

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

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

**MEETING DATE:** March 18, 2020

**SUBJECT:** US DOJ 2020 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant

**PRESENTER:** Kaye Knauff, DNP, RN, FNP-BC, PMHNP-BC

**ATTACHMENTS:** No

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

The Henderson County Wellness Clinic, Behavior Wellness Program is requesting permission to apply for the United States Department of Justice (US DOJ) 2020 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant. The grant funds will be 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 support 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 Henderson County Sheriff's Office Peer Support Team. 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 extensive consideration for each specific role. This development process is more time intensive than the process to develop a program for a single professional role.

The LEMHWA grant will provide funding to support the Peer Support Program Henderson County Sheriff's Office and the Henderson County Behavioral Wellness Program are already working to accomplish. Available grant funding applicable to Henderson County includes:

I.) Implementation and enhancement of peer support programs for law enforcement agencies. These peer-led programs will support officer resilience and wellness in a structured and strategic manner.

II.) Development of peer activities 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 Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) Office grant will provide technical assistance services to measure success of the projects and disseminate promising practices within law enforcement.

The Behavioral Wellness Team members have been working with county law enforcement officers to enhance the established peer support program and have provided education, support services and resources to prevent trauma-related mental health issues and to maintain mental health wellness. The \$250,000 total grant funds will allow the Behavioral Wellness Team and the Henderson County Sheriff's Office Peer Support Team to refine and extend most effective services for officers.

This program does not require additional funding from the county.

**BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

The Board is requested to approve application for the United States Department of Justice 2020 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant.

**Suggested Motion:**

*I move the Board approve the request to apply for the United States Department of Justice 2020 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Grant.*