



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 8, 2022

SUBJECT: Discussion of Board Approval for Extension of four (4) Covid-19 limited duration positions for 6 months and utilization of allocated ARPA funds for continued support of temporary workforce.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move approval for extension of 4 limited duration Covid-19 positions for 6 months through June 2023 and utilization of allocated American Rescue Plan Funds at up to \$35,000 per week until expended or no longer needed.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In January 2022, the Board of County Commissioners approved a standalone foundational structure for Covid-19 response and recovery within Deschutes County Public Health (DCPH). The foundational structure reflects expectations and requirements of Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and includes:

- Clinical Services Team (vaccine, testing and therapeutics)
- Community Engagement Team (hotline and community outreach)
- Outbreak and Case Management Team (wrap around services, outbreak education and management for schools, businesses, congregate settings and long-term care facilities)
- Management and Administration Team (supports logistics and administrative program needs)

DCPH continues to assess needs and create efficiencies while preserving the necessary foundational capacity for community response. Evaluation of the structure is continual and positions eliminated, if and when possible. For example, we have restructured in a way that eliminates the need for one FTE supervisor while preserving appropriate spans of control and staff engagement. In the past 2 months we have seen reported cases and vaccine distribution increase by over 800%, outbreaks triple, hotline call volumes more than double and high input case management services fluctuate wildly. Based on previous experience, future models and community expectations we assume the following:

- Fluctuating case numbers (outbreaks)

- Federal vaccine recommendations for new age groups, boosters and even new vaccines
- Continuing needs for at-home test kit distribution and community testing support
- More access to treatment therapies, new treatments or recommendations
- Continued reliance on Oregon Health Authority support where possible

To enable the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Program to maintain and/or recruit a cohesive and consistent workforce DCPH requests to extend 4 of 6 positions currently due to expire December 31, 2022 through June 30, 2023:

- 1.0 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) Admin Support Tech (position #2841)
- 2.0 FTE Public Health Nurse II (position #2844 and #2929)
- 1.0 FTE Management Analyst (position #2836)

In March 2022, the Board approved up to \$2,425,681 in ARPA funds for “Temporary Staffing for COVID-19 Response and Outreach” with a maximum weekly amount of \$35,000 for three months. That three-month deadline is approaching on June 10th, and DCPH requests approval to extend the deadline of expenditure. Approximately \$260,000 remains unexpended, and specifically, DCPH requests continuing the weekly combined maximum of \$35,000 for temporary staffing and wraparound services until the full allocation is spent or such funds are no longer necessary for continued response and recovery.

Over the last several months, persistent need for services necessitates the continued use of temporary staff, and average spending on such staff equated to approximately \$25,000 per week. Temporary staff, more aptly named highly skilled and trained on call staff, provide flexible need-based support for clinical services, community engagement, and outbreak and case management. With the scaffolding in place to appropriately oversee and manage a flexible highly skilled staff we are able to deliver high service levels with the ability to pivot to various needs.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

Extend 4.0 limited duration FTE from December 31, 2022 to June 30, 2023, which will increase the Health Services Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget by \$216,913 (\$136,311 paid for through FEMA and \$80,602 through Oregon Health Authority PE01-09 and PE01-10 covid funding). A resolution and budget adjustment will be forthcoming after July 1, 2022 unless approved for inclusion in the adopted budget.

Approval to expend up to \$2,425,681 in ARPA funds for “Temporary Staffing for COVID-19 Response and Outreach,” if needed.

ATTENDANCE:

Emily Horton, Program Manager