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LOCALNEWS

County staff recognized for car seat work

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Koochiching County Health and Human Services staff were recognized for its work to educate people on child safety seat use Tuesday.

Koochiching County Public Health Supervisor Nancy Lee, and county public health nurse Deb Larson, received an appreciation certificate from UCare’s Stephanie Schwartz, government relations director, and Carol Berg, public health manager. The presentation was made during the county board meeting in International Falls.

“For many years, Koochiching County Public Health and Human Services has been a valued UCare partner in our work to promote child safety seat use by our Medicaid members in Koochiching County,” said Ghita Worcester, UCare senior vice president, public affairs and marketing. “UCare appreciates the commitment of these professionals to protecting children traveling on our roads and to educating people about the importance of using child safety seats in all vehicles.”

UCare’s SEATS program provides car seats and safety



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From the left, Stephanie Schwartz, Nancy Lee, Debra Larson and Carol Berg.

education at no charge to eligible UCare members who are pregnant or children up to age 8. The program partners with more than 75 public health agencies and organizations in Minnesota to both dispense three types of seats and provide car seat installation education from a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Because UCare recognizes the important of correct installation and use of child safety seats, it is the only health plan in Minnesota that requires the education component in its child safety seat program.

UCare was the first health plan in Minnesota to offer car seats to low-income Medicaid

families. Since UCare began this service for its members in 1997, it has provided more than 35,000 car seats at no cost to our members. Other plans followed UCare’s lead and introduced this service in later years.

Koochiching County Public Health and Human Services oversees a variety of health and wellness matters for county residents. Services include emergency preparedness, Statewide Health Improvement Program, care coordination with health plans, water testing, immunizations, Child and Teen Check-ups, immunizations and wellness screenings, and Women, Infants, and Children assistance.

DISTRICT COURT

The following people have been sentenced for aggravated misdemeanor or felony crimes in Koochiching County District Court. The information is provided to The Journal by court staff.

Cynthia A. Coleman, age not provided, was sentenced Sept. 8 for felony theft — take, use, transfer movable property without consent. She was given a stay of imposition of sentence and placed on 15 years supervised probation. She was ordered to serve 30 days in jail and 120 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. She was ordered to pay \$250 fine and fees and \$27,379 restitution. She must submit to random searches.

Jessica L. Houska, 30, International Falls, was sentenced Sept. 8 for felony theft — false representation. She was given a stay of imposition of sentence and placed on five years supervised probation. She was ordered to serve 20 days jail, pay \$360 fine and fees and \$3,256 restitution, and serve 40 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. She was ordered not to gamble nor enter casinos and may not act in any financial capacity. She must submit to random tests and searches and supply a DNA sample to the state.

Cory D. Olson, 43, International Falls, was sentenced Aug. 25 for felony fleeing an officer in a motor vehicle and gross misdemeanor check forgery — offer, possess with intent to defraud. On the felony, he was given a stay of imposition of sentence, placed on five years supervised probation, and ordered to pay \$150 fine and fees. He was ordered not to use controlled substances nor have contact with people associated with illegal drugs. He must submit to random tests.

The misdemeanor was continued for dismissal, he was placed on two years probation to the court and ordered to pay \$110 restitution.

Mathew J. Olson, 42, was sentenced Sept. 8 for felony first-degree damage to property — value reduced by more than \$1,000. He was given a stay of imposition of sentence and placed on five years supervised probation. He was ordered to pay \$200 fine and fees, \$1,598 of restitution, and serve 32 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. He was ordered to follow the recommendations of an evaluation and may not use alcohol or drugs nor enter places where it is sold or

used. He must submit to random tests and searches.

Quintin R. J. McFadden Smith, 19, Ray, was sentenced Sept. 8 for felony third-degree criminal sexual conduct — victim age 13-15. He was given a stay of adjudication and placed on 10 years supervised probation. He was ordered to pay \$1,000 fees and follow the recommendations of an evaluation. He may have no contact with the victim or people under age 18. He may not use alcohol or drugs nor enter places where it is sold. He must submit to random tests and searches. He may have no access to sexually explicit Internet sites or social networking sites.

Lyle A. Mortenson, 56, International Falls, was sentenced Sept. 8 for gross misdemeanor driving while intoxicated. He was sentenced to one year jail and 80 hours with the Sentence to Serve program. All but 20 days of the jail time was stayed and he was placed on two years supervised probation. He was ordered to follow the recommendations of an evaluation and may not use alcohol or drugs. He must submit to random tests and searches.

James P. Auran, 54, Ranier, was sentenced Sept. 8 to gross misdemeanor driving while intoxicated. He was sentenced to one year jail and \$3,125 fine and fees. All but 10 days of the jail time and \$1,125 was stayed on court conditions and he was placed on two years supervised probation. He was ordered to follow the recommendations of an assessment and may not enter places where alcohol is sold or used. He was ordered to serve 40 hours with the Sentence to Serve program.

Luke A. Belanger, 29, Littlefork, was sentenced Sept. 8 for gross misdemeanor or driving while intoxicated. He was sentenced to one year jail and \$3,200 fine and fees. All but 20 days jail and all but \$1,200 was stayed on court conditions and he was placed on supervised probation for two years. He was ordered to follow the recommendations of an evaluation and serve 80 hours with the Sentence to Serve program.

Samantha B. Trafton, 21, International Falls, was sentenced Aug. 25 for gross misdemeanor escape from custody. She was sentenced to 90 days jail. The sentence is to run concurrent with a previous sentence.