



HEALTH SERVICES

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April 18, 2022

Janice Garceau, LCSW, Behavioral Health Director
Deschutes County Health Services
Behavioral Health Division
2577 NE Courtney Dr.
Bend, Oregon 97701

Re: Letter of Agreement to Partner

To Oregon Housing and Community Services Grant Review Team,

To support our mental health system and increase access to behavioral health services to those in need, Deschutes County Behavioral Health intends to support the City of Bend and the Navigation Center. Should the City secure funding for a full-time position, a Behavioral Health Specialist 1 will be hired, trained and supported by the County and permanently located at the Navigation Center. This position will cost \$135,000 annually and the City can act as a pass through. As the Navigation contract is for three years with two possible two years extension, the County encourages/supports a three year ask at \$405,000.

The Navigation Center represents an innovative and responsive approach to the challenges facing our community. The Center will enable multiple providers to meet with clients in a single, accessible location. Behavioral health is a critical element to this coordinated service hub. The Navigation Center will increase our coordinated access to services through additional grant funding to support a dedicated Deschutes County Behavior Health staff to serve individuals experiencing acute mental health symptoms. Through enhancing the response system, engaging early to screen houseless clients for mental health services and offering access appointments we hope to see improved outcomes for individuals with mental health symptoms and complex barriers.

This letter represents our commitment to support and collaborate with the City of Bend and its partners in order to provide professional behavioral health services. We acknowledge the need for a safe space for our individuals and families to go for support when experiencing homelessness.

I urge Oregon Housing and Community Services to provide funding for this important project. Now is indeed the time to support our mental health providers and increase access to services for those in need.

Sincerely,