



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 19, 2023

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Oregon Health Authority grant #179643 to provide Behavioral Health workforce incentives

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of Chair signature of Document No. 2023-377, accepting a grant from Oregon Health Authority for Behavioral health workforce incentives.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), recognizing the difficulty in hiring and retaining behavioral health care professional, gave approval to Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) to apply for an Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Behavioral Health Workforce Incentive grant. Based on an equitable distribution formula, funding was distributed to Community Mental Health Programs with DCHS being awarded \$883,216 (\$625,286 for workforce incentives and \$257,930 for clinical supervision) for the period ending June 30, 2024.

OHA is providing this funding through HB 2949 (2021) (as updated by HB 4071 (2022)). The purpose of the funding is to a) support the recruitment and retention of behavioral health providers and b) provide supervised clinical experience necessary for behavioral health providers to obtain a license to practice. Goals of this program are as follows:

- Increase access to services that are peer and community driven and that provide culturally specific and culturally responsive services for people of color, tribal communities, and persons with lived behavioral health experience.
- Increase access to services for rural and underserved communities
- Increase the number of individuals training for and entering the field of behavioral health and improve the recruitment and retention of behavioral health care providers.
- Provide supervised clinical experience to associates or other individuals who have the necessary education but need supervised clinical experience to obtain a license to practice

DCHS plans to use the \$257,930 “Clinical Supervision funding” to provide stipends to licensed clinicians that provide licensure supervision. Providing supervision significantly increases a clinician’s workload. Through these incentives DCHS expects to improve retention of those staff that provide this extra service.

DCHS intends to use a variety of strategies to incentivize recruitment and retention. These include \$275,000 of housing stipends/relocation packages for the south part of Deschutes County; \$28,036 to fund the costs of expanding part-time opportunities; \$125,000 to supplement the County’s Tuition Reimbursement Program for clinical staff furthering their education; \$150,000 to offer stipends to licensed staff who provide internship supervision, and \$47,250 for program administration.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$883,216 revenue.

ATTENDANCE:

Holly Harris, Deputy Director, Health Services