AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: November 29, 2023

Order Date: January 9, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Department of Health & Human Services

PRESENTED BY: Eve R. Gray, Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/IN THE MATTER OF ADDING ONE FULLTIME REGULAR MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST POSITION IN FUND 286 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

I. MOTION

Order/In the Matter of Adding One Full time Regular Mental Health Specialist in Fund 286 within the Department of Health and Human Services.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

The Board is being asked to approve the addition of one full-time regular position in Behavioral Health to provide co-responder services with the City of Eugene.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

The Board accepted and delegated authority to the County Administrator to sign a revenue agreement for co-responder services via 23-09-19-07.

B. Policy Issues

This position addresses two of the four goals in the HHS 2021-2024 Strategic

Plan including “promoting equity and decreasing disparities” and “integrated support for those at the intersection of behavioral health, homelessness and public safety.

C. Board Goals

This action meets the strategic priority goal of a Safe and Healthy County through a partnership between Lane County and City of Eugene to support individuals experiencing mental health crisis.

D. Financial and/or Resource Consideration

The anticipated salary and benefit cost of this position for the remainder of the fiscal year is $59,992, using a January 20, 2024 start date. This position is funded through a revenue agreement with City of Eugene. Appropriations of revenue and expenditures will be made in Supplemental 3 in March, 2024.

E. Health Implications

Lack of access to mental health services is strongly associated with poor health outcomes, reduced life expectancy, and increased strain to local communitites.

F. Analysis

Lane County and City of Eugene are creating an active, working Co-Responder Team model including Lane County Behavioral Health (LCBH), the Eugene Police Department (EPD), and the City’s Municipal Court. The Co-Responder Team is a police-based intervention that pairs trained police officers with qualified behavioral health professionals to respond to incidents involving individuals either experiencing a behavioral health crisis or emergency, involved in criminal activities, or both.

The goals of the pilot program’s collaborative model are to provide appropriate, coordinated, and prepared primary responses to persons in crisis and to improve the experiences and outcomes of such individuals by providing effective crisis de-escalation, diversion from the criminal justice system, street-level clinical services, and connection to appropriate behavioral health services in the community.

G. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve the addition of the requested, one, full-time, regular (1.0 FTE) Mental Health Specialist position Lane County Behavioral Health.
2. Do not add the position.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

Approve number one above.

V. TIMING/IMPLEMENTATION

Upon Board approval, H&HS will work with the County's Human Resources and Budget Office to start recruitment for the position. H&HS will appropriate revenues and expenditures in Supplemental 3.

VI. ATTACHMENT

Order

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION & ORDER NO: 24-01-09-21	ORDER/IN THE MATTER OF ADDING ONE FULLTIME REGULAR MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST POSITION IN FUND 286 WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Lane County and the City of Eugene wish to partner in the development of a Co-Response Team to pairs trained police officers with qualified behavioral health professionals to respond to incidents involving individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis; and

WHEREAS, funding for this position will come from an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of; and

WHEREAS, Appropriation of FY24 revenue and expense for the positions will be made during the next supplemental budget process in March, 2024;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **RESOLVES** and **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The total approved regular FTE for fiscal year that began July 1, 2023, be increased as follows

Health & Human Services Fund (286)

	FTE
Health & Human Services	**1.0**

ADOPTED this 9th day of January, 2024.

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Chair

Lane County Board of Commissioners