



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** July 5, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Oregon Judicial Department for Parental Custody Mediation Funds

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval of County Administrator signature of Document 2023-669, Amendment No. 1 to the IGA with the Oregon Judicial Department for Parental Custody Mediation Funds.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Each biennium, the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD) distributes funds to counties for mediation/conciliation services. These funds come from court filing fees. The Deschutes County Circuit Court (OJD) is responsible for providing parental custody mediation services to help parents work out cooperative agreements for child custody and parenting time.

Previously, a Behavioral Health Specialist position in the Health Services Department provided these services on behalf of the Circuit Court. Under this arrangement, the mediation/conciliation funds for Deschutes County funded this position in the Health Services Department.

The Circuit Court has decided to use a different model to provide parental custody mediation services. The Circuit Court plans to issue an RFP for individuals and organizations interested in offering court-connected mediation in the community.

In November 2022, the Board approved an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA), County Document 2022-854, between Deschutes County and the Oregon Judicial Department. The IGA specifies that in FY 22-23, Deschutes County will allocate \$150,122.50 to OJD for the Circuit Court to pay for parental custody mediation services.

However, in April 2023 the Circuit Court sent Deschutes County a letter requesting to postpone the \$150,122.50 payment because the new process for providing parental custody mediation services would not be in place by June 30, 2023 (see attached letter from the Deschutes County Trial Court Administrator). The Circuit Court does not have a mechanism to retain the funds past the end of the current biennium, which ends on June

30, 2023.

For consideration by the Board, staff recommends approval of Document 2023-669, Amendment No. 1 to original IGA with the Oregon Judicial Department (OJD). Amendment No. 1 specifies that Deschutes County will allocate to OJD/Deschutes Circuit Court 62.5% of the total Mediation/Conciliation Distribution for parental custody mediation services for FY 23-25. The Medication/Conciliation fund distribution for the 2023-25 biennium has not yet been determined.

In recognition that parental custody mediation services funds were not distributed in FY 22-23, the Amendment provides that additional funds from the Mediation/Conciliation Distribution and/or Law Library Distribution may be transferred to OJD/Deschutes Circuit Court for parental custody mediation services.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

The transfer of the funds to the Oregon Judicial Department were included in the FY 23-24 County budget.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator

Angie Curtis, Trial Court Administrator, Deschutes County Circuit Court