of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or Minn. Stat. §§ 363.01 - .20, an employee pursuing a statutory remedy is not precluded from also pursuing an appeal under this grievance procedure.

Section 3. **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:

- A. Within twenty-one (21) calendar days after the first occurrence of the event giving rise to the grievance, present such grievance, with or without the union representative, to his/her supervisor who is designated as appropriate for this purpose by the EMPLOYER.
- B. The supervisor shall give his/her oral or written answer within fourteen (14) calendar days after such presentation to the employee and his/her steward.

Step 2: FORMAL. If the grievance is not satisfactorily resolved in Step 1 and the UNION wishes to appeal the grievance to Step 2 of the grievance procedure, it shall be referred, in writing, to the Department Head or his/her designated representative and to the Labor Relations Director or his/her designee within fourteen (14) calendar days after the designated supervisor's answer as provided for in Section 3, Step 1-B. The grievance appeal shall be initiated by means of a written grievance to be signed by 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 provisions of the AGREEMENT allegedly violated, and the relief requested. The Department Head and/or his/her designated representative shall discuss the grievance with the UNION within fourteen (14) calendar days after the date presented at a time agreeable to the parties. If the grievance is resolved as a result of such a meeting, the settlement shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Department Head or his/her designated representative and the union representative. If no settlement is reached, the Department Head or his/her designated representative shall give written answer to the union representative within fourteen (14) calendar days following their meeting.

Step 3: MEDIATION. If the grievance is not settled in accordance with the procedure set forth in Step 1 or Step 2, it may be submitted to mediation provided that the UNION and the Labor Relations Director or his/her designee, by mutual agreement, jointly petition the Minnesota BMS for assistance in resolving the grievance within ten (10) working days after the employee and UNION's receipt of the EMPLOYER's written answer in Step 2. The parties shall have thirty (30) calendar days in which to resolve the grievance through mediation.

Section 4. ARBITRATION: If the grievance is not settled in accordance with the foregoing procedure, the UNION may refer the grievance to arbitration within fourteen (14) calendar days after the employee and UNION's receipt of the EMPLOYER's written answer in Step 2. The parties shall mutually agree upon an arbitrator. If the parties are unable to agree on an arbitrator, the selection of an arbitrator shall be made in accordance with the "Rules Governing the Arbitration of Grievances" as established by the Public Employment Relations Act and administered by the State of Minnesota Bureau of Mediation Services. The arbitrator shall hear the grievance at a scheduled meeting subject to the availability of the EMPLOYER and the union representatives. The arbitrator shall notify the union representative and the EMPLOYER of his/her decision within thirty (30) calendar days following the close of the hearing or submission of briefs by the parties, whichever is later, unless the parties agree to an extension thereof. 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. Employees who serve as such representatives or witnesses shall not be compensated at a rate in excess of their base pay rate. 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. The arbitrator shall not have the right to amend, modify, nullify, ignore, add to, or subtract from the provisions of this AGREEMENT. The arbitrator shall consider and decide only the specific issue(s) submitted, in writing, by the EMPLOYER and the UNION, and shall have no authority to make a decision on any other issue(s) not so submitted. The arbitrator shall be without power to make decisions contrary to or inconsistent with or modifying or varying in any way the application of laws, rules or regulations having the force and effect of law. The decision shall be based solely upon the arbitrator's interpretation or application of the express terms of this AGREEMENT and on the facts of the grievance presented. If the arbitrator determines that the grievance is covered by law or statute, or not covered by the express provisions of this AGREEMENT, the arbitrator shall refer the grievance back to the parties without decision or recommendation. The parties may, by written agreement, agree to submit more than one grievance to the arbitrator provided that each grievance will be considered as a separate issue and each on its own merits.

Section 5. If a 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, the employee/UNION may elect to treat the grievance as denied at that step. The UNION may then immediately appeal the grievance to the next step. The time limit in each step may be extended by mutual written agreement of the EMPLOYER and union representatives involved in each step.

Section 6. Employees serving an initial probationary period shall have right of appeal only through Step 2 of this grievance procedure except for a grievance alleging an error in salary or benefits due.

- Section 7.** Limited duration employees (except for an employee whose work schedule is intermittent, non-continuous or irregular in nature) and employees serving in the unclassified service shall have right of appeal only through Step 2 of this grievance procedure.
- Section 8.** A **regular** employee serving a promotional probationary period shall have right of appeal under this grievance procedure provided that such employee shall not have right to appeal beyond Step 2 of this grievance procedure, a demotion to his/her previous classification upon failure to satisfactorily complete the required promotional probationary period. When feasible, a demoted employee shall be returned to the geographical area from which originally promoted.
- Section 9.** The grievant shall not suffer loss of regular pay while the grievant's presence is necessary at a grievance presentation meeting with the EMPLOYER or an arbitrator, except where such grievance presentation meeting or arbitration hearing occurs during the period the grievant has been removed from his/her job for disciplinary reasons. The time spent by the grievant in an arbitration hearing shall not be counted as time worked for overtime eligibility.

ARTICLE 8 - NO STRIKE-NO LOCKOUT

- Section 1.** In recognition of the provisions included in this AGREEMENT for a grievance procedure to be used for resolution of disputes, the UNION agrees that neither the UNION, its officers or agents, nor any of the employees covered by this AGREEMENT will engage in, encourage, sanction, support or suggest any strikes, slow downs, mass absenteeism, mass use of sick leave, the willful absence from one's position, the stoppage of work or the abstinence in whole or in part of the full, faithful and proper performance of the duties of employment. Any violation of any provisions of this Article may be cause for disciplinary action including discharge.
- Section 2.** No lockout shall be instituted by the EMPLOYER during the life of this AGREEMENT provided Section 1 of this Article is not violated by employees or the UNION.

ARTICLE 9 - WORK SCHEDULES/PREMIUM PAY

- Section 1.** This Article is intended only to define the normal hours of work and to provide the basis for the calculation of premium pay, if any. Nothing herein shall be construed as a guarantee of hours of work per day or per week.
- Section 2.** A payroll period shall be an averaged eighty (80) hours of work within a fourteen (14) calendar day period, except as may otherwise be defined in this AGREEMENT.
- Section 3.** Work shifts, work breaks, staffing schedules and the assignment of employees thereto, shall be established by the EMPLOYER.
- A.** Where staffing schedules are routinely subject to change, a staffing schedule showing the regular work days and work hours of all employees shall normally be prepared and posted at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of their effective date. Such staffing schedules, once posted, will only be modified when necessitated by unscheduled employee absences and unscheduled changes in work load. A temporary change in the staffing schedule of a part-time or limited duration employee is not a staffing schedule change for purposes of this Article. Employees may mutually agree to exchange days, shifts or hours of work with the approval of their supervisor provided such change does not result in the payment of overtime.
- B.** If changes concerning length and/or start and end of shifts for a work unit are to be made in existing full-time shifts, the EMPLOYER shall notify the UNION in advance of implementing the proposed changes and will provide the UNION the opportunity to meet and confer with respect to the proposed changes and their effect on employees. Such meet and confer sessions shall be conducted prior to the implementation of the change, except where an emergency or other unpredictable condition makes this impractical.
- C.** Employees shall normally be granted an unpaid lunch break and two (2) fifteen (15) minute relief periods during each full work shift of eight hours or more at times designated by the EMPLOYER. In some situations work demands may on occasion preclude the granting of an uninterrupted lunch break or relief period.

- Section 4.** For non-exempt employees, worked hours in excess of forty (40) hours per work week shall be overtime and compensated at one and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's base pay rate or one and one-half (1 1/2) hours compensatory time for each hour worked, subject to the provision that no employee shall be eligible for overtime premium unless prior approval of the overtime work was granted by the employee's immediate supervisor or his/her designee. Overtime premium shall be provided in the form of either cash payment or compensatory time as determined appropriate by the EMPLOYER, provided employees shall have the right to indicate their preference to the EMPLOYER. *Compensatory time may not be carried over from one calendar year to the next and will be liquidated by the close of each year either by the employee taking the time off or the balance being paid off in cash at the employee's base pay rate. EMPLOYER approval for compensatory time off will be the same as that required for vacation.*
- Section 5.** Worked hours in excess of an averaged eighty (80) hours per payroll period for exempt employees as designated in the Article herein titled "Salary Rates" shall be compensated at the regular base pay rate or one hour compensatory time for each hour worked. Unscheduled emergency work performed on a Saturday, Sunday or official state holiday shall be compensated at one and one-half (1 1/2) times the employee's base pay rate or one and one-half (1 1/2) hours compensatory time for each hour worked. To be eligible for compensation for work performed in excess of eighty (80) hours in a payroll period or for unscheduled emergency work performed on a Saturday, Sunday or official state holiday, approval for such work must be made by the employee's immediate supervisor. Employees shall have the right to inform the EMPLOYER of their preference for cash payment or compensatory time. Compensatory time may be accrued to a maximum balance of forty (40) hours. Compensatory time may not be carried over from one calendar year to the next and shall be liquidated by the close of each year either by the employee taking the time off or the balance being paid off in cash at the employee's base pay rate. EMPLOYER approval for compensatory time off shall be the same as that required for vacation.
- Section 6.** Employees shall be available for overtime work, holidays and night shifts when assigned to such unless excused by the EMPLOYER.
- Section 7.** The base pay rate or premium compensation shall not be paid more than once for the same hours worked under any provisions of this AGREEMENT.
- Section 8.** In 2016, a shift differential of \$.95 per hour shall be paid to all employees who work on an assigned shift where at least five (5) hours of the shift occur between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. In 2017, the shift differential will be \$1.00 per hour. Such shift differential shall be paid in addition to other forms of premium compensation for which the employee qualifies.
- LPNs will receive a differential of \$1.20 per hour for shift, \$1.45 per hour for permanent nights, and \$.90 per hour for weekends. *In 2017 weekend shall be \$1.00 per hour.*
- In 2016, Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistant and Medical Examiner's Technician will receive a shift differential of \$1.30 per hour. In 2017, Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistants and Medical Examiner's Technicians will receive \$1.40 per hour for shift differential.
- Section 9.** Employees called to the work site by the EMPLOYER shall be paid for hours actually worked at their base pay rate but not less than three (3) hours. Such payment shall be either in cash or compensatory time off as determined by the EMPLOYER.
- Section 10.** Should the EMPLOYER intend to institute flex time, job sharing or work tasking, it shall first meet and confer on any of the above-mentioned items with the UNION.
- Section 11.** When an employee is expressly assigned to perform the duties of a position allocated to a different classification that is temporarily unoccupied, and such assignment is for 40 or more continuous regular hours, the employee shall be paid for all such hours at the employee's current salary rate when assigned to work in a lower or equal class or at a rate within a higher range which is equal to the minimum rate for the higher class or one (1) step higher than the employee's current salary, whichever is greater. In order to qualify for such higher rate, the employee must perform that work which distinguishes the higher classification from the employee's regular class in terms of level of responsibility, types of duties, and/or quality and quantity. Rotation of employees through a position in a higher class for the purpose of avoiding payment of out of class pay is a violation of the intent of the out of class pay agreement.

Section 12. Work shifts shall be considered part of the day and date on which they begin.

Section 13. In 2016, a weekend differential of \$.90 per hour shall be paid to all employees required to work on any shift(s) that start on either Saturday or Sunday. In 2017, the weekend differential will be \$1.00 per hour. Such weekend differential shall be paid in addition to other forms of premium compensation for which the employee qualifies.

In 2016, LPNs will receive a differential of \$.90 per hour for weekends. In 2017, LPNs will receive \$1.00 per hour for weekends.

In 2016, employees in the job classifications of Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistant and Medical Examiner's Technician shall receive a weekend differential of \$1.30 per hour. In 2017, Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistant and Medical Examiner's Technicians will receive \$1.40 per hour for weekend differential.

Section 14. Approved vacation hours shall count as hours worked for purposes of computing overtime.

Section 15. Employees who are specifically required or authorized by the EMPLOYER to use foreign or sign language skills shall be compensated for such work according to the following terms and conditions:

- A. Full-time employees who are regularly required to use foreign language or sign language skills in addition to other job duties shall receive a salary differential of \$47.50 per payroll period. This differential shall be pro-rated on the basis of scheduled hours for part-time employees. This differential will be in effect for all compensated hours including compensated leaves.
- B. Employees who provide foreign language or sign language skills on an occasional or irregular basis at the request of the EMPLOYER shall receive \$9.50 in addition to their regular salaries for any work day on which such services are performed. This additional compensation shall not exceed \$47.50 for any one payroll period.

Section 16. Employees expressly assigned by the EMPLOYER to remain in "On Call – Off Premises" status shall receive \$2.60 for each hour so assigned.

The EMPLOYER will pay Public Health Emergency Mental Health employees working in On Call – Off Premises status \$6.00 for each non-working hour assigned to this status. Employees who are called and provide a mobile outreach response during an On Call-Off Premises assignment will be paid their regular straight time rate when they are working. Employees will not be paid both On Call-Off Premises pay and regular straight time pay for the same hours. On Call-Off Premises hours are not counted as work hours for purposes of calculating overtime pay.

Section 17. In the event the EMPLOYER exercises its discretion to close a department, work site or workplace due to an emergency, including inclement weather, employees who were scheduled to work but could not due to such EMPLOYER decision may use accrued leave (vacation, sick leave, compensatory time, deferred holiday) to cover the hours missed. Further, with the approval of the EMPLOYER, an employee may be allowed to make up the time by working additional hours. Such approved additional hours may be assigned in a work location which is different from the employee's regular work location, if practicable.

Section 18. ***WIC Sites: WIC employee/s performing rotated designated public health nutritionist operations tasks will receive a differential of \$1.10 for each hour spend doing said tasks, provided the time spent on the operations work is a period of at least one (1) hour.***

Section 19. Employees in the job classes of HSR and HSR, Senior will receive an additional \$1.55 per hour when assigned to the Shelter Team, as defined by the EMPLOYER, provided such assignment is for a period of at least four (4) hours.

Section 20. Employees in the job class of Medical Examiner Technician or Medical Examiner Investigator Assistants, who are required by the EMPLOYER to train employees or others designated by the EMPLOYER, will receive an additional \$1.60 per hour for all hours so assigned, provided such training is for a period of at least one (1) hour.

ARTICLE 10 - HOLIDAYS

Section 1. Employees shall be entitled to compensated time off for designated holidays.

Designated holidays shall be eight (8) hours each and are as follows:

New Years Day	January 1
Martin Luther King Day	Third Monday in January
Presidents Day	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Thanksgiving Friday	The day immediately following Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Eve Day	The work day immediately preceding the Christmas holiday
Christmas Day	December 25

Section 2. Employees who are assigned to work a holiday with the exception of Christmas Eve Day shall receive compensation of two and one-half (2 1/2) times their base pay rate for hours worked on the holiday. Employees who are assigned to work the Christmas Eve holiday shall receive compensation of two (2) times their base pay rate for hours worked on that holiday. Compensation for holiday hours assigned/worked shall be provided either in compensated time off or cash payment as approved by the EMPLOYER.

Section 3. Except for operations which are seven (7) days per week and twenty-four (24) hours per day, when a holiday, as designated in this Article, falls on Sunday, the following day (Monday) shall be considered the holiday for employees, or when such holiday falls on Saturday, the preceding day (Friday) shall be considered the holiday for employees. An employee, regardless of his/her work schedule, shall receive the same number of holidays as an employee whose normal work week is Monday through Friday.

Section 4. Holidays which occur within an employee's approved and compensated vacation or sick leave period will not be chargeable to the employee's vacation or sick leave time.

Section 5. Employees may observe a religious holiday on days which do not fall on Sunday or a legal holiday. Observance of such religious holiday shall be charged against accumulated vacation, compensatory leave or taken as leave without pay. The EMPLOYER may arrange to have the employee work an equivalent number of hours to the hours taken for such holiday if arrangements can be made for the employee to work another day. The employee must notify the EMPLOYER at least ten (10) days in advance of the religious holiday of his/her intent to observe such holiday. The EMPLOYER may waive this ten (10) day requirement if the EMPLOYER determines that absence of such employee will not substantially interfere with the department's function.

ARTICLE 11A - VACATIONS

Section 1. All full-time employees who choose not to participate in paid time off (PTO) shall be eligible for vacation leave benefits at their current base pay rate.

Section 2. Full time employees shall accrue vacation benefits in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Total Length of Service Since Most Recent Date of Hire</u>	<u>Annual Vacation Accrual Rate</u>
Less than six (6) months	64 hours
More than six (6) months but less than five (5) years	96 hours
More than five (5) years but less than eight (8) years	120 hours
More than eight (8) years but less than twelve (12) years	144 hours
More than twelve (12) years but less than eighteen (18) years	160 hours
Over eighteen (18) years	184 hours

- Section 3.** Vacation leave shall not accumulate in excess of two hundred eighty (280) hours. The EMPLOYER shall not be responsible for managing an employee's vacation leave balance so as to ensure no loss of the benefit because the balance is at or near the 280 hour limit. Correspondingly, the EMPLOYER will not force employees to take vacation for such purpose.

- Section 4.** Requests for vacation leave must be submitted to the employee's designated supervisor at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the absence requested and are subject to the supervisor's written approval. The forty-eight (48) hour advance notice requirement may be waived if, in the judgment of the supervisor, the leave will not cause undue inconvenience to the EMPLOYER. The EMPLOYER shall respond in writing to written employee vacation requests within seven (7) calendar days of the date the request is received provided the request is received by the EMPLOYER at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the beginning of the requested vacation period. Such employer approval must be received by the employee in order for such vacation request to be considered approved. Vacations, once approved, shall not be cancelled by the EMPLOYER except for unforeseen circumstances.

- Section 5.** When it is necessary for the EMPLOYER to disapprove vacation leave requests because the number of employees requesting leave exceeds the number of employees the EMPLOYER determines it possible to grant such vacation leave, the EMPLOYER shall consider seniority, job assignment and order of submission in granting such requests.

- Section 6.** Upon the complete termination of employment, employees shall be eligible to receive their unused accumulated vacation as a severance payment. Any vacation severance shall be paid at the employee's base pay rate at the time of termination, and shall be subject to the limitations on severance payment stated in the Article herein titled "Severance Pay."

- Section 7.** Employees may use accumulated vacation leave benefits as an extension of sick leave, provided all sick leave benefits have been exhausted. Vacation leave benefits utilized as an extension of sick leave shall be subject to the same conditions regulating the use of sick leave.

- Section 8.** At the discretion of the Department Director, employees hired after December 18, 2001, may receive vacation accrual rate credit for previous relevant experience with another employer. Further, at the discretion of the Department Director, additional vacation accrual may be granted for the purposes of retaining a valuable employee.

- Section 9.** Pursuant to Internal Revenue Service Rules and Regulations, employees may annually, with the approval of the County Administrator, cash-out, up to forty (40) hours of vacation. In order to convert such vacation to cash, the employee must, during Open Enrollment of the payroll year PRIOR to conversion, submit to the EMPLOYER in writing, the specific number of vacation hours requested for conversion. The EMPLOYER shall convert such vacation to cash in February of the payroll year following receipt of the irrevocable election. At the employee's option, he/she may deposit all or part of this cash into a deferred compensation account.

ARTICLE 11B – PAID TIME OFF (PTO)

Section 1. Employees Hired On or After December 21, 2009:

Employees hired on or after December 21, 2009 may choose either paid time off (PTO) or the traditional Vacation/Sick Leave Programs described in Articles 11A and 12A of this AGREEMENT. This one-time choice shall be irrevocable and must be made during the first full payroll period of employment. Failure to make a definitive choice between paid time off (PTO) and Vacation/Sick Leave will result in the new employee receiving Vacation/Sick Leave. The paid time off (PTO) program available to such employees shall be that described in Schedule 1, below:

Paid Time Off (PTO) Schedule 1

<u>Total Number of Eligible Years Since Most Recent Date of Hire</u>	<u>Annual Paid Time Off (PTO) Accrual Rate</u>
More than zero (0) months but less than five (5) years	20 days
More than five (5) years but less than eight (8) years	23 days
More than eight (8) years but less than twelve (12) years	26 days

More than twelve (12) years but less than eighteen (18) years	28 days
Over eighteen (18) years	31 Days

Section 2. Employees Hired Prior to December 21, 2009.

Employees hired prior to December 21, 2009 may, at any time after December 21, 2009, choose to move from the traditional Vacation/Sick Leave programs as described in Articles 11A and 12A of this AGREEMENT, to paid time off (PTO). This one-time choice shall be irrevocable. The paid time off (PTO) program available to such employees shall be that described in Schedule 2, below:

Paid Time Off (PTO) Schedule 2

<u>Total Number of Eligible Years Since Most Recent Date of Hire</u>	<u>Annual PTO Accrual Rate</u>
More than zero (0) months but less than five (5) years	22 days
More than five (5) years but less than eight (8) years	25 days
More than eight (8) years but less than twelve (12) years	28 days
More than twelve (12) years but less than eighteen (18) years	30 days
Over eighteen (18) years	33 days

Section 3. Unused paid time off (PTO) hours, which have accrued to the credit of the employee, may be accumulated to a maximum of sixty (60) days (480 hours).

Section 4. For employees who choose paid time off (PTO), paid time off (PTO) and vacation hours shall be combined and referred to as paid time off (PTO). However, no employee may accrue more than 480 hours of paid time off (PTO). The EMPLOYER shall not be responsible for managing an employee's paid time off (PTO) balance so as to ensure no loss of benefit because the balance is at or near the 480 hour limit. Correspondingly, the EMPLOYER will not force an employee to take paid time off (PTO) for such purpose.

Section 5. Requests for paid time off (PTO) must be submitted to the employee's designated supervisor at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the absence requested and are subject to the supervisor's written approval. The forty-eight (48) hour notice requirement may be waived in the event of illness, or if in the judgment of the supervisor, the leave will not cause undue inconvenience to the EMPLOYER. The EMPLOYER shall respond in writing to written employee paid time off (PTO) requests within seven (7) calendar days of the date the request is received provided the request is received by the EMPLOYER at least seven (7) calendar days prior to the beginning of the requested paid time off (PTO) period. Such EMPLOYER approval must be received by the employee in order for such vacation request to be considered approved. Paid time off (PTO), once approved, shall not be cancelled by the EMPLOYER, except for unforeseen circumstances.

Section 6. When it is necessary for the EMPLOYER to disapprove paid time off (PTO) leave requests because the number of employees requesting leave exceeds the number of employees the EMPLOYER determines it possible to grant such vacation leave, the EMPLOYER shall consider seniority, job assignment and order of submission in granting such requests.

Section 7. Upon complete termination of employment, **regular** employees shall be eligible to receive their unused accumulated paid time off (PTO) as a severance payment. Any paid time off (PTO) severance shall be paid at the employee's base pay rate at the time of termination.

Section 8. At the discretion of the Department Director, employees hired after December 21, 2009, may receive paid time off (PTO) accrual rate credit for previous relevant experience with another employer. Further, at the discretion of the Department Director, additional paid time off (PTO) accrual may be granted for purposes of retaining a valuable employee.

Section 9. Employees may use paid time off (PTO) to pay for approved health and fitness activities to a maximum of \$2,000.00 per year. Where applicable, this language shall be coordinated with Article 12B, Sick Leave, Section 6, to ensure that no employee uses paid time off (PTO) hours and frozen sick leave hours totalling more than \$2,000.00 per year.

- Section 10.** A disabled employee who, because of illness or injury, has exhausted all paid time off (PTO) benefits may be granted a medical leave of absence without pay. The seniority status of a disabled employee who is granted a medical leave of absence shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the article herein titled "Seniority." An employee requesting a medical leave of absence without pay shall be required to furnish conclusive Evidence of disability to the EMPLOYER. If the employee fails to furnish conclusive evidence that the absence from duty is necessary, or if the employee fails to undergo an evaluation or furnish a medical report as requested by the EMPLOYER in accordance with the article herein titled "Fitness for Duty", the EMPLOYER shall have the right to require the employee to return to work on a specified date. Should the employee not return to work on such specified date, the employee may be considered to have resigned in accordance with the article herein titled "Absence Without Leave."
- Section 11.** Employees who consistently fail to provide adequate notice prior to the use of paid time off (PTO), shall be subject to disciplinary action or shall be required to submit medical verification attesting to the necessity of the leave from a medical authority.
- Section 12.** If an employee terminates employment in good standing by providing two (2) weeks written notice, such employee shall be paid for any unused paid time off (PTO) balances at the employee's base pay rate. If the employee fails to provide such required notice, the EMPLOYER shall exclude eighty (80) hours of paid time off (PTO) to which the employee may be otherwise entitled.
- Section 13.** If an employee joins the bargaining unit having participated in the EMPLOYER's paid time off (PTO) Program, such employee shall retain paid time off (PTO) at their existing PTO schedule 1 or 2.
- Section 14.** Pursuant to Internal Revenue Service Rules and Regulations, employees may annually, with the approval of the County Administrator, cash-out up to forty (40) hours of Paid Time Off (PTO). In order to convert such PTO to cash, the employee must, during open enrollment of the payroll year PRIOR to conversion, submit to the EMPLOYER in writing, the specific number of PTO hours requested for conversion. The EMPLOYER shall convert such PTO to cash in February of the payroll year following receipt of the irrevocable election. At the employee's option, he/she may deposit all or part of this cash into a deferred compensation account.

ARTICLE 12A - SICK LEAVE

- Section 1.** Sick leave shall be earned by employees who choose not to participate in paid time off (PTO) at the rate of .046154 hours for each hour of service except that newly hired, re-employed or reinstated employees who have completed less than six (6) months of service, shall earn sick leave benefits at the rate of .030769 hours for each hour of service.
- Section 2.** Sick leave benefits shall only accrue when an employee is on compensated regular hours or, in accordance with state and federal laws, is on approved military leave.
- Section 3.** An employee may accumulate seven hundred twenty (720) hours of sick leave. For every eight (8) hours of sick leave accumulated in excess of seven hundred twenty (720) hours, the employee will be given credit for four (4) hours of additional vacation and four (4) hours of sick leave. Sick leave shall be charged off only for hours that would normally have been worked.
- Section 4.** Upon complete termination of employment in good standing of any **regular** employee, such employee shall be paid for his/her accumulated unused sick leave at the employee's base pay rate subject to the limitations on severance payment stated in the Article herein titled "Severance Pay."
- Section 5.** An employee may utilize his/her allowance of sick leave on the basis of application therefor approved by the EMPLOYER for absences necessitated by inability to perform the duties of his/her position by reason of illness or injury, by necessity for medical care or dental care, or by exposure to contagious disease under circumstances in which the health of employees with whom he/she is associated or members of the public with whom he/she deals would be endangered by his/her attendance on duty, or by illness in his/her immediate family for such periods as his/her absence is necessary subject to certification by medical authority.
- The term "immediate family" is limited to child, stepchild, adopted child, foster child, adult child, spouse, sibling, parent, stepparent, grandparent and an adult person regularly residing in the employee's immediate household.

The amount of sick leave that can be used to care for an employee's adult child, spouse, sibling, parent, stepparent, grandparent or adult person regularly residing in the employee's immediate household may not exceed 160 hours in the aggregate in any 12-month period.

Sick leave usage is subject to approval and verification by the EMPLOYER who may, after three (3) consecutive days' absence, require the employee to furnish a report from a recognized physical or mental authority attesting to the necessity of the leave, and other information the EMPLOYER deems necessary, as provided in the Article herein titled "Fitness for Duty." Employees whose use of sick leave is habitual, patterned or inappropriate may be required to submit such report for absences of less than three (3) days duration.

- Section 6.** Sick leave benefits when authorized shall be paid at the employee's current base pay rate.
- Section 7.** To be eligible for sick leave payment, an employee must notify his/her supervisor or his/her designee as soon as possible but not later than the starting time of his/her scheduled shift. This notice may be waived if the employee can conclusively establish that he/she could not reasonably have been expected to comply with this requirement because of circumstances beyond the control of the employee.
- Section 8.** A disabled employee who, because of illness or injury, has exhausted all sick leave benefits may be granted a medical leave of absence without pay. The seniority status of a disabled employee who is granted a medical leave of absence shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the Article herein titled "Seniority." An employee requesting a medical leave of absence without pay shall be required to furnish conclusive evidence of disability to the EMPLOYER. If the employee fails to furnish conclusive evidence that the absence from duty is necessary, or if the employee fails to undergo an evaluation or furnish a medical report as requested by the EMPLOYER in accordance with the Article herein titled "Fitness for Duty," the EMPLOYER shall have the right to require the employee to return to work on a specified date. Should the employee not return to work on such specified date, the employee may be considered to have resigned in accordance with the Article herein titled "Absence Without Leave."
- Section 9.** All sick leave that has been accumulated by an employee shall be cancelled upon the date of separation from the County service.
- Section 10.** Employees may utilize sick leave to pay for approved health and fitness activities, to a maximum of \$2,000.00 per year.
- Section 11.** When an employee leaves employment with the county and later returns to a **regular** position, sick leave hours will not be restored.

ARTICLE 12B – SICK LEAVE

- Section 1.** For employees who choose paid time off (PTO), sick leave balances, if any, will be frozen. No additional sick leave will accrue.
- Section 2.** An employee's frozen sick leave balance, if any, may be accessed for any approved absence from work. Use of frozen sick leave shall be limited to inability to perform the duties of his/her position by reason of illness or injury, by necessity for medical care or dental care, or by exposure to contagious disease under which the health of employees with whom he/she is associated or members of the public with whom he/she deals would be endangered by his/her attendance on duty, or by illness in his/her immediate family for such periods as his/her absence shall be necessary subject to certification by a medical authority.
- Section 3.** Upon complete termination of employment in good standing of any **regular** employee, such employee shall be paid for his/her frozen sick leave balance at the employee's base pay rate subject to the limitations on severance payment stated in the article herein titled "Severance Pay".
- Section 4.** Frozen sick leave benefits, when authorized, shall be paid at the employee's current base pay rate.
- Section 5.** Employees who elect to participate in the EMPLOYER's paid time off (PTO) Program, shall not accrue sick leave, but rather shall accrue paid time off (PTO) consistent with Article 11B, Paid Time Off (PTO.)

Section 6. Employees may utilize their frozen sick leave to pay for approved Health and fitness activities to a maximum of \$2,000.00 per year.

ARTICLE 13 - LEAVES OF ABSENCE

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided in this AGREEMENT, written request for leave shall be made by employees prior to the beginning of the period(s) of absence and no payment for any absence shall be made until the leave is properly approved. All leaves of absence without pay shall be granted at the discretion of the EMPLOYER and must be approved by the EMPLOYER in advance. Upon application by the employee, leaves of absence may be extended or renewed at the discretion of the EMPLOYER.

Section 2. Authorization for or denial of a requested leave of absence without pay of more than ten (10) working days duration, shall be furnished to the employee in writing by the EMPLOYER within seven (7) working days of its receipt. All leave of absence requests shall be given reasonable consideration by the EMPLOYER.

Section 3. Deductions from leave accumulations for an employee on leave with pay shall be made on a work shift basis, and no such deductions shall be made from leave accumulations for holidays or non-work days falling within such leave with pay, subject to the provisions set forth in the Article herein titled "Holidays."

Section 4. Accrual of vacation, sick leave and paid time off (PTO) benefits during the period of leave of absence with pay shall continue. If an employee is granted leave without pay, he/she will not be credited with vacation or sick leave or paid time off (PTO) accruals for the period of leave without pay with the exception of approved military leave when required by law.

Section 5. A leave of absence for birth or adoption of a child shall be in accordance with the policy set forth in Section 12, Hours of Work and Leaves of Absence, of the Hennepin County Human Resources Rules.

Section 6. All leaves of absence without pay shall be subject to the condition that the EMPLOYER may cancel the leave at any time upon prior notice to the employee specifying a date of termination of the leave. Military leave, leave for purposes of union business or educational leave approved by the EMPLOYER in writing as non-cancelable for a specific duration shall not be subject to such cancellation. Notwithstanding the above, the EMPLOYER, upon prior notice to the employee, may cancel any approved leave of absence at any time the EMPLOYER has evidence that the employee is using the leave for purposes other than those specified at the time of approval.

Section 7. No leave of absence without pay shall be granted for the purpose of accepting or continuing other employment.

Section 8. Any employee returning from an approved leave of absence as covered by this Article who has complied with all the conditions upon which the leave was approved shall:

- A. Be reinstated in the position held at the time the leave was granted if the leave was for a period of less than six months duration, or
- B. In the event the position held at the time the leave was granted has been filled or abolished, the employee shall be reinstated to a vacant position for which qualified in the class, bargaining unit and department from which leave was granted, or
- C. In the event no vacancy exists in the class, bargaining unit and department from which leave was granted, the employee may either exercise County seniority to replace the least senior employee in the class, bargaining unit and organizational unit from which the leave was granted, provided the employee is qualified to perform the work of the less senior employee, or if mutually agreeable to the employee and the EMPLOYER, be placed on a layoff list for the class, bargaining unit and department from which leave was granted. The salary rate for an employee reinstated following a leave of absence shall be the rate the employee held at the time the leave was granted or such rate as adjusted by a general adjustment to the class.

Section 9. A leave of absence for purposes of UNION business shall be in accordance with M.S. 179A.07, subd. 6.

Section 10. An employee acting in his/her official capacity within the limits of the authority established by the EMPLOYER who receives a disabling injury during the performance of assigned official duties wherein the injury is sustained through a physical assault by a client or a member of the public, and wherein the employee has not contributed to the cause of the injury through negligence or provocation, may be granted leave with pay for any period of disability up to ninety (90) calendar days. Request for such leave shall be presented to the EMPLOYER together with supporting documentation including appropriate physician(s) reports. Such leave, if granted, shall not be charged to normal sick leave and shall be subject to the provisions of the contractual Article herein titled "Leave Benefits and Worker's Compensation Benefits."

ARTICLE 14 - ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE

Any absence of an employee from scheduled duty that has not been previously authorized by the EMPLOYER may be deemed an absence without leave. Any employee absent without leave will be subject to disciplinary action, and any employee absent without leave for three (3) consecutive days may be deemed to have resigned his/her employment, provided that the EMPLOYER may grant approval for leave subsequent to the unauthorized absence if the employee can conclusively establish to the EMPLOYER that the circumstances surrounding the absence and failure to request leave were beyond the employee's control.

ARTICLE 15 - LEAVE BENEFITS AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION BENEFITS

Any employee who by reason of sickness or injury receives worker's compensation benefits may do either of the following:

- A. Retain the worker's compensation benefits and request to be placed on a medical leave of absence without pay, or
- B. Retain the worker's compensation benefit and receive from the County any available earned accumulated sick leave, vacation leave, paid time off (PTO) or other accumulated leave benefit.

The total weekly compensation including leave and worker's compensation benefits shall not exceed the regular weekly base pay rate of an employee.

ARTICLE 16 - FUNERAL LEAVE

The EMPLOYER will approve and administer leave with pay in cases of death in the immediate family for purposes of attending funeral services and absences necessary to make funeral arrangements for the decedent. The degree of relationship is limited to: spouse, parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, children, stepchildren, brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, grandparents, grandparents-in-law, grandchildren, or person regarded as a member of the employee's immediate family. Such leave shall be limited to a maximum of three (3) days (twenty-four (24) compensated hours) per occurrence not to exceed forty-eight (48) hours in any calendar year. (See Attachment C)

ARTICLE 17 - MILITARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY

In accordance with the requirements and provisions of state and federal laws, employees shall be entitled to military leaves of absence without pay for services in the armed forces of the United States and reinstatement at the expiration of such leave. Such leave shall be authorized only in cases where the employee has been officially called to active duty in the military service and shall be authorized only as long as the employee is in the service as required by the government.

ARTICLE 18 - MILITARY RESERVE TRAINING

In accordance with state and federal laws, any employee who is a member of any reserve component of the military forces of the United States required by official military orders or related authority to attend Military Reserve training shall receive full wages at his/her current base pay rate for the period of the active duty required for such training not to exceed fifteen (15) days per calendar year.

ARTICLE 19 - COURT DUTY

Section 1. After due notice to the EMPLOYER, employees subpoenaed to serve as a witness in cases arising from or during the performance of their official duties, or called and selected for jury duty, shall be allowed their regular compensation at their current base pay rate for the period the court duty requires their absence from work duty, plus any expenses paid by the court. Such employees, so compensated, shall not be eligible to retain jury duty pay or witness fees and shall turn any such pay or fees received over to the EMPLOYER. If an employee is excused from jury duty prior to the end of his/her work shift, he/she shall return to work as directed by the EMPLOYER or make arrangement for a leave of absence.

Section 2. Any absence, whether voluntary or by legal order to appear or testify in private litigation, not in the status of an employee but as a plaintiff or defendant, shall not qualify for leave under this Article and shall be charged against accumulated

leave or be without pay.

ARTICLE 20 - ELECTION DAYS

An employee who is entitled to vote in any election, as defined in M.S. 204C.04, subd 2, may absent himself/herself from his/her work for the purpose of voting during such election day for a period not to exceed two (2) hours without deduction from salary on account of such absence, provided the employee has made prior arrangements for the absence with the EMPLOYER. Any employee making claim for time off for voting and not casting a ballot or utilizing the time off for unauthorized purposes shall be subject to disciplinary action.
<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=204C.04>

ARTICLE 21 - TIME OFF FOR TESTING

Section 1. Employees who have applied for promotional or transfer opportunity and are scheduled to participate in an examination process scheduled during the employee's work time will be granted time off for such purpose if the EMPLOYER determines its service will not be unduly affected by the employee's absence. Employees granted such time off will normally be scheduled to make up the time either before or after the absence provided the makeup time shall not qualify the employee for any premium compensation for which the employee would not otherwise have been eligible. If the EMPLOYER determines it is not practicable to arrange for the time to be made up, the employee shall use earned leave for the absence or, if not available, take it without pay.

Section 2. Subject to the conditions set forth in Section 1 herein, and not more often than twice each calendar year, employees shall be compensated for an examination process administered during the employee's regularly scheduled working hours.

ARTICLE 22 - INSURANCE

Section 1. Employee Contributions toward Health Premiums

A. 2016 Single Coverage

Standard Plan:	\$80.00/month, an increase of \$5.00/month.
Health Partners/Fairview Health	\$46.86/month, an increase of \$5.00/month.
HCMC/NorthPoint	\$13.72/month, an increase of \$5.00/month.

2016 Family Coverage

No change in the percentage of the employee's cost share. 2016 rates reflect an overall premium increase of 4.25%

Standard Plan	Single + Spouse	25.15%; or \$408.34/ month
Health Partners/Fairview Health	Single + Spouse	21.21% or \$327.16/month
HCMC/Northpoint	Single + Spouse	16.83% or \$245.98/ month

Standard Plan	Single + Child(ren)	25.14%; or 312.76/ month
Health Partners/Fairview Health	Single + Child(ren)	21.20% or \$250.56/month
HCMC/Northpoint	Single + Child(ren)	16.83% or \$188.36/ month

Standard Plan	Family	23.94%; or \$455.04/ month
Health Partners/ Fairview Health	Family	19.94%; or \$360.02/month
HCMC/Northpoint	Family	15.49%; or \$265.02/month

2017 Single Coverage

Standard Plan:	\$85.00/month, an increase of \$5.00/month over 2016.
Health Partners/Fairview Health	\$51.86/ month, an increase of \$5.00/month over 2016
HCMC /NorthPoint	\$18.72/month, an increase of \$5.00/month over 2016

2017 Family Coverage

No change in the percentage of the employee's cost share. Actual premiums for 2017 are TBD.

Standard Plan	Single + Spouse	25.15% (Employer pays 74.85%)
Health Partners/Fairview Health	Single + Spouse	21.21% (Employer pay 78.79%)
HCMC/Northpoint	Single + Spouse	16.83% (Employer pays 83.17%)

Standard Plan	Single + Child(ren)	25.14% (Employer pays 74.86%)
Health Partners/Fairview Health	Single + Child(ren)	21.20% (Employer pays 78.8%)
HCMC/Northpoint	Single + Child(ren)	16.83% (Employer pays 83.17%)

Standard Plan	Family	23.94% (Employer pays 76.06%)
Health Partners/ Fairview Health	Family	19.94% (Employer pays 80.06%)
HCMC/Northpoint	Family	15.49% (Employer pays 84.51%)

2018 Single Coverage

Standard Plan:	\$90.00/month, an increase of \$5.00/month over 2017
Health Partners/Fairview Health	\$56.86/month, an increase of \$5.00/month over 2017
HCMC/NorthPoint	\$23.72/month, an increase of \$5.00/month over 2017

2018 Family Coverage

No change in the percentage of the employee's cost share. Actual premiums for 2018 are TBD.

Standard Plan	Single + Spouse	25.15% (Employer pays 74.85%)
Health Partners/Fairview Health	Single + Spouse	21.21% (Employer pays 78.79%)
HCMC/Northpoint	Single + Spouse	16.83% (Employer pays 83.17%)

Standard Plan	Single + Child(ren)	25.14% (Employer pays 74.86%)
Health Partners/Fairview Health	Single + Child(ren)	21.20% (Employer pays 78.8%)
HCMC/Northpoint	Single + Child(ren)	16.83% (Employer pays 83.17%)

Standard Plan	Family	23.94% (Employer pays 76.06%)
Health Partners/ Fairview Health	Family	19.94% (Employer pays 80.06%)
HCMC/Northpoint	Family	15.49% (Employer pays 84.51%)

B. Health Insurance Plan Design Changes, 2016

The projected 7.9% premium cost increase for 2016 will be mitigated by 0.75% with the following Plan Design changes.

On-line Care

Virtual on-line medical services are available at no cost to employees via Virtuwell (Health Partners Advantage) and Zipnosis (Fairview Health Advantage) and EVisit (HCMC / Northpoint) and MDLive (all plans). Please encourage your members to learn about and avail themselves of these services.

Office Visit Co-Pays

BeWell Clinic will not have an office visit co-pay.

Advantage HCMC/NorthPoint will not have an office visit co-pay, however other provider locations in this network will have a \$20.00 office visit co-pay.

The Three (3) for Free office visit program will remain in effect for the Advantage Plans.

All plans, other than Advantage HCMC/ Northpoint, will have a \$5.00 increase to \$35.00 per office visit without incentive and a \$5.00 increase to \$20.00 per office visit when incentive completed.

Prescription Drug Co-Pay (All Plans)

Generic co-pay increases \$5.00 to \$20.00

NOTE: when the cost of the drug cost is lower than the co-pay, the drug cost is paid.

Mail Order Pharmacy (Navitus)

Generic co-pay will be \$40.00 for 90 day supply.

Brand co-pay will remain \$80.00 for 90 day supply.

NOTE: the advantage here is you pay 2 months co-pay for 3 mos. of drug supply.

Out of pocket maximums will remain the same (\$2,500 per individual, \$4,500 per family).

C. *Health Insurance Premium and Plan Design Changes, 2017 and 2018, 2019*

The parties agree to a consensus decision making model within the context of the existing Labor Management Health Care Committee (LMHCC) for the purpose of setting plan design and premium for the years 2017, 2018 and 2019 as described below, and subject to the consensus parameters agreed to by the parties and incorporated by reference as an extension to this AGREEMENT.

The LMHCC's consensus recommendations will be advisory to the EMPLOYER. If a consensus decision is reached by 8/31 of any given year of the contract, both the UNION and the County agree to be bound by the decision, pending County Administration approval. The consensus recommendation will be submitted to County Administration for final approval.

If a consensus decision is not reached by the LMHCC by 8/31 in any given year of the contract, the EMPLOYER will, in its sole discretion, set the health insurance premiums for each plan and implement plan design changes, if any, for that particular year, after consulting with the third party administrator, benefits consultants, and based on the discussions with and input from LMHCC.

During the last year of the contract, if a consensus decision on plan design and premium or continuation of the consensus model is not reached by the LMHCC by 8/31 of that year, the parties shall revert to the negotiation process as it has in the past. The EMPLOYER shall present their proposal for changes to plan design and premium in the traditional contract negotiation format, after consulting with the third party administrator, benefits consultants, and based on discussions with and input from the LMHCC. Employee contributions for the subsequent AGREEMENT will continue to be subject to negotiations between the parties.

The consensus model described herein will expire on 8/31 of the last year of this AGREEMENT, unless the LMHCC provides a consensus recommendation that it should be continued into the subsequent AGREEMENT.

D. *Health Insurance Provider Tiers, 2016, 2017, 2018*

As agreed to in prior contracts, the EMPLOYER will, in its sole authority, determine for 2016, 2017 and 2018 how many tiers and which providers are included in which tier. Any such changes will be shared with the LMHCC group with the driving reason for such change and the financial impact initiating the change.

NOTE: Consistent with previous rounds of bargaining, the health insurance plan design and the provider networks / tiers shall not appear in the labor agreement(s), but rather shall reside on the Human Resources Benefits Unit website.

E. *Health Care Plan Reserves Fund*

The EMPLOYER will use \$3,000,000 from the Health Care Plan Reserves Fund to offset the predicted 2016 premium cost increase of 7.9%.

This action will allow for an additional 2.9% point reduction in premium cost. In combination with the 0.75% point reduction in premium cost gained through plan design changes discussed above, the end result is a 4.25% increase to premium costs.

In 2017 and 2018, the EMPLOYER, in its sole discretion, will determine if and how many dollars from the Reserves Fund will be utilized.

F. Dependent Audit

In 2014, the EMPLOYER conducted a dependent audit. The parties understand that new employees will continue to be required to provide evidence to establish dependent status.

- Section 2.** Subject to I.R.S. Rules and Regulations, each employee covered by this AGREEMENT may individually elect to participate in the Hennepin County Health Care Expense Account plan as an option to the EMPLOYER hospitalization and medical insurance coverage allowance specified in Section 1. Employees may voluntarily elect to have a portion of their gross earnings placed in a special account to be managed on their behalf by the EMPLOYER. The employee can use funds from this account to pay certain employee expenses that qualify for exemption from mandatory payroll deductions such as income taxes. Such expense account arrangement shall afford employees the opportunity to pay their qualifying expenses with earnings unreduced by certain mandatory payroll deductions.
- Section 3.** Subject to I.R.S. Rules and Regulations, each employee covered by this AGREEMENT may individually elect to participate in the Dependent Care Assistance Program provided by the EMPLOYER. Employees may voluntarily elect to have a portion of their gross earnings placed in a special account to be managed on their behalf by the EMPLOYER. The employee can use funds from this account to pay certain employee expenses that qualify for exemption from mandatory payroll deductions such as income taxes and pension contributions. Such expense account arrangement shall afford employees the opportunity to pay their qualifying expenses with earnings unreduced by mandatory payroll deductions.
- Section 4.** Subject to I.R.S. Rules and Regulations, each employee covered by this AGREEMENT may individually elect to participate in the Hennepin County Parking Expense Account plan. Employees may voluntarily elect to have a portion of their gross earnings placed in a special account to be managed on their behalf by the EMPLOYER. The employee can use funds from this account to pay certain employee expenses that qualify for exemption from mandatory payroll deductions such as income taxes.
- Section 5.** The EMPLOYER shall pay the full cost of a \$30,000.00 accidental death and dismemberment individual term life insurance contract for each employee.
- Section 6.** The EMPLOYER shall, subject to availability, arrange for a group Long Term Disability Insurance Plan which shall be in accordance with criteria and benefit levels established between the EMPLOYER and underwriter. Implementation and continuance shall be contingent upon such a plan being available in accordance with those criteria and available on an individual employee option basis. Employees electing the Long Term Disability option will have their sick leave accrual rate charged for the equivalent number of hours necessary to provide for the premium cost, the value of each sick leave hour to be equivalent to the employee's hourly salary rate. Employees who do not have sufficient sick leave accrual to cover premium cost shall make sufficient cost payment to the EMPLOYER. If such a plan cannot be provided on an individual option basis, the EMPLOYER has no obligation to provide for this coverage.
- Section 7.** It is expressly understood that the EMPLOYER's obligation in this Article is limited to payment of the specified premium charges for the group insurance coverage as specified herein.
- Section 8.** The EMPLOYER reserves the right to change insurance carriers or self-insure. If such change of carriers or self-insurance is to result in a change in the level of employee benefits, the EMPLOYER agrees to meet and confer with the UNION on the change.
- Section 9.** The EMPLOYER shall, subject to availability, arrange for a group Short Term Disability Insurance Plan which shall be in accordance with criteria and benefit levels established between the EMPLOYER and the underwriter. Implementation and continuance shall be contingent upon such a plan being available in accordance with those criteria and available on an individual employee option basis. Employees electing the Short Term Disability option will have their sick leave accrual rate charged for the equivalent number of hours necessary to provide for the premium cost, the value of each sick leave hour to be equivalent to the employee's hourly salary rate. Employees who do not have sufficient sick leave accrual to cover premium cost shall make sufficient cost payment to the EMPLOYER. If such plan cannot be provided on an individual option basis, the EMPLOYER has no obligation to provide this coverage.
- Section 10** Early Retiree Health Insurance Program (ERHIP).

Subd. 1. Benefit. The County shall provide access to the County's group health insurance program for eligible employees until the end of the month in which the employee turns age 65. An eligible employee shall receive the same County contribution towards the health insurance continuation benefit provided for in the ERHIP as though the employee is actively working and has elected single coverage in the County's group health insurance program. An eligible employee may elect to continue coverage under the County's group health insurance program for dependents provided the employee pays 100% of the cost of dependent coverage in addition to any required share of the single premium. The County may establish appropriate policies and procedures to implement and administer the ERHIP that are not inconsistent with the requirements of this section. These include, but are not limited to, the application process and the time period required to apply for ERHIP benefits, the process for remitting premium payments, adding or deleting dependents from coverage or the termination of coverage for the non-payment of premiums.

Subd. 2 Eligibility. Only employees that have County group health insurance coverage in force on the date of employment termination and who were hired by the County prior to January 1, 2008, are eligible to participate in the ERHIP. Employees newly hired, re-hired or re-instated after January 1, 2008, are ineligible to participate in the ERHIP. To receive the health insurance continuation benefit provided for in the ERHIP, the employee must meet at least one of the following three eligibility requirements:

A. The eligible employee meets one of the following age and years of service requirements:

<u>Age</u>	<u>Non-Continuous Years of Service</u>
55 but less than 62	20
62 but less than 63	15
63 but less than 64	14
64 but less than 65	13

B. The eligible employee at the time of retirement qualifies for and applies for a full, unreduced retirement annuity (other than a deferred annuity), based on a minimum of ten (10) years of Hennepin County service, from an approved Minnesota public service retirement program.

C. The eligible employee at the time of retirement qualifies for and applies for a retirement annuity (other than a deferred annuity), from an approved Minnesota public service retirement program with at least twenty-five (25) years of covered service, at least ten (10) of which must have been with Hennepin County.

Subd. 2a Eligibility for Minneapolis Public Library (MPL) Employees. All persons employed in a **regular** position by the Minneapolis Library Board who are transferred to Hennepin County employment as a **regular** employee as a result of a merger between the Hennepin County and Minneapolis library systems are eligible to participate in the ERHIP. Former MPL employees may also exercise their right to opt-out of the ERHIP as provided in subdivision 3, provided they do so by July 1, 2008, or 30 days after the effective date of the merger, whichever date is later. Former MPL employees transferred to Hennepin County as a result of a merger shall not receive credit for their years of service at MPL for purposes of determining eligibility for the ERHIP. Only time spent in service while employed by Hennepin County as a **regular** employee will count towards determining eligibility for the ERHIP.

Subd. 3 Opt-out. Employees eligible to participate in the ERHIP may opt out of the program. Employees desiring to opt-out must elect in writing prior to July 1, 2008, whether they will maintain their current retiree insurance benefit, or opt out of the ERHIP and participate in the Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) option. This is a one-time, irrevocable election. Employees who do not make an election in writing prior to July 1, 2008, will be deemed to have elected to retain their current retiree insurance benefit under the ERHIP. If an employee who is eligible for ERHIP becomes part of the bargaining unit and has not previously had the opportunity to opt-out, such employee shall be given the opportunity at a time which is mutually agreed upon by the EMPLOYER and the UNION.

Subd. 4. No Guarantee of Future Benefit. Nothing in this section shall be construed to be a guarantee of future retiree health insurance benefits beyond the expiration date of this AGREEMENT. The County and the Union (or in the case of an unit of essential employees, an interest arbitrator) reserve the right during subsequent negotiations to modify, amend, or terminate, in whole or in part, this ERHIP. In the event the union is decertified as the exclusive representative, the County may, at any time after the expiration of this AGREEMENT, modify, amend, or terminate, in whole or in part, this ERHIP.

Section 11 Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP)

Subd. 1. Establishment of HCSP. A Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) is established to enable Hennepin County employees to save money on a pre-tax basis to pay post-County employment medical expenses and/or health insurance premiums. EMPLOYER and employee contributions designated below shall be deposited with a HCSP provider selected by the EMPLOYER. The County and the HCSP provider may establish appropriate policies and procedures to implement and administer the HCSP that are not inconsistent with the requirements of this section.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. Only **regular** benefits-eligible employees are eligible to participate in the HCSP. Employees hired, re-hired or re-instated after January 1, 2008, unrepresented employee newly hired, rehired or re-instated between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2007, who become part of the bargaining unit after December 31, 2007, and employees that exercised their right to opt-out of the ERHIP, are required to participate in the HCSP. Former MPL employees who exercise their right to opt-out of the ERHIP and participate in the Health Care Savings Plan (HCSP) option shall only have their time spent in service while employed by Hennepin County as a **regular** employee count towards determining eligibility for the County contribution in subdivision 4.

Subd. 3. Employee Contribution. Eligible employees shall contribute one percent (1%) of their salary on a per pay period basis to the HCSP.

Subd. 4. County Contribution The County shall make the following annual contributions to an eligible employee's HCSP account beginning in 2009. The County's annual lump sum contribution shall be made in the first full pay period following an employee's anniversary date as follows:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>County Annual Contribution</u>
More than 5 years and less than 10 years of service.	\$500.00 per year
More than 10 years and less than 15 years of service.	\$600.00 per year
More than 15 years of service.	\$700.00 per year

Section 12. Pursuant to Article 22, Section 10, Subd. 1, the EMPLOYER shall apply the terms of Hennepin County Board Resolution 09-0339 (attached) to eligible employees covered by this AGREEMENT.

ARTICLE 23 - SEVERANCE PAY

Section 1. Severance pay shall be paid to **regular** employees who have completely terminated their employment with the County in good standing and have completed eight (8) years of continuous service with the County. Any employee who shall have received severance pay upon termination of his/her employment shall not again be eligible to accrue any severance pay benefits upon re-employment with the County except for any hours accumulated in excess of the number for which he/she has been previously compensated. Such severance shall be based upon and measured by unused accumulated sick leave and unused accumulated vacation leave accruing to such employee during Hennepin County employment. Such severance pay shall not exceed eight hundred (800) hours of the unused accumulated sick leave and unused vacation leave which has accrued to the credit of the employee at the date of severance of such employment. Severance pay shall be computed on the basis of the employee's base pay rate in effect on the date of termination. Severance pay of a deceased employee shall be paid to a named beneficiary or, lacking that, his/her estate or legal representative.

Employees shall provide the EMPLOYER with two (2) weeks written notice in advance of the date the employee leaves. If an employee fails to provide the required two (2) week notice, the EMPLOYER shall exclude eighty (80) hours of sick leave severance pay to which the employee may be otherwise entitled in accordance with this AGREEMENT.

If at any time during the life of this AGREEMENT, Local 34 representatives would like to convene a meeting the purpose of which is to explore and/or implement a Health Care Saving Plan administered by the Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS), the EMPLOYER shall convene such a meeting.

Section 2. All accumulated leave benefits shall be expired upon the date of severance from County service.

Section 3. The eligibility provisions of this Article regarding years of service shall not apply to **regular** employees who die prior to achieving eight (8) years of service with the County.

ARTICLE 24 - STABILITY ADJUSTMENTS

Section 1. When an employee has completed five (5) years of continuous service in the County as of December 1 of the current year, he/she shall be eligible to receive two and one-half (2 1/2) percent of his/her annual salary for the current calendar year based on his/her current base rate of pay. For each additional year of continuous service after five, the employee shall qualify for an additional one-half (1/2) of one (1) percent up to and including his/her tenth year. For all continuous service after ten (10) years, the stability payment shall continue at the rate established for the tenth year of five (5) percent. At the discretion of the EMPLOYER, time on authorized leave of absence for education may be included in computing stability compensation.

The maximum annual salary on which stability pay will be computed shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Continuous Years of Service</u>	<u>Maximum Base Salary On Which Stability Pay Will Be Computed</u>
Less than eleven (11) years of continuous service	\$16,000
Eleven (11) years but less than twelve (12) years of continuous service	\$17,000
Twelve (12) years but less than thirteen (13) years of continuous service	\$18,000
Thirteen (13) years but less than fourteen (14) years of continuous service	\$19,000
Fourteen (14) years but less than fifteen (15) year of continuous service	\$20,000
Fifteen (15) years but less than sixteen (16) years of continuous service	\$21,000
Sixteen (16) years but less than seventeen (17) years of continuous service	\$22,000
Seventeen (17) years but less than eighteen (18) years of continuous service	\$23,000
Eighteen (18) or more years of service.	\$24,000

Such stability payment shall be paid in a lump sum on a December payroll.

Section 2. Any employee who by reason of a work related injury receives worker's compensation benefits, shall receive credit for time spent on such medical leave for purposes of stability pay eligibility.

Section 3. Any employee upon retiring from County service may be paid the stability payment as of the date of his/her retirement. However, such payment shall be prorated on the number of payroll periods worked during the calendar year in which such employee retired.

Section 4. Stability pay may also be paid to survivors in the case of death while the individual is an employee of the County. Such payment shall be prorated on the number of payroll periods worked during the calendar year in which death occurred.

ARTICLE 25 - PART-TIME / LIMITED DURATION EMPLOYEES

Section 1. A **regular** part-time employee working less than the full-time schedule shall not participate in any benefits provided by this AGREEMENT except those working a schedule of twenty (20) hours or more per week shall participate in benefits in the same ratio that his/her actual hours worked bears to the full-time work schedule. The EMPLOYER shall pay, however, the same health insurance premium amounts to employees who are scheduled to work at least twenty (20)

hours per work week as it contributes to full time **regular** employees. The holiday benefit for **regular** part-time employees shall be in the same ratio that the **regular** part-time employee's actual hours worked bears to the full-time work schedule in the previous calendar quarter where the holiday falls.

- Section 2.**
- A. A limited duration employee appointed to a position of six (6) months or less shall not participate in any benefits provided by this AGREEMENT except holiday benefits which shall be in the same ratio that the employee's actual hours worked bears to the full-time work schedule, in the previous calendar quarter where the holiday falls.
 - B. A limited duration employee whose work schedule is intermittent, non-continuous or irregular in nature shall not participate in any benefits provided by this AGREEMENT.
 - C. A limited duration employee appointed to a position that is expected to last more than six (6) months and less than two (2) years working less than the full-time schedule shall not participate in any benefits provided by this AGREEMENT except those working a schedule of twenty (20) hours or more per week shall participate in benefits in the same ratio that his/her actual hours worked bears to the full-time work schedule. The EMPLOYER shall pay, however, the same health insurance premium amounts to employees who are scheduled to work at least twenty (20) hours per work week as it contributes to full-time **regular** employees. The holiday benefit for a limited duration employee appointed to a position that is expected to last more than six (6) months and less than two (2) years shall be in the same ratio that the employee's actual hours worked bears to the full-time work schedule in the previous calendar quarter where the holiday falls.

ARTICLE 26 - WORK UNIT VACANCIES

- Section 1.** A vacant position which is to be filled by the EMPLOYER will normally be posted for not less than seven (7) calendar days within the department where located. **Regular** employees within the same class and department may indicate to the EMPLOYER in writing, their interest in being considered for reassignment to fill the vacant position. Prior to filling the vacancy, the EMPLOYER will give reasonable consideration to the senior qualified **regular** employee who has requested reassignment to the vacant position.
- A. The vacancy posting shall set forth the class title, salary range, nature and location of the work to be performed, the minimum qualifications, the place and manner of making application and the closing date that applications will be received.
 - B. In departments where there is more than one work shift, the position vacancy posting will indicate which shift applies.
 - C. The provisions of this Article shall apply to the initial vacancy and up to two sequential vacancies that may be created by reassignment within the department.
 - D. Employees who are selected for reassignment under the provisions of this Article will again become eligible for consideration six (6) months following such reassignment.
 - E. Departments for the purpose of this Article shall be those established by the EMPLOYER in its organizational structure. A copy of the EMPLOYER's current organizational structure identifying departments shall be furnished to the UNION by the EMPLOYER and updated as changes occur. A current copy of the EMPLOYER's organizational structure identifying departments is located in Attachment B of this AGREEMENT.
 - F. Seniority for purposes of this Article shall be as defined in the Article herein titled "Seniority."
 - G. The provisions of this Article shall not apply to the following types of vacancies.
 - 1. Vacancies to be filled by recall from layoff.
 - 2. Vacancies to be filled by reassignment of an employee whose position has been abolished due to lack of work, lack of funds or other reasons without reference to incompetence, misconduct, or other behavioral considerations.
 - 3. Vacancies to be filled by reassignment of an employee for reason of temporary disability or other health-related condition.

ARTICLE 27 - WORK RULES

The EMPLOYER may establish and enforce work rules that are not in conflict with this AGREEMENT. A copy of the EMPLOYER's formally established departmental work rules shall be available on or about the work site and during the work shift of employees subject to such rules. Upon request, such rules shall also be made available to the UNION. Revisions to such work rules will be labeled as new or amended and shall be posted or disseminated in advance of their effective date.

ARTICLE 28 - PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

- Section 1. The EMPLOYER shall determine whether an employee is to be granted an in-range salary rate adjustment on a normal performance review interval established by the EMPLOYER for the employee's class. An employee shall not experience loss of such salary increase because completion of the performance evaluation is delayed through no fault of the employee.
- Section 2. After an evaluation is completed, the employee will be given a copy and provided an opportunity to respond to the evaluation in writing and have that response permanently attached to the evaluation. No changes may be made in the evaluation after the employee has received and signed his/her copy.
- Section 3. When an employee who is eligible for an in-range merit adjustment receives a performance evaluation which results in the employee's not receiving such increase, he/she may request review of this decision by the appointing authority or his/her designee. Such request must be made to the appointing authority within twenty-four (24) calendar days from the date the employee receives the evaluation. If the decision of the appointing authority does not resolve the matter within thirty (30) calendar days following the employee's request for review, the matter may be referred to the Director of Human Resources for review by the Director or his/her designee. Such time limits may be waived by agreement of the parties.
- Section 4. Performance – Measures of employee performance obtained through electronic or "line count " monitoring will not be the sole criterion applied in evaluating performance.

ARTICLE 29 - EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- Section 1. *Tuition reimbursement shall be provided to employees covered by this collective bargaining AGREEMENT under the same terms and conditions, policies and procedures as the rest of Hennepin County and reflecting a county-wide pool for funding. See [Hennepin County Tuition Reimbursement Policy Frequently Asked Questions](#)*
- Section 2. Where courses are required and certified by the appointing authority as essential to current job performance, such appointing authority shall grant 100% reimbursement for tuition, required fees and required study materials.
- Section 3. At the request of an employee, an Individual Development Plan shall be established. Any employee making the request shall be provided with paid time to work with their Supervisor or Human Resources to develop a training plan for career development within Hennepin County. Human Resources will be a source of career information, and postings, in which the employee may have an interest. Time allotted for this activity and the training plan adopted shall be subject to mutual agreement of the Employee and Supervisor.

ARTICLE 30 - FITNESS FOR DUTY

When question exists related to appropriate leave administration or work safety to individuals, co-workers or others, the EMPLOYER may require employees to undergo a medical evaluation that will enable the EMPLOYER to determine the employee's fitness for performance of his/her duties. When the EMPLOYER requires an evaluation or report from a medical authority, either the employee's personal or treating authority or the medical authority of the EMPLOYER's selection, the EMPLOYER shall:

- A. Pay the fee charged for such evaluation or report if such is not covered through the health insurance program made available to employees by the EMPLOYER, and
- B. Compensate the employee at his/her base pay rate for regularly scheduled work time the employee was unable to work due to obtaining the evaluation if the evaluation result is that the employee is found fully fit to perform his/her work duties and responsibilities.

ARTICLE 31 - MEET AND CONFER

- Section 1. Upon the request of either party, the EMPLOYER and UNION agree that the EMPLOYER and not more than **six (6)** representatives **and not more than six (6) EMPLOYER representatives will participate in a Meet and Confer session each month to discuss issues of concern to either or both of the parties.**

- A. **The parties will Meet and Confer in regards to health of the workforce issues including but not limited to physical, psychological, ergonomics or public health concerns and safety items which are neither negotiable nor subject to the grievance procedure. (See also Attachment D).**

- B.** *The parties will Meet and Confer in regards to workloads/caseloads issues to identify ideal workload or caseload sizes and methods of achieving or working towards ideal workloads/caseloads. It is specifically understood that actual assigned workloads may differ from ideal workloads. The EMPLOYER agrees that ideal or appropriate workloads/caseloads will be a significant consideration when assessing employee work performance.*
- C.** *The parties will use the Meet and Confer process to establish a forum to address dignity and respect in the workplace on an ongoing basis.*

- Section 2.** *The parties may agree to conduct additional Meet and Confer sessions within individual departments or divisions. The number, frequency, length, scope and size of such meetings will be determined by AGREEMENT.*
- Section 3.** *Upon AGREEMENT of the parties, a Meet and Confer session may include additional representatives from other employee organizations or other outside parties with information to offer that is relevant to a proposed Meet and Confer topic.*
- Section 4.** *The parties agree that a specific Meet and Confer session will be scheduled for the purpose of discussing county-wide planning/change initiatives with County Administration. The Labor/Management meetings between County Administration and AFSCME Business Agents and Local Presidents could be used for this purpose.*
- Section 5.** *Attachment D, entitled ARTICLE 31 Meet and Confer Issues, will be placed at the end of the contract and will serve as a reference list of specific topics the EMPLOYER and the UNION agree to discuss during the term of this AGREEMENT. Each agreed-upon item placed on the list will be dated. The list will include active/ongoing Meet and Confer topics as well as inactive topics, including dates of inception where possible.
The Attachment D list will be reviewed and updated as needed during future contract negotiations to assist the parties with accountability for the issues that have been listed for Meet and Confer discussion during the term of a particular AGREEMENT. If the parties agree that a topic placed on the list at an earlier date no longer requires discussion, that topic will be placed on the "inactive list" in attachment D. However, the inactive list remains on Attachment D from contract to contract as a historical record.*
- Section 6.** *Nothing in Section 5 regarding Attachment D is intended as a limit upon the parties' ability to introduce any mutually agreed upon topic for discussion at any future Meet and Confer session.*

ARTICLE 32 - DISCIPLINE

- Section 1.** The EMPLOYER will discipline employees in the classified service only for just cause.
- Section 2.** Discipline, when administered, will be in one or more of the following forms and normally in the following order:
 - A. Oral Reprimand
 - B. Written Reprimand
 - C. Suspension *
 - D. Discharge or disciplinary demotion

* Except in situations where less than a full week unpaid suspension of exempt employees is allowed under Federal/State Law, exempt employees may not be suspended from duty without pay for a period of less than one (1) work week as discipline under this Agreement. Rather, where just cause exists, and there is mutual agreement, the EMPLOYER may impose disciplinary reductions in accrued vacation, deferred holiday and/or compensatory time balances. The amount of such disciplinary reductions shall depend upon the seriousness of the offense and the involved employee's record of employment. Disciplinary reductions in accrued vacation, deferred holiday, and/or compensatory time balances shall be treated as a suspension for purposes of the employee's record and progressive discipline.
- Section 3.** If the EMPLOYER has reason to reprimand any employee, it shall normally not be done in the presence of other employees or the public.

Section 4. Written reprimands, disciplinary suspensions, disciplinary demotions or discharge of **regular** employees are appealable up to and through the arbitration step of the grievance procedure contained in this AGREEMENT.

Section 5. Upon the request of either party, the EMPLOYER and UNION shall make available to each other all information and evidence that will be used to support a written reprimand, suspension or discharge or defense against such action at least seven (7) days prior to the Step 2 meeting of the grievance procedure.

Section 6. **Human Resources Employee File**

- A. Investigations which do not result in disciplinary actions shall not be entered into the employee's **Human Resources employee file**. A written record of all disciplinary actions other than oral reprimands shall be entered into the employee's **Human Resources employee file**. All disciplinary entries in the **Human Resources** office record shall normally state the corrective action expected of the employee.
- B. An employee who is reprimanded in writing, suspended, disciplinarily demoted, or discharged shall be furnished with a copy of notice of such disciplinary action.
- C. Upon written request of the employee, a written reprimand shall be removed from the employee's **Human Resources employee file** if no further disciplinary action has been taken against the employee within two (2) years following the date of the reprimand, or if no disciplinary action has been taken against the employee for the same or related offenses within three (3) years following the date of the reprimand.
- D. Employees shall have access to information contained in their **Human Resources employee file** in accordance with the provisions of the Data Practices Act, as amended.

Section 7. Union Representation.

Employees will not be questioned concerning an administrative investigation of disciplinary action unless the employee has been given an opportunity to have a union representative present at such questioning. When mutually agreeable, the UNION shall have the right to take up a suspension, demotion, and/or discharge as a grievance at the second step of the grievance procedure, and the matter shall be handled in accordance with this procedure through the arbitration step if deemed necessary.

Section 8. Disciplinary action shall be taken in a timely manner.

ARTICLE 33 - EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE

The EMPLOYER shall make available to employees covered by this AGREEMENT the Employee Assistance Program it establishes for County employees and shall provide employees covered by this AGREEMENT with the information distributed to County employees familiarizing them with the program.

ARTICLE 34 - NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with applicable city, state and federal law, all provisions of this AGREEMENT shall be applied equally by the EMPLOYER and the UNION to all employees without discrimination based on race, color, creed, religion, age, sex, disability, marital status, affectional preference, public assistance status, criminal record or national origin. In the event that any of the pertinent antidiscrimination laws are changed during the term of the AGREEMENT to include or exclude a protected class or classes, this AGREEMENT will be applied so as to include or exclude that class or classes within the provisions of this section. In addition, all provisions of this AGREEMENT shall be applied equally by the EMPLOYER and the UNION to all employees without discrimination as to political or organizational affiliation or membership in the UNION.

ARTICLE 35 - SCOPE OF AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT shall represent the complete agreement between the UNION and EMPLOYER. 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.

ARTICLE 36 - SAVINGS CLAUSE

This AGREEMENT is subject to the laws of the United States, the State of Minnesota, and Hennepin County. In the event any provision of this AGREEMENT shall be held to be contrary to law by a court of competent jurisdiction from whose final judgment or decree no appeal has been taken within the time provided, such provision shall be voided. All other provisions shall continue in full force and effect. Upon written request of either party, the parties shall meet and negotiate on a substitute provision for the voided provision.

ARTICLE 37 – SPECIAL LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

- Section 1.** Employees may participate in a **Special** Leave Without Pay Program as established by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The **Special** Leave Without Pay Program period is from date of County Board Approval through December 31, **2016**.
- Section 2.** Upon the request of either party, the EMPLOYER and the UNION shall meet and confer on the extension of this **Special** Leave Without Pay Program **each year** through **2018**.
- Section 3.** The EMPLOYER's policy on use of Special Leave Without Pay (SLWOP) provides that employees may use SLWOP in cases where they would otherwise not take the leave. The EMPLOYER will therefore interpret its policy on SLWOP to allow SLWOP for Union Leave and Parenting Leave in cases where the employee would not otherwise take the leave.

ARTICLE 38 - SALARY RATES

- Section 1.** Employees covered by this AGREEMENT as follows shall be compensated for each month/hour of service in accordance with the following schedule and provisions:
Effective **December 27, 2015**, the following rates shall apply:

Classification	NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES			
	MONTHLY		HOURLY	
	Minimum Rate	Maximum Rate	Minimum Rate	Maximum Rate
Case Management Assistant	\$2,939	\$4,454	\$16.95	\$25.70
Chemical Clinical Health Specialist	\$3,544	\$5,573	\$20.44	\$32.15
Chemical Health Counselor	\$3,187	\$4,328	\$18.39	\$24.97
Chemical Health Counselor, Senior	\$3,915	\$5,066	\$22.59	\$29.23
Child Support/Collection Service Officer	\$2,851	\$3,850	\$16.45	\$22.21
Child Support/Collection Svc Officer, Pr	\$3,329	\$4,878	\$19.20	\$28.15
Child Support/Collection Svc Officer, Sr	\$2,717	\$4,262	\$15.67	\$24.59
Community Health Worker	\$2,686	\$3,296	\$15.50	\$19.01
Community Health Worker, Senior	\$3,097	\$4,593	\$17.87	\$26.50
Dental Assistant	\$2,857	\$4,156	\$16.48	\$23.98
Dental Hygienist	\$4,198	\$6,471	\$24.22	\$37.33
Financial Case Aide	\$2,923	\$4,759	\$16.87	\$27.46
Human Services Representative	\$3,156	\$4,217	\$18.21	\$24.33
Human Services Representative, Senior	\$2,987	\$5,354	\$17.23	\$30.89
Interpreter	\$2,815	\$4,089	\$16.24	\$23.59
Interpreter, Senior	\$2,923	\$4,660	\$16.87	\$26.88
Medical Assistant	\$2,764	\$3,725	\$15.94	\$21.49
Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistant	\$3,133	\$4,515	\$18.08	\$26.05
Medical Examiner's Technician	\$3,082	\$3,979	\$17.78	\$22.95
Nurse, Licensed Practical	\$3,070	\$4,236	\$17.71	\$24.44
Record Information Specialist	\$2,939	\$4,389	\$16.95	\$25.32
Sentencing to Service Crew Leader	\$2,939	\$4,499	\$16.95	\$25.96
Special Programs Counselor	\$2,681	\$4,013	\$15.47	\$23.15

Sterile Processing Technician	\$2,660	\$3,319	\$15.35	\$19.15
Training Specialist	\$4,013	\$5,192	\$23.15	\$29.95
Veterans Service Representative	\$3,546	\$5,248	\$20.46	\$30.28
Volunteers, Coordinator of	\$3,845	\$5,543	\$22.18	\$31.98
Volunteers, Senior Coordinator of	\$4,456	\$6,408	\$25.71	\$36.97
WIC Public Health Nutritionist	\$2,844	\$4,593	\$16.41	\$26.50

EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

Classification	MONTHLY		HOURLY	
	Minimum Rate	Maximum Rate	Minimum Rate	Maximum Rate
Corrections Counselor	\$4,316	\$5,871	\$24.90	\$33.87
Health Care Quality Improvement Specialist	\$4,260	\$6,015	\$24.58	\$34.70
MHP Medical Services Coordinator	\$4,177	\$6,440	\$24.10	\$37.15
Nurse, Public Health	\$4,260	\$6,965	\$24.58	\$40.18
Nursing Specialist, Clinical	\$5,011	\$9,891	\$28.91	\$57.07
Psychologist	\$4,104	\$6,904	\$23.68	\$39.83
Psychologist, Clinical	\$5,454	\$7,058	\$31.46	\$40.72
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	\$5,879	\$9,232	\$33.92	\$53.26
Social Worker	\$4,281	\$5,277	\$24.70	\$30.44
Social Worker, Child Protection	\$4,206	\$6,950	\$24.27	\$40.10
Social Worker, Psychiatric	\$4,316	\$5,871	\$24.90	\$33.87
Social Worker, Senior	\$4,352	\$6,206	\$25.11	\$35.80
Social Worker, Senior Psychiatric	\$4,316	\$6,798	\$24.90	\$39.22

Effective **December 25, 2016**, the following rates shall apply:

NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

Classification	MONTHLY		HOURLY	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Case Management Assistant	\$2,984	\$4,564	\$17.21	\$26.33
Chemical Clinical Health Specialist	\$3,597	\$5,712	\$20.75	\$32.96
Chemical Health Counselor	\$3,233	\$4,435	\$18.65	\$25.59
Chemical Health Counselor, Senior	\$3,972	\$5,191	\$22.91	\$29.95
Child Support/Collection Service Officer	\$2,896	\$3,944	\$16.71	\$22.75
Child Support/Collection Svc Officer, Pr	\$3,377	\$4,999	\$19.48	\$28.84
Child Support/Collection Svc Officer, Sr	\$2,762	\$4,367	\$15.93	\$25.20
Community Health Worker	\$2,731	\$3,376	\$15.76	\$19.48
Community Health Worker, Senior	\$3,142	\$4,706	\$18.13	\$27.15
Dental Assistant	\$2,902	\$4,258	\$16.74	\$24.57
Dental Hygienist	\$4,259	\$6,631	\$24.57	\$38.26
Financial Case Aide	\$2,968	\$4,876	\$17.13	\$28.13
Human Services Representative	\$3,202	\$4,321	\$18.47	\$24.93
Human Services Representative, Senior	\$3,032	\$5,486	\$17.49	\$31.65
Interpreter	\$2,860	\$4,190	\$16.50	\$24.17
Interpreter, Senior	\$2,968	\$4,774	\$17.13	\$27.54
Medical Assistant	\$2,809	\$3,816	\$16.20	\$22.02
Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistant	\$3,178	\$4,626	\$18.34	\$26.69
Medical Examiner's Technician	\$3,127	\$4,076	\$18.04	\$23.52
Nurse, Licensed Practical	\$3,115	\$4,340	\$17.97	\$25.04

Record Information Specialist	\$2,984	\$4,497	\$17.21	\$25.95
Sentencing to Service Crew Leader	\$2,984	\$4,610	\$17.21	\$26.59
Special Programs Counselor	\$2,726	\$4,112	\$15.73	\$23.72
Sterile Processing Technician	\$2,705	\$3,400	\$15.61	\$19.62
Training Specialist	\$4,071	\$5,320	\$23.49	\$30.69
Veterans Service Representative	\$3,598	\$5,378	\$20.76	\$31.03
Volunteers, Coordinator of	\$3,901	\$5,679	\$22.50	\$32.77
Volunteers, Senior Coordinator of	\$4,521	\$6,567	\$26.08	\$37.89
WIC Public Health Nutritionist	\$2,889	\$4,706	\$16.67	\$27.15

EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

Classification	MONTHLY		HOURLY	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Corrections Counselor	\$4,379	\$6,017	\$25.26	\$34.71
Health Care Quality Improvement Specialist	\$4,322	\$6,164	\$24.94	\$35.56
MHP Medical Services Coordinator	\$4,238	\$7,138	\$24.45	\$41.18
Nurse, Public Health	\$7,314	\$7,493	\$42.20	\$43.23
Nursing Specialist, Clinical	\$5,085	\$10,137	\$29.34	\$58.48
Psychologist	\$4,166	\$7,077	\$24.03	\$40.83
Psychologist, Clinical	\$5,534	\$7,233	\$31.93	\$41.73
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	\$5,965	\$9,461	\$34.41	\$54.58
Social Worker	\$4,343	\$5,407	\$25.06	\$31.19
Social Worker, Child Protection	\$4,268	\$7,122	\$24.62	\$41.09
Social Worker, Psychiatric	\$4,379	\$6,017	\$25.26	\$34.71
Social Worker, Senior	\$4,415	\$6,359	\$25.47	\$36.69
Social Worker, Senior Psychiatric	\$4,379	\$6,966	\$25.26	\$40.19

Effective **January 7, 2018** the following rates shall apply:

NON-EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

Classification	MONTHLY		HOURLY	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Case Management Assistant	\$3,060	\$4,676	\$17.65	\$26.98
Chemical Clinical Health Specialist	\$3,687	\$5,855	\$21.27	\$33.78
Chemical Health Counselor	\$3,312	\$4,544	\$19.11	\$26.22
Chemical Health Counselor, Senior	\$4,069	\$5,319	\$23.48	\$30.69
Child Support/Collection Service Officer	\$2,972	\$4,041	\$17.15	\$23.31
Child Support/Collection Svc Officer, Pr	\$3,460	\$5,122	\$19.96	\$29.55
Child Support/Collection Svc Officer, Sr	\$2,838	\$4,475	\$16.37	\$25.82
Community Health Worker	\$2,808	\$3,459	\$16.20	\$19.96
Community Health Worker, Senior	\$3,219	\$4,822	\$18.57	\$27.82
Dental Assistant	\$2,978	\$4,363	\$17.18	\$25.17
Dental Hygienist	\$4,363	\$6,795	\$25.17	\$39.20
Financial Case Aide	\$3,045	\$4,997	\$17.57	\$28.83
Human Services Representative	\$3,280	\$4,427	\$18.92	\$25.54
Human Services Representative, Senior	\$3,108	\$5,621	\$17.93	\$32.43
Interpreter	\$2,936	\$4,293	\$16.94	\$24.77
Interpreter, Senior	\$3,045	\$4,892	\$17.57	\$28.22

Medical Assistant	\$2,885	\$3,910	\$16.64	\$22.56
Medical Examiner's Investigative Assistant	\$3,256	\$4,740	\$18.79	\$27.35
Medical Examiner's Technician	\$3,203	\$4,176	\$18.48	\$24.10
Nurse, Licensed Practical	\$3,191	\$4,447	\$18.41	\$25.66
Record Information Specialist	\$3,060	\$4,608	\$17.65	\$26.59
Sentencing to Service Crew Leader	\$3,060	\$4,723	\$17.65	\$27.25
Special Programs Counselor	\$2,802	\$4,213	\$16.17	\$24.30
Sterile Processing Technician	\$2,781	\$3,483	\$16.05	\$20.10
Training Specialist	\$4,171	\$5,451	\$24.07	\$31.45
Veterans Service Representative	\$3,686	\$5,511	\$21.27	\$31.79
Volunteers, Coordinator of	\$3,997	\$5,820	\$23.06	\$33.58
Volunteers, Senior Coordinator of	\$4,632	\$6,729	\$26.72	\$38.82
WIC Public Health Nutritionist	\$2,966	\$4,822	\$17.11	\$27.82

EXEMPT EMPLOYEES

Classification	MONTHLY		HOURLY	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Corrections Counselor	\$4,487	\$6,165	\$25.88	\$35.57
Health Care Quality Improvement Specialist	\$4,428	\$6,316	\$25.55	\$36.44
MHP Medical Services Coordinator	\$4,342	\$7,314	\$25.05	\$42.20
Nurse, Public Health	\$7,495	\$7,678	\$43.24	\$44.30
Nursing Specialist, Clinical	\$5,210	\$10,389	\$30.06	\$59.93
Psychologist	\$4,270	\$7,254	\$24.64	\$41.85
Psychologist, Clinical	\$5,670	\$7,412	\$32.71	\$42.76
Psychologist, Senior Clinical	\$6,112	\$9,696	\$35.26	\$55.94
Social Worker	\$4,450	\$5,540	\$25.67	\$31.96
Social Worker, Child Protection	\$4,373	\$7,298	\$25.23	\$42.11
Social Worker, Psychiatric	\$4,487	\$6,165	\$25.88	\$35.57
Social Worker, Senior	\$4,524	\$6,517	\$26.10	\$37.60
Social Worker, Senior Psychiatric	\$4,487	\$7,139	\$25.88	\$41.18

Section 2. The EMPLOYER shall determine the rate of compensation for each employee within the established salary range for his/her class based upon tenure and quality of performance. The EMPLOYER shall each year, or each six (6) months as provided in the EMPLOYER's Compensation Manual, review the salary of each employee who is not at the maximum rate of his/her salary range to determine whether the employee's rate of pay should be advanced in the salary range based on the quality of performance and shall advise the employee, in writing, of the reasons if the salary increase is not granted. An in-range salary increase shall be given to an employee upon satisfactory completion of (6) six months compensated regular hours of service in a new classification to which promoted. The EMPLOYER shall have the discretion to grant compensation in excess of the maximum rates shown when the EMPLOYER determines that the performance of any employee warrants any such additional compensation.

Section 3. Any salary adjustment provided for in this AGREEMENT shall commence on the beginning of the first payroll period after which the employee(s) becomes qualified and authorized to receive the adjustment.

Section 4. *In 2016*, the EMPLOYER shall pay to the UNION or its designee *\$.35* for each regular hour spent on compensated payroll status by members of the bargaining unit, including hours paid as severance in accordance with the provisions of Article 23. Such EMPLOYER payment shall be remitted quarterly to the UNION or its designee. Such payment shall be used to provide a dental insurance plan arranged and administered by the UNION. *In 2017, the amount will be \$.37 per hour and in 2018 the amount will be \$.39 per hour.*

Section 5. At the discretion of the EMPLOYER and in the event the EMPLOYER encounters difficulty with respect to attraction and/or retention of qualified staff in a particular job classification, the parties by mutual agreement, may negotiate a modified salary schedule or other compensation matters for such classification.

ARTICLE 39 - AUTOMOBILE TRAVEL EXPENSES

Section 1. When employees are required by the EMPLOYER to use their private automobiles while engaged in County business, the employee shall be entitled to reimbursement at the rate established by the IRS for actual mileage incurred. In the unlikely event the IRS does not provide advance notice of a rate change, the EMPLOYER shall execute such change within two payroll periods.

Section 2. Reimbursement shall be made for reasonable parking expenses actually incurred by the employee but not to exceed the levels outlined in the County's Administrative Manual. Parking reimbursement shall be in accordance with the policy stated in the County Administrator's current memorandum. Parking reimbursement rates may be increased by action of the County Administrator.

Section 3. If an employee is requested by the EMPLOYER to have his/her personal automobile available for business use on an ongoing basis, the employee shall be eligible for "car available" reimbursement as provided for in the County's Administrative Manual.

Section 4. To obtain reimbursement the employee shall submit a claim at the end of each calendar month on a form prescribed by the EMPLOYER.

ARTICLE 40 - HEALTH AND SAFETY

Section 1. An employee concerned about the design or structure of his/her work station (chair, keyboard height, lighting, etc.) may, with or without the UNION, petition his/her supervisor for an investigation of the work station to determine compliance with the Hennepin County Ergonomics Policy. If a question arises concerning the effect of the work station on the employee's health or safety, the supervisor may require an examination and report by a physician and/or other qualified Health and Safety professionals. If the supervisor's investigation is not completed within a reasonable time, or if the results of the investigation are not satisfactory to the employee, the employee and the UNION may petition the Department Head in writing to review the matter. If the Department Head does not complete a review within a reasonable period of time, or if the results of the review are not satisfactory to the employee and the UNION, the employee and the UNION may forward the matter in writing to the Hennepin County Environmental Health and Safety Ombudsperson for final review and appropriate action.

Section 2. One representative appointed by AFSCME Council #5 shall have an opportunity to participate on the EMPLOYER's Environmental Health and Safety Committee. In addition, AFSCME Council #5 shall appoint one representative to each department's Health and Safety team. Such representative shall be an employee of the respective department.

Section 3. The Deputy County Administrator shall be designated ombudsperson for matters relating to Environmental Health and Safety.

ARTICLE 41 – UNIFORM ALLOWANCE

Section 1. **Regular** full-time employees of North Point Health & Wellness Center in the job classifications of Medical Assistant and Licensed Practical Nurse that are required to be in uniform shall be eligible to receive a uniform allowance in the amount of up to \$100.00 per calendar year. **Regular** part-time benefit earning employees in the job classifications of Medical Assistant and Licensed Practical Nurse that are required to be in uniform shall be eligible to receive a uniform allowance in the amount of up to \$50.00 per calendar year. This allowance shall be made available to employees through reimbursement or the purchase of uniforms from mutually agreed-upon vendors. Employees subject to this section shall wear and maintain the type of uniform specified by the EMPLOYER.

ARTICLE 42 - CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES

Section 1. Nothing in this AGREEMENT shall prohibit or restrict the right of the EMPLOYER from contracting with vendors for goods and services.

Section 2. The EMPLOYER agrees that as a consequence of any purchase of service contract, employees shall not lose employment with Hennepin County nor shall their salary be reduced.

ARTICLE 43 - TRAINEES

Section 1. An "Internal" Trainee shall be an employee who holds a **regular** position with Hennepin County. An "Internal" Trainee will maintain all seniority, benefit levels and the right to return to a position in their prior class subject to seniority rights and layoff provision. "Internal" Trainees will be paid at the entry-level trainee salary of the class for which they are training, or at their existing salary, whichever is greater.

Section 2. Each Trainee program shall specify the maximum length of time a trainee may participate in the program.

Section 3. "External" Trainees are persons hired into a trainee program who do not currently hold a **regular** position within Hennepin County. "External" Trainees shall generally earn up to 90% of the salary of the position for which they are training, unless a different wage has been negotiated with the UNION.

Section 4. "External" Trainees* to be employed in a program 6 months or longer in duration and who work half-time or more shall be eligible for Health and Life Insurance benefits unless a separate different plan has been negotiated with the UNION.

Section 5. "External" Trainees shall receive the same holiday pay benefit as regular employees.

Section 6. Failure to meet the standards of the trainee program shall be considered just cause for termination of employment for "External" Trainees and just cause for termination from the trainee program for "Internal" Trainees.

Section 7. This Article shall apply to Trainee's hired on or after January 2, 2000.

* "Welfare to Work" program trainees may waive coverage in favor of health care benefits provided under Public Assistance Programs.

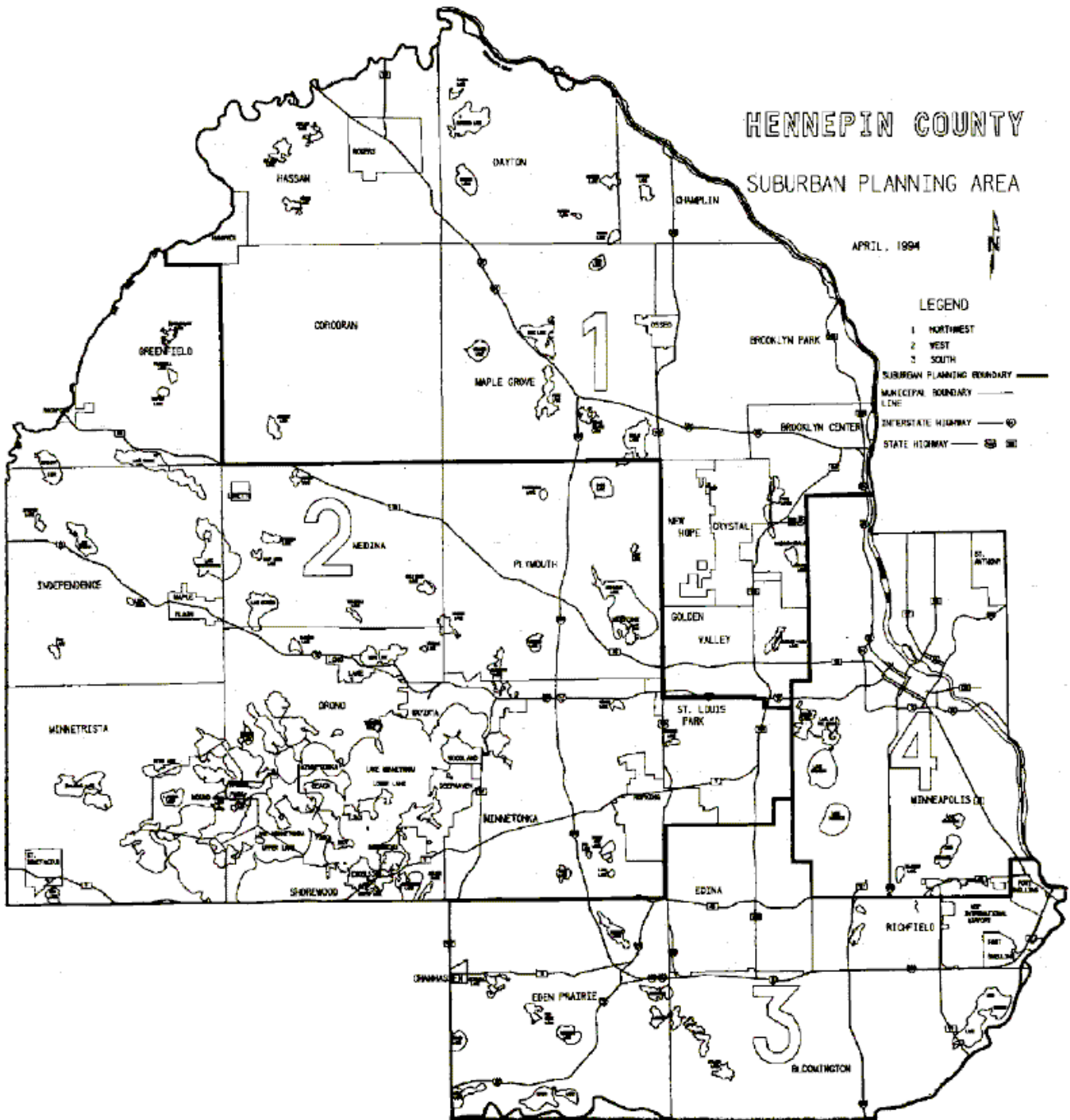
ARTICLE 44 - EFFECTIVE DATES

Section 1. Except as otherwise provided, all provisions of this AGREEMENT, including the supplemental provisions attached hereto, shall be effective the beginning of the first payroll period following its execution.

ARTICLE 45 - TERM OF AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT shall be in full force and effect from January 1, **2016**, through December 31, **2018**, and shall be automatically renewed from year to year thereafter unless either party shall notify the other, in writing, by June 1 prior to the anniversary date that it desires to modify or terminate this AGREEMENT. In witness thereof the parties have caused this AGREEMENT to be executed this **15th** day of December, **2015**.

ATTACHMENT A - Hennepin County Map



ATTACHMENT B

As Of **NOVEMBER 2015**

The current list of Hennepin Departments is as follows:

Administration	Internal Audit
Budget and Finance	Intergovernmental Relations
<i>Center for Innovation & Excellence</i>	Labor Relations
<i>Communications</i>	Library
Community Corrections & Rehabilitation	Medical Examiner
<i>Community Works</i>	Metropolitan Health Plan
County Assessor	NorthPoint Health & Wellness
County Attorney's Office	<i>Planning, Policy & Land Management</i>
Emergency Management	Public Defender's <i>Office</i>
<i>Environment and Energy</i>	<i>Public Health</i>
Examiner of Titles	Public Works
<i>Facility Services</i>	<i>Public Works Management & Support</i>
Hennepin Health	<i>Resident & Real Estate Services</i>
Human Services and Public Health	Sheriff's Office
Human Resources	Transportation <i>Roads & Bridges</i>
Information Technology	

Departments are subject to change by the EMPLOYER as changes in its organization structure occur.

For purposes of layoff and recall from layoff (Article 6) and work unit vacancies (Article 26), for Local 34 and Local 2822 only, the Human Services and Public Health Department, Community Corrections & Rehabilitation and North Point shall be considered one "Super Department".

ATTACHMENT C

FUNERAL LEAVE ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE AFSCME CONTRACT

The "Funeral Leave" Article (Article 16) of the labor agreement between Hennepin County and AFSCME Council #5 provides that employees can receive paid leave to make necessary funeral arrangements and to attend funeral services in the event of a death in the employee's "immediate family." Article 16 defines "immediate family" for this purpose as comprising the following family members:

"...spouse, parent, step-parent, parent-in-law, children, stepchildren, brothers, brothers-in-law, sisters, sisters-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, grandparents, grandparents-in-law grandchildren, or person regarded as a member of the employee's immediate family." (Emphasis added.)

The bolded part of the provision cited above first appeared in the 1994-95 labor agreement. The intent of this new provision was to recognize "non-traditional" family relationships that employees might have with persons who do not meet the literal definitions enumerated above, but who fulfill the same roles for the employee. For example, the funeral of an employee's domestic partner would qualify for paid leave under this language, if the domestic partner's relationship to an unmarried employee is comparable to that of a married employee's spouse. Similarly, such a domestic partner's parents would be analogous to parents-in-law, and the domestic partner's children would be analogous to the employee's children or stepchildren. Another type of qualifying relationship could be the parent of the employee's children (if the parents are not married).

Because the criteria relate to the definition of "immediate family" found in the labor agreement, application of the term must be consistent with the definition found in the agreement. An employee's qualifying "non-traditional" family relationship should virtually be the equivalent of a qualifying "traditional" relationship. There should be a history to the relationship that establishes such equivalency.

It would be inappropriate, for example, for an employee to decide that any funeral qualifies for paid leave under this article, because all humanity is a "family." It would also be inconsistent with the intent of the language for the employee to decide that a friend is the equivalent of a brother or sister (although a friend might qualify as a "brother" if he and the employee grew up together in the same household). Friendship alone is not a defining characteristic of either traditional or nontraditional relationships.

ATTACHMENT D

Local 34 - Specific Meet and Confer Topics

1. Child Protection Induction unit efficacy with quarterly reviews beginning January 2016.
2. Child Protection Screeners moving to a 24/7 schedule; shift bidding issues; after hours work site security issues; shift differential if a problem is identified.
3. Child Protection Worker issues including workload/caseload as a result of the Governor's Task Force; on-call issues; resources for families such as car seats at all sites
4. Child Support work standards
5. Cost and implications regarding a change of employee work location with short notice
6. Ergonomic issues related to HSPHD Regionalization
7. Health insurance coverage when large number of employees are laid off
8. Health care cost containment
9. HSPHD work culture
10. Human Service Representative series issues including the promotional process from HSR to Senior HSR; workloads/caseloads; onboarding concerns; complexities of multiple program training
11. Language classes for clients we serve ie. Somali
12. Limits to face time/phone contact with individuals in crisis per day and per week
13. Performance results
14. Regional transfers
15. Shift bid language for STS Crew leaders
16. Worksite assignment and notification process
17. Career ladder for case management assistants in family stabilization
18. Career ladder for public health nurse to senior public health nurse
19. Use of limited duration employees discussion with HR Director
20. ROWE
21. Health Insurance (current employees and during potential lay-off's)
22. Pay equity
23. Sick leave
24. Budget impacts
25. Technology changes and resulting impact
26. Parenting leave policies and/or child care and elder care concerns
27. Work week schedules
28. Impact of possible legislation on workplace polices, conditions of employment or as needed by a change in law relative to the work of the County.
29. Impact of possible legislation involving the death penalty and/or Roe v. Wade.
30. Family Medical Leave Act
31. Environmental Health and Safety
32. ADA/Workers Compensation
33. Job class flexibility/service integration and productivity (this could include the merging of certain job classes during the life of this agreement)
34. Employee automobile travel expense reimbursement procedures
35. Adequate resources, supplies and tools to support workers in a mobile and regionalized work environment for all staff at all work sites including but not limited to sanitizing wipes; paper towels; wrist rests; monitors; forms; MFD's; phones; etc.
36. Respectful Workplace Internal Audit Team, process and utilization
37. Workloads and performance standards for employees who provide services to clients who use sign language or languages other than English. These discussions shall include the topic of adjusting workload or performance standards to accommodate any difficulties unique to this type of work.
38. HSR Onboarding
39. Workforce Development - County commits to a Meet and Confer process to begin early in 2016 to discuss HSR onboarding. The Asst. County Administrator will attend the first meeting. As part of this process, the parties will discuss the viability of a buddy-system to augment the onboarding system. The Union will provide input on potential buddies and the County understands that a buddy system, if agreed to, would need to result in some reduction of total workload for the assigned buddies. Additionally, there will be quarterly meet and confers with the larger Workforce Development team for

the purpose of sharing information and progress.

Inactive:

Letter - Local 34 Issues

November 22, 1999

Rita During
AFSCME Council 14
300 Hardman Ave So, Suite 2
South St. Paul, MN 55075

RE: Local 34 Issue

Dear Ms. During:

In the current labor contract negotiations for the Social Service Bargaining Unit (Local 34), the Union has proposed that "If the Employer hires new employees above the entry rate, the Employer will immediately raise all employees, in the same classification and at a lower rate, to the rate of the newly hired employee."

In principal, the County agrees that hiring new employees at a higher rate than paid to existing employees in the same class who are equally or better qualified has the potential to create perceptions of inequity and generally should be avoided. However, the County does not consider paying employees, whether new or existing, above the entry rate of the negotiated pay range to be a violation of the labor agreement and is not agreeable to, in effect, imposing financial penalties on itself for doing so.

The County understands and appreciates the Union's concerns on this matter and intends to be responsive in any future incidents as it has been in the past. To ensure that the Union has a means to address any concerns it does not feel are being properly addressed through normal channels, the Union may refer such concerns to the Deputy County Administrator or his/her designee. The Deputy County Administrator will serve as an "ombudsperson" on these matters in the same way he/she serves as the County "ombudsperson" on health and safety matters.

Sincerely,
Rolland C. Toenges
Labor Relations Director

RCT:kk

Letter of Understanding – Workload/Caseloads

LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN
HENNEPIN COUNTY
AND
AFSCME COUNCIL NO. 14,
LOCALS 34 and 552

In the above-referenced labor agreements, the provision set forth below is found in Article 31, Meet and Confer:

"In addition, the parties mutually agree to conduct additional meet and confer sessions within individual departments or divisions. The number, frequency, length, scope and size of such meetings shall be determined by mutual agreement."

The parties have reached the following understanding with respect to the interpretation and application of this language:

1. Upon request of the Union, the Employer agrees to meet and confer with Union representatives on issues related to workloads/caseloads in specific departments and divisions.
2. The objective of such meet and confer processes is to identify ideal workload or caseload sizes and methods of achieving or working towards ideal workloads/caseloads. It is specifically understood that actual assigned workloads may differ from ideal workloads. The goal of the parties is to conclude this meet and confer process within nine months of the Union's contract ratification date.
3. The Employer agrees that ideal or appropriate workloads/caseloads will be a significant consideration when assessing employee work performance.

This Letter of Understanding executed this 14th day of December, 1995,

by: Stephen Marincel
for AFSCME Council #14

and by John A Shabatura
for the County of Hennepin

Clarification of Health Insurance Article

December 1, 1995

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter is to clarify the interpretation of Section 7 of Article 22, Insurance, contained in the collectively bargained agreement between Hennepin County and AFSCME Council 14 for the period January 1996 through December 1997.

The parties to this Agreement acknowledge that there is a mutual duty to bargain regarding a change in the level of health insurance benefits unless such change occurs as a result of a change in insurance carriers or self insurance.

The parties further acknowledge that, pursuant to existing Minnesota Statutes, the aggregate level of benefits provided by a group insurance contract may not be reduced unless the parties to the collective bargaining agreement agree to the reduction in benefits. Under existing statutes, therefore, if a change in insurance carriers or self insurance will result in a reduction in the aggregate level of benefits for employees, such change may not occur without agreement of the parties to the collective bargaining agreement.

Signed by:

John Shabatura
for HENNEPIN COUNTY

Date Signed
December 13, 1995

Stephen Marincel
for AFSCME Council 14

Date Signed
December 14, 1995

Clarification of Seniority Letter

March 8, 1994

Mr. Steve Marincel
Business Representative
AFSCME Council #14
267 Lafayette Frontage Road South
St Paul, MN 55107-1683

Dear Mr. Marincel:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify how the parties shall interpret and administer Article 6, Seniority, Section 9 of our Clerical and Related Labor Agreement. Section 9 reads as follows:

"Employees on layoff will be recalled to fill vacancies in other classes and departments for which qualified, provided they may not exercise seniority rights to create such vacancies. Such employees may waive the recall if the salary rate offered by the EMPLOYER for the position to which recalled is more than twenty (20%) percent below the salary rate of the employee when laid off. The name of an employee so recalled will remain on the layoff list for the class from which laid off, subject to the conditions and limitations set forth in this AGREEMENT."

An employee laid off pursuant to Article 6, Section 4 will be recalled via Section 9 to fill vacancies in other classes and departments for which qualified. The employee must accept such recall unless the pay for the job class to which he/she is recalled is more than 20% below that of the job class from which laid off.

The Employer will first recall such laid off employees to vacancies covered by the Clerical and Related Bargaining Unit. If no vacancy is available within the bargaining unit, the Employer will recall such employees to a vacancy outside the bargaining unit, if available.

If the vacancy to which an employee is recalled via Section 9 is in a different class than that from which he/she was laid off (either within bargaining unit or outside bargaining unit), the employee will remain on a layoff list for the job class and bargaining unit from which laid off. When a vacancy occurs anywhere in the bargaining unit in the job class from which the employee was laid off, the employee shall be recalled to fill such vacancy subject to seniority provisions. Upon such recall, the employee will be removed from the layoff list.

If after recalling an employee to a vacancy in a different job class from which laid off (via Section 9), a vacancy becomes available in the job class from which the employee was laid off, but such vacancy is outside the bargaining unit, it shall be the Employer's option to assign the employee to such vacancy. If the employee is so assigned, he/she shall remain on a layoff list for the job class from which laid off in the bargaining unit.

If this interpretation is consistent with your understanding of Article 6, Section 9, please so signify by signing below.

Sincerely,
William P. Peters
Labor Relations Representative

Signed by:
Steve Marincel
AFSCME Council #14

Letter of Agreement – Social Worker & Senior Social Worker

LETTER OF AGREEMENT
between
HENNEPIN COUNTY
and
AFSCME COUNCIL 5, LOCAL 34

1. The parties mutually agree that the following Letter of Agreement shall replace the "Letter of Agreement-Career Ladder for Social Workers/Senior Social Workers" dated November 30, 1990. This Letter of Agreement shall be effective immediately upon signing and until December 31, 2011.
2. All Social Worker and Senior Social Worker positions in the Human Services & Public Health Department (HSPHD) shall be classified as Social Worker/Senior Social Worker.
3. Any **regular** employee employed as a Social Worker in HSPHD shall be promoted to Senior Social Worker if the employee satisfies the following conditions:
 - a. Completion of three years employment in the Social Worker job classification;
 - b. Completion of 18 semester or 27 quarter credits in course work referenced in the Senior Social Worker job classification specification; and
 - c. Passing promotional rating from his/her supervisor.
4. Current employees with less than three years of service who complete a Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, or other human services graduate program shall be promoted to Senior Social Worker upon receiving a passing promotional rating from his/her supervisor.
5. An employee promoted from Social Worker to Senior Social Worker shall serve a six-month probationary period.

For the County
Christine Yates

Date Signed
December 3, 2007

For the Union
Matt Nelson

Date Signed
December 3, 2007

Wage Steps & Health Insurance Plan Design

December 12, 2011

Mr. Matt Nelson
Mr. Jeff Dains
Mr. Mark Baker
Field Agents
AFSCME Council 5
300 Hardman Avenue S.
South St. Paul, Minnesota 55075

RE: Wage Steps and Health Insurance Plan Design

Dear Messrs. Nelson, Dains, and Baker:

In negotiations for our 2012 – 2013 labor agreement with Locals 34, 2822, 2864, 1719, 552 and 2938 (Legal and Essential Legal), we agreed that the Wage Steps and the Health Insurance Plan Design would not be included in the labor agreement. Instead, the Employer will provide a link to such information via the Labor Relations Website.

2013 Health Plan Premiums

The Employer shall, in its sole authority, set the premium for 2013 after consulting with Preferred One and our benefits consultant, and after discussions with and input from the Labor Management Healthcare Committee (LMHCC).

Provider Tiers

The Employer shall have sole authority to implement changes as to which provider is in which Tier, effective January 2013 after consulting with Preferred One, our benefits consultant and the labor Management Healthcare Committee (LMHCC).

The health insurance plan design for 2012 and 2013 are identified in the links below.

If you have any questions about this matter, please feel free to contact me at (612) 348-6511.

Sincerely,
William P. Peters
Labor Relations Director
Hennepin County, Minnesota

Salary Steps

<http://www.hennepin.us/employees/labor-contracts>

Health Plan Cost and Summary

<http://www.hennepin.us/employees/health-insurance>

LINK, Health Insurance Plan Design **2016**

2016 Summary of Benefits – WITH Health Incentives and WITHOUT Health Incentives

<http://www.hennepin.us/employees/health-insurance> '

2016 and 2017 Summary of Benefits – WITH Health Incentives and WITHOUT Health Incentives

Information regarding the **2016 and 2017** benefits will be available on the Benefits website as soon as available.

<http://www.hennepin.us/employees/health-insurance>

Consensus Model Based Insurance Proposal and LMHCC Structure
10/8/15 Tentative Agreement, edits based on Alison 11/9/15 email.

Consensus Parameters: County suggests that these parameters be signed by the parties in a Memorandum of Understanding and incorporated by reference as part of the CBA.

1. For the term of this contract, the scope of the current LMHCC will expand to include consensus decision-making on the topics of plan design and premium, consistent with the consensus parameters established by the parties below.
2. It is understood that the LMHCC will continue to operate as an educational and conversation vehicle year-round, with the consensus process only utilized for decisions related to plan design and premium. While these decisions may come up at any time during the year, it is expected that most of the decisions requiring a consensus will occur late in the summer each year.
3. The parties will engage in a good faith effort to reach a consensus decision on premiums and plan design and realize that this may take several additional meetings in late summer of each year.
4. Attendance at the LMHCC remains available to all current attendees, but each bargaining unit will identify one "consensus representative" (and an alternate) who will be responsible to speak for their bargaining unit on the two consensus issues of premium and plan design. The consensus representative will be polled and must indicate whether or not his/his bargaining unit can support consensus on a plan design or premium issue (or, in the last year of the contract, the continuation of the consensus model into the future contract). In all cases, if a consensus decision is reached, both the union and the county agree to be bound by the decision, pending County Administration approval.
5. There will be a total of 17 eligible "consensus representatives," one representing each bargaining unit, and 8 management members from County Benefits and Labor Relations staff who will also be considered eligible "consensus representatives".
6. One Business Agents/ attorney representative from each unit, as well as a Council 5 staff member may attend LMHCC meetings and may be the consensus representative/ alternate for a particular local if that is the desire of the particular union/local.
7. Representatives (or alternates) to LMHCC must be present at multiple meetings, particularly during July/August of each year, to provide their bargaining unit's opinion on any consensus decision. If a representative/ alternate is not present, the LMHCC will proceed without their input.
8. Early in 2016, a mediator will be asked to train the LMHCC on the concepts of facilitation and to explain how the consensus process differs from a negotiations or a voting process. The parties may also choose to continue to call upon the mediator as a facilitator if needed.
9. All Union representatives and County representatives must be in consensus to reach a decision. The parties understand that a representative's consent to a decision indicates a willingness to accept the decision, not necessarily full endorsement.
10. A consensus decision must be reached by August 31st, 2016 and 2017 (2018 if there is a 3rd year of the contract) to allow for appropriate timing of open enrollment.
 - i. If full consensus on premium amount and plan design is reached by August 31st of any year 2016, 2017 or 2018, the consensus plan will be submitted to County Administration for final approval.
 - ii. If full consensus on premium amount and plan design is not reached by 8/31 of any year 2016, 2017, 2018, the decision on premium and plan design for that year will revert back exclusively to County Administration. The Labor Relations Director will present to the County any potential items/topics on which consensus was reached as well as the items/topics in dispute.
11. In addition, during the last year of the contract, whether that year is August 2017 or August 2018, the LMHCC will attempt to reach a consensus recommendation regarding the premium amount and plan design for the first year of the new contract (plan year 2018 if a 2 year contract; plan year 2019 if a 3 year contract), as well as a consensus decision regarding whether or not to recommend continuation of the LMHCC consensus model.
 - i. If consensus on plan design and premium amount is not reached by 8/31 of the negotiations year, the parties shall revert to the negotiation process as they have in the past. The employer shall present their proposal for changes to plan design and premium in the traditional contract negotiation format.
 - ii. If a consensus on whether or not to continue the consensus model is not reached by 8/31 of the negotiations year, the parties will revert to the negotiation process as they have in the past.
 - iii. In all cases the amount of employee contribution under the new contract remains subject to negotiations.
12. It is understood that the County's recommended rate need for the health plan, as well as the County's assessment of the plan's status vis-a-vis the Cadillac tax is determined in consultation with actuaries and is not subject to the consensus process outlined below. (The parties acknowledge the Cadillac tax will not be a factor during the term of this agreement)
13. Use of the County's reserves or other financial assets is not an appropriate topic for the consensus discussions. The

LMHCC is charged with finding a consensus recommendation regarding premium and plan design that does not include the use of reserves. The LMHCC may choose to submit a separate recommendation (or not) regarding the reserves, which County Administration may consider with no obligation to agree. In all cases, the County Administration retains sole discretion on any decision regarding the reserves. Any decision by the County to use reserves in the future will be timely shared with the LMHCC in order to incorporate such information into discussions leading to consensus.

- 14. Neither the consensus process nor a negotiations process will be used for changes mandated by law or a vendor. However, the parties will negotiate the effects of any such changes.*
- 15. The county reserves any and all rights with regard to benefit plan administration and policy unless specifically identified in this document or in the collective bargaining agreement. Nothing herein waives, expressly or implied, the Union's right to negotiate any mandatory subject of bargaining.*
- 16. There is no implied commitment by either party to the consensus process beyond the term of this contract. Prior to August 31 of the last year of the contract, the LMHCC will determine any continuation terms as described above.*

Index

ABSENCE WITHOUT LEAVE	Article 14
ADOPTION	Article 13.5
ARBITRATION	Article 7.4
ATTACHMENTS	
A – Hennepin County Map	
B – Current Hennepin County Departments Organized under PELRA	
C – Funeral Leave Administration Under the AFSCME Contract	
<i>D – Meet & Confer Topics</i>	
Letter-Local 34 Issues	
Letter of Understanding Workload/Caseloads	
Clarification of Health Insurance Article	
Clarification of Seniority Letter	
Letter of Agreement – Social Worker and Senior Social Worker	
Wage Steps & Health Insurance Plan Design	
<i>Consensus Model Based Insurance Proposal and LMHCC Structure</i>	
AUTOMOBILE TRAVEL EXPENSES	Article 39
BI-LINGUAL EMPLOYEES	Article 9.15
BIRTH OF A CHILD	Article 13.5
BREAKS AND LUNCH	Article 9.3.C
BULLETIN BOARDS	Article 4.7
BUMPING RIGHTS	Article 6.4.C
CALL BACK PAY	Article 9.9
CONTRACTING FOR SERVICES	Article 42
COURT DUTY	Article 19
DEFINITIONS	Article 3
DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	Article 22.3
DISCIPLINE	
Administrative Investigations	Article 32.7
Just Cause	Article 32.1, 32.2, 32.3, 32.4, 32.5
Personal Records	Article 32.6

EARLY RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM	Article 22.10
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE	Article 29
EFFECTIVE DATES	Article 44
ELECTION DAYS	Article 20
EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE	Article 33
EMPLOYER AUTHORITY	Article 5
FAIR SHARE FEE	Article 4
FITNESS FOR DUTY	Article 30
FLEX TIME	Article 9.10
FUNERAL LEAVE	Article 16
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE	Article 7
HEALTH AND SAFETY	Article 40
HEALTHCARE EXPENSE ACCOUNT	Article 22.2
HEALTH CARE SAVINGS PLAN	Article 22.11
HOLIDAYS	
Designated Days	Article 10.1
Pay	Article 10.2
24 Hour Operations	Article 10.3
Religious	Article 10.5
INSURANCE	
Dental	Article 38.4
Health	Article 22.1
Life	Article 22.5
Long Term Disability	Article 22.6
Retiree Health Insurance Program	Article 22.10
Short Term Disability	Article 22.9
JOB CLASS IN BARGAINING UNIT	Article 2
JOB SHARING	Article 9.10
LAYOFFS	Article 6.4.A, 6.5

LEAVE BENEFITS AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS	Article 15
LEAVE OF ABSENCE	Article 13
Military Leave	Article 17
Union Leave	Article 13.6
Workers' Compensation	Article 15
LIFE INSURANCE	Article 22.5
LONG TERM DISABILITY	Article 22.6
LUNCH AND BREAKS	Article 9.3.C
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS	Article 5
MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE	
Sick Leave	Article 12A.8
MEET AND CONFER	Article 31
MILITARY LEAVE	Article 17
MILITARY RESERVE TRAINING	Article 18
NO STRIKE – NO LOCKOUT	Article 8
NON-DISCRIMINATION	Article 34
OUT OF CLASS PAY	Article 9.11
OVERTIME	
Calculation	Article 9.4, 9.5, 9.6
PAID TIME OFF	
Employees Hired On or After the Execution Date	Article 11B.1
Employees Hired Prior to the Execution Date	Article 11B.2
Leave Balance Limit	Article 11B.3
Requests for Leave	Article 11B.5
Denials for Leave	Article 11B.6
Termination	Article 11B.7
PART-TIME/TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES	
Benefits	Article 25
PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS	Article 28
PREAMBLE	Article 1
PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES	

Grievances	Article 7.6, 7.8
RECALL	Article 6.4B, 6.5, 6.9
RECOGNITION	Article 2
SALARY RATES	Article 38
SAVINGS CLAUSE	Article 36
SCOPE OF AGREEMENT	Article 35
SENIORITY	Article 6
SENIORITY LISTS	Articles 6.3.A, 6.3.B, 6.7
SEVERANCE PAY	Article 23
Sick Leave	Article 12A.4, 12B.3
Vacation Balances	Article 11A.6, 11B.7
SHIFT DIFFERENTIAL	Article 9.8
SHORT TERM DISABILITY	Article 22.9
SICK LEAVE	Article 12A, 12B
Accrual	Article 12A.2, 12A.3
Earnings	Article 12A.1
Frozen Balance	Article 12B.1, 12B.2, 12B.4
Severance	Article 12A.4, 12B.3
Use of	Article 12A.5
Using Vacation to Extend Sick Leave	Article 11A.7
Habitual, Patterned	Article 12A.5
Doctors Statement	Article 12A.5
Eligibility	Article 12A.7
Medical Leave of Absence	Article 12A.8
AWOL	Article 12A.8
Health and Fitness	Article 12A.10, 12B.6
STABILITY ADJUSTMENTS	Article 24
STAFFING SCHEDULES	
Posting	Article 9.3.A
Length of Shift	Article 9.3.B
STEWARDS	
Number of	Article 4.3.A
TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES	
Grievances	Article 7.7

Benefits	Article 25
TERM OF AGREEMENT	Article 45
TIME OFF FOR TESTING	Article 21
TRAINEES	Article 43
TUITION REIMBURSEMENT	Article 29
UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	Article 41
UNION SECURITY	Article 4
VACANCIES	Article 26
VACATION	
Eligibility	Article 11A.1
Computing Overtime	Article 9.14
Leave Balance Limit	Article 11A.3
Requests for Leave	Article 11A.4
Denials for Leave	Article 11A.5
Termination	Article 11A.6
Extending Sick Leave	Article 11A.7
VOLUNTARY LEAVE WITHOUT PAY (SLWOP)	Article 37
WAGES RATES	
2016	Article 38
2017	Article 38
2018	Article 38
WEEKEND DIFFERENTIAL	Article 9.13
WORK RULES	Article 27
WORK SCHEDULES/PREMIUM PAY	Article 9
WORK UNIT VACANCIES	Article 26
Workers' Compensation	Article 15