



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August, 7, 2024

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Oregon Health grant agreement PO-44300-00026008-4

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of Board signature of Document No. 2024-607, amending a grant agreement with the Oregon Health Authority to accept jail diversion funding.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) is seeking approval from the Board of County Commissioners to accept \$401,779 from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) for deflection programming.

House Bill (HB) 5204 from the 2024 Legislative Session authorized a one-time distribution of \$9,825,000 for deflection programming. OHA has worked with the Legislative Fiscal Office and the bill's sponsor to determine that the funds can be distributed through Service Element (SE) 09 with no changes to the language of the service element. The primary intention of the funds is to support coordination with the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) as they prepare for ongoing funding for a diversion program as outlined in HB 4002.

Funding from this grant can be used to hire a deflection coordinator for the deflection program or for expenses related to activities normally paid under SE 09, listed below:

1. Create partnerships or diversion agreements between law enforcement agencies, jails, both circuit and municipal courts, and local mental health providers;
2. Create opportunities for individuals to access housing in addition to vocational and educational services;
3. Provide support services to prevent or curtail relapses and other crises;
4. Assist individuals to negotiate and minimize continuing criminal sanctions as they make progress in recovery and meet criminal justice obligations; and
5. Promote peer support and the social inclusion of individuals who have or are in recovery from mental and substance use disorders in the community.

DCHS intends to use the funding to support existing operations in the Forensic Diversion Program.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$401,779 revenue for the term July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

ATTENDANCE:

Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director

Nicole Von Laven, Behavioral Health Program Manager