



To: Board of County Commissioners
From: DeAnn Carr, Behavioral Health Deputy Director – Health Services
Date: February 1, 2016
Subj: Submission of Jail Diversion Proposal

Request:

Health Services is requesting that the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners approve submission of the Jail Diversion proposal to the Oregon Health Authority.

Overview of Request:

The State of Oregon, acting by and through the Oregon Health Authority, Health Systems Division issued a Request for Grant Proposals to solicit Proposals from qualified Community Mental Health Programs (CMHPs) to expand the availability of Jail Diversion Services in Oregon.

Jail Diversion Services provide alternatives to incarceration for individuals who are arrested and jailed as a result of behaviors caused by their mental illness. Jail Diversion Services funds will be awarded to qualified CMHPs with the capacity and expertise to actively support the following objectives and expected outcomes:

- Decrease the number of individuals diagnosed with mental illness who are in jail as a result of behaviors associated with mental illness;
- Increase cooperation among law enforcement, mental health professionals, community corrections and the court system;
- Increase the number of individuals enrolled in mental health services who are/have been involved with law enforcement; and
- Provide linkages, to individuals diagnosed with mental illness, to appropriate services within the community (e.g. mental health treatment, public benefits, housing, etc.).

If awarded, DCHS' Behavioral Health Division will create a four person Jail Diversion team. The team will be comprised of a Jail Diversion Coordinator, Forensic Intensive Case Manager, and two Forensic Peer Support Specialists. The Jail Diversion team will operate as a part of Deschutes County Health Services' (DCHS) Crisis Team and will coordinate with the jail and legal and law enforcement systems with the goal of providing pre-arrest alternatives to incarceration or hospitalization.