



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

From the Office of Anoka County Sheriff Brad Wise

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Anoka County Sheriff's Office Announces Addition of Embedded Social Worker

The Anoka County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Anoka County Community Social Service & Behavioral Health department, has added a new embedded social worker position aimed at enhancing public safety and community well-being. Over the past several months, both agencies worked collaboratively to design the program framework and recruit a qualified candidate.

"This position is designed to enhance collaboration between social service departments and law enforcement, facilitating the sharing of critical information, identifying individuals in need, and providing comprehensive support to clients within the community," said District 7 Anoka County Commissioner Mandy Meisner, who serves as the board's lead commissioner on Human Services.

Licensed independent clinical social worker Rikki Thompson officially began her role within the sheriff's office this summer. She will provide on-scene crisis intervention, connect individuals with critical county and community resources, offer follow-up support, and serve as a consultant and educator for law enforcement officers and community stakeholders.

"I have experience working with a variety of mental health diagnoses and have become knowledgeable of community resources and the services that are available for individuals with a mental illness," she said. "I truly enjoy working in the mental health field and am so excited to bring my skills to Anoka County and the community!"

Sheriff Brad Wise noted he was excited for this new initiative. "It is no secret that the mental health needs facing our community continue to grow," he said. "Having a professional such as Rikki embedded in our office is needed to best serve members of our community who need longer-term resources and support. We look forward to working with and learning from Rikki so that we can continue to provide the most impactful service to Anoka County."

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