



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 6, 2024

SUBJECT: Application for Central Oregon Health Council Behavioral Health Surplus Funds

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move to authorize the application for Central Oregon Health Council Behavioral Health Surplus Funds to serve older adults as well as persons receiving respite at the Stabilization Center.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) is seeking approval to apply for Central Oregon Health Council (COHC) Behavioral Health Surplus Funds in the amount of \$902,358 to cover existing uncovered costs of services to older adults and to those receiving respite at the Deschutes County Stabilization Center (DCSC). COHC will award funds to organizations that apply to provide services that address behavioral health needs in the community and are not a covered Medicaid benefit.

OLDER ADULTS: Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) intends to use \$384,858 in grant funds to continue services to vulnerable older adults living with mental health and substance use disorders. Services would address the 2020-2024 RHIP goals of increasing access to and coordination of behavioral health services and promoting enhanced physical health across communities. Services would also address DCHS's Behavioral Health strategic goal of improving outcomes for individuals with mental health/substance use disorders by increasing access to services and ensuring that individuals served are supported in the least restrictive environments and have improved mental and physical health functioning. These funds would allow DCHS to cover unfunded costs of serving the older adult population. Specifically, the funds would allow the provision of case management and other supports not typically covered by Medicare, as well as pre-treatment and outreach and engagement services not eligible for reimbursement.

DCSC STABILIZATION: A critical service provided at the DCSC is 23-hour respite. This service offers individuals a place to obtain extended respite and de-escalate their crisis. It relies on 24/7 operations, is not covered by Medicaid, and is essential to keeping Medicaid individuals out of higher levels of care like the ED/Jail. To date, over 800 individuals have received respite with an average stay of 10 hours per individual.

COHC funds would address gaps in resources for stabilization services. Specifically, funds would be applied to the uncovered cost of 23-hour respite for members. Taken as a whole, the cost of Stabilization Center services is roughly 6 million dollars; 56% of those served are Medicaid members, representing ~3.36 million in cost; 23% of those receive respite, a service not eligible for Medicaid reimbursement and representing ~\$772,000 in uncovered cost. Based on allowable costs, Health services will request \$517,500 in BH Surplus Funds.

Resources for DCSC Respite will support *Activities to Prevent Hospital Admission and Readmission*. Individuals would receive comprehensive discharge planning, engagement and referrals to ensure appropriate care intended to reduce risk of harm and avoid Hospital admission/readmission.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

If awarded, the funds would result in \$902,358 of additional revenue for the term July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. No new FTE would be added. One limited duration position on the Older Adults Team which is set to term June 30, 2024 would be extended through June 30, 2025.

ATTENDANCE:

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director