



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** January 11, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Request to repurpose an existing mediation full time position to support the School-Based Health Center (SBHC)

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Move approval of repurposing position #1737 for assignment to the School-Based Health Center program.

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

As part of an effort to meet identified needs as outlined in the Central Oregon Regional Health Improvement Plan and based on national statistics regarding the mental health of youth and young adults, Deschutes County Health Services conducted a needs assessment which examined School Based Health Center (SBHC) data from the 2020-2021 school year and compared it to national averages. The data illuminates major staffing shortages for Redmond and Sisters for equitable access and identifies a need to expand access to mental health care.

According to the Portland State University Population Research Center, Deschutes County has had a stunning growth rate of 28.9% from 2010-2021. Local data through the 2019 RHIP reports that 35.6% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders seriously considered attempting suicide over the past year. The 2020-2024 RHIP outlines the need to “expand access to primary care clinics (locations, hours such as night/weekends, school based health centers).” The RHIP further outlines the needs for equitable access to services, focusing on access to screening, early intervention services, substance abuse treatment and increased coordination with outpatient treatment providers through SBHC.

Both Redmond High and Sister’s SBHC currently have an allocated 0.5 FTE to their SBHC location. Data suggests that 2.3 FTE in Sisters and 6.5 FTE in Redmond are needed to support national averages. In order to close the identified unmet need we are proposing to increase support to both of these locations, making each position a 1.0 FTE through the utilization of an unfilled BHS-II 1.0 position previously allocated to the Mediation Program, which was transferred to the Circuit Court in 2022-2023 fiscal year. Repurposing this position does not increase Health Services FTE, and will help close the gap of unmet needs in SBHCs.

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

With a start date of February 1, the position will cost \$46,209 in FY23 and \$121,937 in FY24. Both years will be covered by increases to capitation payments, which is expected in the 2023 PacificSource agreement. These increases to capitation are part of the requirements to PacificSource from the state to increase funding the Behavioral Health providers.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Shannon Brister, Behavioral Health Program Manager  
Holly Harris, Behavioral Health Deputy Director