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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Anoka County to Receive Local Government Innovation Award

Anoka County will be one of 17 local government entities statewide to be recognized at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs' Local Government Innovation Awards Dec. 12.

Awards are given to counties, cities, townships, schools and native nations that are making Minnesota better and doing things differently.

Anoka County will receive a 2019 LGIA award for its Human Services Leadership Mentorship Program, which was developed to connect new leaders to more experienced staff for increased support. It is the expectation that this program will increase workforce retention and positively impact the quality of supervision, program service delivery and enhance customer service. This 12-month program started in October of 2018 and involved seasoned supervisors, managers and directors interested in the program completing interest forms and identifying individual expertise as well as areas to expand their professional growth. Mentors were then paired with mentees based on this information. The program's inaugural year saw nine mentor/mentee matches. Seventy-seven percent of the mentor pairs were still meeting by the end of the first year with many planning to continue past the one-year commitment. By matching the pairs based on interests and expertise, members were able to connect on a more personal and professional level by sharing books, articles and other leadership tools such as TED talks. The program averaged a four out of five in overall satisfaction.

Through innovation and creativity, this program increased communication, coordination and collaboration in support of division leadership.

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“This program is having a positive impact on the quality of supervision, program service delivery and customer service,” said Commissioner Scott Schulte, chair, Anoka County Board of Commissioners. “We’re very proud of Human Services for creating a program that enhances the work environment.”

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