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AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: February 01, 2011

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Health & Human Services

PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA TITLE: ORDER _____ / IN THE MATTER OF ADDING TWO FULL TIME (2.0 FTE) MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST 1 POSITIONS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2011 AND APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$ 65,268 IN REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2010-2011 IN FUND 286 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

I. MOTION

In the Matter of Adding Two Full Time (2.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist 1 Positions Effective February 1, 2011 and Appropriating an Additional \$65,268 in Revenues and Expenditures for 2010-2011 in Fund 286 Department of Health & Human Services.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to approve the addition of two full-time (2.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist 1 positions at Lane County Behavioral Health Services, Department of Health & Human Services.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

Position Number One

Lane County Behavioral Health Services is the representative payee for approximately 150 clients who receive Social Security Disability benefits due to their mental illness and the inability to manage their personal finances. It is a dispersed model in that individual mental health therapists manage the funds of their individual clients through case management activities. The goal of the money management services is to teach the client skills that will enable the client to eventually manage their own funds. But the skill building activities to enable clients to reach this goal have not occurred on a regular basis through the individual mental health sessions. A centralized model in which one mental health therapist would develop a money management curriculum and teach the skill-building classes to all of the clients has been determined

to be a more effective model for transitioning clients from money management services to independent management of their finances.

Position Number Two

The Lane County Methadone Treatment Program until October 1, 2010 was a separate program under Lane County Health & Human Services (H&HS). The program was funded through client fees but was not self supporting and H&HS lost money in the operation of this program. Effective October 1, 2010, the program moved under the umbrella of the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) which enables the program to bill under the federal Medicaid program. A recent review by the Commission for Accreditation Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) indicated that the caseload size for therapists for the Methadone Treatment program was higher than the national average though counselors were commended on their good work despite caseload sizes. There has historically been a wait list to obtain methadone treatment services in Lane County. The addition of this position will allow for the wait list to be eliminated and more services offered to IV drug users in Lane County.

B. Policy Issues

No policy issues

C. Board Goals

Strategic Plan – (B) Resource Planning and Allocation. (B1): Develop plans for chief resources applied to deliver County services – human resources, information technology and land and facilities.

D. Financial and/or Resource Consideration

Position number one will be funded by billing the federal Medicaid program for the classes and skill building activities for each client served. The billings generated through these activities will be approximately four times the amount of the annual salary and benefits of one mental health specialist 1 and will actually generate income for Lane County Behavioral Health Services.

The Lane County Methadone Treatment Program recently moved to become part of the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC). This move allows for many of the treatment services provided by the doctors, nurses and counselors in the daily dispensing of methadone to be billed through the federal Medicaid program. These payments will cover the salary and benefits costs of the additional mental health position.

E. Analysis

Position Number One

Lane County Behavioral Health Services was recently audited by the Social Security Administration regarding representative payee duties. The Social Security Administration found that there is an inherent conflict of interest for a

mental health therapist to provide mental health therapy to a client and also provide money management services to that same client. The recommendation from Social Security Administration was that this money management duty be removed from an individual therapist responsibility and centralized to one individual to provide a curriculum and more skill building activities and reduce the conflict of interest. The establishment of this position is to meet the recommendations of the Social Security Administration.

Position Number Two

Statistics indicate that Lane County has approximately 3000 IV drug users. Between the Lane County Methadone Treatment Program and a private for profit program, only 250 people are being provided services to reduce or eliminate their drug usage. The addition of this mental health therapist position will allow for an expansion of the Methadone Treatment Program and provide services to the people who have been on the wait list for treatment for 1-3 years.

F. Alternatives/Options

1. Adding two full time (2.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist 1 positions will allow Lane County Behavioral Health Services to meet the recommendations of the Social Security Administration; provide money management classes, generate additional income for Lane County Behavioral Health Services and expand the number of clients served by the Methadone Treatment program.

2. Not adding the two full time (2.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist 1 positions will result in a loss of income which would be generated by these additional billings to Medicaid, not meeting the recommendations of the Social Security Administration and allowing a wait list for methadone treatment to continue to grow.

IV. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

The effective date of the new positions is February 1, 2011. Upon Board approval, revenues and expenditures will be increased in Health & Human Services and Lane County Human Resources will post for this position.

V. RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation is that the Board approves the addition of two full time (2.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist 1 positions effective February 1, 2011.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION AND ORDER:)ORDER _____/IN THE MATTER OF ADDING TWO FULL
)TIME (2.0 FTE) MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST 1
)POSITIONS EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2011 AND
)APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$65,268 IN REVENUES
)AND EXPENDITURES FOR 2010-2011 IN FUND 286
)DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, Lane County Behavioral Health Services serves as the representative payee for approximately 150 mental health clients who are unable to manage their personal finances; and

WHEREAS, the Social Security Administration has determined that this practice is a conflict of interest and it is in the best interest of clients to teach them the skills to learn money management; and

WHEREAS, Lane County Behavioral Health Services desires to centralize money management services with one mental health therapist who can provide a curriculum and skill building classes for clients; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Methadone Treatment Program moved under the umbrella of the Federally Qualified Health Center on October 1, 2010, which allows for billing the federal Medicaid program for services provided; and

WHEREAS, the Lane County Methadone Treatment Program currently has a wait list for treatment services and desires to eliminate that waitlist; and

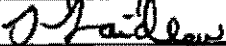
WHEREAS, the addition of two full time (1.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist 1 positions will provide necessary staffing to provide money management skill building classes and reduction of the wait list for methadone treatment and will generate income through Medicaid federal billings.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners add two full time (2.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist 1 positions effective February 1, 2011 and appropriate an additional \$65,268 in Revenues and Expenditures for 2010-2011 in fund 286 Department of Health & Human Services.

Effective this _____ day of February, 2011

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Date 1/25/11 lane county



OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

Faye Stewart, Chair

Lane County Board of Commissioners