



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: December 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Acceptance of a grant from the Oregon Health Authority for a Behavioral Health Initiative for Older Adults and authorization to add 1.0 FTE

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval of Chair Signature of Document No. 2024-871 accepting a grant from the Oregon Health Authority for an Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

On October 9, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved an application for the Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) Older Behavioral Health Initiative funding. OHA has subsequently awarded DCHS \$96,667 of funding.

OHA's Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative was launched to meet the needs of Oregon's older adults by improving timely access to care from qualified providers who work together to provide coordinated, quality and culturally responsive behavioral health and wellness services. OHA currently funds and supports Specialists statewide who are trained in social work or psychology. The Specialists promote collaboration and coordination among core stakeholders and partners, provide complex case consultation for older adults and people with disabilities, and offer workforce development training to professionals as well as community education. OHA has requested Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) take on this scope of work.

DCHS is requesting approval to accept funding and to hire a regular, 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) Behavioral Health Specialist (BHS) II. The BHS II would perform the duties described above and additionally provide direct care to complex older adults. The program provides up to \$145,000 annually this biennium, with the potential for higher annual funding for the next biennium. Health Services is recommending the position be regular because funding is anticipated to be ongoing; however, should funding not be continued, DCHS will consider the future of these positions within the budgeting process.

If approved, DCHS intends to use the funds as follows:

- \$63,744 of funding would support the BHSII, with an anticipated start date of January 2024.
- \$5,000 - Furniture and Fixtures
- \$3,000 - Computer and Peripherals
- \$8,453 - Program Expense
- \$3,681 - Travel and Training
- \$180 Cell Phone
- \$12,609 (15%) indirect expenses

BUDGET IMPACTS:

\$96,667 revenue for the term November 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. Contingent on the Board's approval, a budget and FTE resolution will follow.

ATTENDANCE:

Kara Cronin, Behavioral Health Program Manager