



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** March 22, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Grant from the City of Bend and addition of a Behavioral Health Specialist I to be located at the Navigation Center

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

- 1) Move approval and Board signature of Document No. 2023-143, accepting a grant from the City of Bend in the amount of \$405,000 over three years
- 2) Move approval of Resolution No. 2023-013, increasing FTE within the Health Services Fund and the 2022-23 Deschutes County Budget

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The City of Bend (City) is granting Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) \$405,000 to fund a Behavioral Health Specialist I for three years to work at the City's Navigation Center.

The City of Bend entered into an agreement with Shepherd's House Ministries to develop a Navigation Center. A Navigation Center, per House Bill 2006 (2021), is a low-barrier emergency shelter that is open seven days per week and connects individuals and families with health services, permanent housing and public benefits. The Navigation Center opened for service at the city-owned Second Street Shelter in July of 2022.

The Navigation Center is an innovative and responsive approach to challenges facing our community. It enables multiple providers to meet with clients in a single, accessible location. Behavioral health is a critical element to this coordinated service hub. By enhancing the response system, screening 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.

The City of Bend has secured funding from the State of Oregon to establish and operate the Navigation Center. From this funding the City is granting \$405,000 to DCHS to hire, train and support a Behavioral Health Specialist I to be located at the Navigation Center for three years, beginning April 1, 2023, and includes 10% for indirect expenses. DCHS is recommending that this position be regular instead of limited duration. We anticipate this program will continue beyond the three year term, however should funding be discontinued, DCHS will consider the future of this position within the budgeting process.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

\$405,000 over three years beginning April 1, 2023. DCHS will submit annual invoices to the City for \$135,000. A five-year fiscal analysis is attached.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Kara Cronin, Behavioral Health Program Manager

Holly Harris, Deputy Director, Health Services

Dan Emerson, Budget Manager