

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** May 15, 2019

**SUBJECT:** United States Department of Justice 2019 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant

**PRESENTER:** Jamie Gibbs, Wellness Clinic Director  
Kaye Knauff, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

**ATTACHMENTS:** No

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

The Henderson County Sheriff's Office and the Henderson County Wellness Clinic seek permission from the Henderson County Board of Commissioners to apply for the United States Department of Justice 2019 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant in partnership with the North Carolina Justice Academy. The grant funds are designated to improve the delivery of and access to mental health and wellness for law enforcement through training and technical assistance, demonstration projects, and implementation of promising practices related to peer mentoring mental health and wellness programs.

In Henderson County, the Behavioral Wellness Team and EMS Personnel have devised and implemented a robust peer support model that has made a positive impact on county employees. The Behavioral Wellness Team members are diligently working to develop the same type of program in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office. Due to the complex nature of professional role diversity at the Sheriff's Office, the process for designing and implementing a strong, evidenced-based peer support program requires more time and attention to detail of each profession.

The LEMHWA grant will provide funding to support the Peer Support Program that the Henderson County Sheriff's Office and the Henderson County Behavioral Wellness Program are already working to accomplish. Three areas included in the grant are:

- I.) Develop a curriculum to train and support law enforcement officers to become peer mentors.
  - a.) This program will become a national peer mentor training program for law enforcement, offered by the US Department of Justice, at completion.
  - b.) Collaboration with the NC Justice Academy allows the program to meet the demands for law enforcement training requirements and fulfills the grant partnership requirement. Courses will be designed and taught collaboratively at the Henderson County Sheriff's Office. Additional classes may be offered to other law enforcement agencies at the NC Justice Academy.

II.) Develop activities that are designed to improve the mental wellness of law enforcement officers. These activities help law enforcement officers manage their mental wellbeing from a holistic approach to caring for themselves and peers. The \$250,000 in grant funds will allow the county to provide evidence-based publications about the activities for the US Department of Justice at the end of the grant funding.

III.) Implement up to 10 activity projects at \$100,000 each, to improve the mental wellness of law enforcement officers. The Behavioral Wellness Team members have been working with resource agencies to offer courses in yoga, martial arts, acupuncture, and numerous other evidenced-based activities to specific to law enforcement officers, which may prevent trauma-related mental health issues and to maintain mental health wellness. The \$1,000,000 grant funds will allow the team implement the activities. This funding will enhance Henderson County's ability to provide those services and determine the most effective service for our law enforcement officers.

No County funds are required for this grant.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to approve the United States Department of Justice 2019 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant Application Proposal.

**Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board approve the request to apply for the United States Department of Justice 2019 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant.*