



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** April 17, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Application for Oregon Criminal Justice Commission grant to establish a deflection program in accordance with HB 4002

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval to apply for Oregon Criminal Justice Commission Deflection Program grant funding.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Oregon House Bill (HB) 4002 creates a new PCS-U misdemeanor for possession of a controlled substance, and additionally offers pathways to expungement, dismissal, or no charges filed. HB 4002 encourages district attorneys and law enforcement to divert a person to a deflection program in lieu of arrest or prosecution, or after citation or arrest but before referral to the district attorney.

A deflection program is defined in HB 4002 as a collaborative program between law enforcement agencies and a behavioral health system which assists individuals who may have substance use disorder, another behavioral health disorder or co-occurring disorders. Deflection programs create community-based pathways to treatment, recovery support services, housing, case management or other services. The purpose of a deflection program is to assist individuals whose behavioral health conditions, including substance use disorder, lead to interactions with law enforcement, incarceration, conviction, and other engagement with the criminal justice system.

House Bill (HB) 5204 allocates more than \$110,000,000 to counties and county-related programs for infrastructure projects, standing up deflection programs, supporting specialty courts, funding community corrections, and more. 23 counties indicated interest in establishing deflection programs and are identified in the legislation to receive initial fast-tracked funding. Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) seeks approval to apply for the initial 50% of our allocated funding. Another grant application will be required at a later date to secure the rest of the funding once program details have been developed.

If approved, DCHS intends to use the funding to develop, coordinate and implement a deflection program with public and community partners, and hire a new 1.0 regular FTE

Deflection Program Coordinator who will be responsible for convening program partners as needed for the operation of the program, managing grant program funds, and tracking and reporting data required by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

Estimated \$378,336 initially and up to \$756,672 total revenue for the period April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Director