



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Consideration of Board signature of Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council Agreement #2022-782

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of Board signature of Document No. 2022-782, an agreement with Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council to provide a one-time payment in the sum of \$866,000 for the purpose of HB 4004, Workforce Stability Grant.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The purpose of this agreement is to support efforts to recruit and retain mental health professionals in Deschutes County.

Oregon is experiencing a behavioral health care workforce crisis. Challenges in delivering services in the high-risk COVID environment and the increasing need for behavioral health care have discouraged qualified individuals from seeking employment with providers who serve those who are most vulnerable and impacted by health inequities and injustices. Workforce shortages affect the ability of behavioral health care providers to maintain full staffing capacities, reducing their revenues and their ability to meet payroll obligations.

Oregon State Legislature House Bill 4004 (HB 4004) authorized the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to distribute grant funds to behavioral health care providers to increase compensation to applicable staff. The goals of this funding are to increase compensation to specified staff, pay hiring and retention bonuses (as applicable), recruit new staff, and/or retain current staff.

OHA awarded Deschutes County Health Services a one-time Workforce Stability Grant in an amount not to exceed \$3,466,092.45, of which 75% is being used for direct compensation to staff in the form of wages, benefits, and bonuses. The remaining 25% of the funds will be used to increase workforce retention or recruitment through non-compensatory means.

The County is proposing a one-time payment to Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) in the sum of \$866,500 for workforce recruitment and retention strategies and incentives. COIC will use these funds to support the County's retention and recruitment efforts related to mental health employment opportunities in Deschutes County.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$866,500

ATTENDANCE:

Janice Garceau, Health Services Director

Cheryl Smallman, Business Officer