



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** May 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Extension of a 1.0 limited duration FTE position to support the Forensic and Acute Services Program for an additional 12 months

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval to extend a 1.0 limited duration FTE for 12 months to support the Forensic and Acute Services division.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The Forensic and Acute Services (FAS) Program, under Deschutes County Behavioral Health, provides services to individuals who are involved with the criminal justice system as a result of their mental illness. FAS is a newly formed program which streamlines acute care and forensic services under one manager with the goal of creating efficiencies and improving outcomes. Teams within this program provide statutorily required services to individuals who are typically mandated to engage in behavioral health treatment. One of the target populations is individuals who are unable to Aid & Assist in their own defense to criminal charges. This client group has increased 137% in Deschutes County over the past five years, and statewide these cases are now largely responsible for the overcrowding of the Oregon State Hospital.

In 2024, FAS was selected to participate in a pilot program funded by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), focused on increasing engagement with individuals placed at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH) who are unable to Aid & Assist. The County's funding under this pilot program was used to add two limited duration FTE positions—an administrative assistant and a peer support specialist. The one-time funding from OHA was initiated in July 2024, and the remaining funds can be spent beyond the end of FY25. In April 2025, OHA provided additional funding to supplement the original program funds; this additional funding had not been factored into the original hiring decisions for the pilot staffing and can be spent beyond the end of FY25.

Behavioral Health is requesting to extend one limited duration FTE currently dedicated to the peer support specialist position by 12 months beginning July 1, 2025. Position #3392 is currently funded through 6/30/2025 via OHA Community Navigator funds. If approved for

extension through FY26, the position will be funded entirely by OHA Community Navigator pilot funds for the duration of the extension. The salary cost of this position for FY26 would be \$109,636.

This position has developed into a vital support role for the FAS program, supporting not only the Aid & Assist team but also providing peer support services throughout the FAS program. The position works closely with clients who are experiencing severe and persistent mental illness and are involved in the criminal justice system. If this limited duration extension is approved, it will allow the FAS program to determine whether longer term funding will be provided for the Community Navigator program through the legislature or a new OHA contract, which may allow this position to be made regular in the future.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

\$109,636 through Community Navigator Pilot Funds for Fiscal Year 2026.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Evan Namkung, Program Manager, Deschutes County Behavioral Health  
Cheryl Smallman, Business Office, Deschutes County Health Services