



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** March 20, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Veteran Peer Support Specialist Program grant from the Oregon Health Authority

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval of Board signature on Document No. 2024-190 accepting a Veteran Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist Program grant from the Oregon Health Authority.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) is seeking approval to accept a \$232,500 Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Veteran Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist Program grant.

The purpose of this program is to expand the availability of peer-delivered services to veterans with behavioral health needs to improve their health and well-being. The Veteran Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist (VBHPSS) position funded by this program will be part of the Adult Outpatient team and will provide outreach and engagement services to veterans who are difficult to engage and high-risk. The position will collaborate with the Adult Outpatient Team clinicians, North County and South County Hub clinicians, psychiatrists and case managers to wrap services around up to 20 eligible veterans per year.

Duties of the VBHPSS include the following:

- Working closely with veterans and their care teams to support the client in self-identifying strengths, needs, and goals, while also addressing barriers to behavioral health recovery and wellness.
- Striving to improve the behavioral health of veterans and addressing social determinants of health impacting veterans and military personnel in their communities by navigating, as requested by the client, the VHA, state systems, local municipal systems, and/or local community resources.
- Linking veterans to appropriate resources, assisting them in overcoming barriers to availability and accessibility of services, and supporting them in developing and strengthening community connections and natural supports through—but not limited to—the peer relationship.

- Providing a suite of regularly delivered peer support services and taking part in care teams.

DCHS intends to use the \$232,500 funding to support the following for the 17-month term:

- \$199,364 for personnel: a 1.0 FTE VBHPSS, a 0.15 FTE Behavioral Health Supervisor, and a VBHPSS supervisory stipend (all positions are currently filled);
- \$1,000 for training;
- \$1,000 for travel;
- \$10,000 for social determinants of health; and
- \$21,136 for indirect costs associated with the program.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

\$232,500 revenue through August 31, 2025. A five-year fiscal analysis is attached.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Kristin Mozzocchi, Manger, Behavioral Health Program