

# CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

## Policy Session Worksheet

**Presentation Date:** 4/19/23      **Approx. Start Time:** 10:00 am      **Approx. Length:** 1 hour

**Presentation Title:** 23-hour Stabilization Center Site & Program Development

**Department:** Clackamas County Sheriff's Office & Health, Housing & Human Services (H3S)

**Presenters:** Malcolm McDonald, Captain, and Mary Rumbaugh, Behavioral Health Division Director

**Other Invitees:** Adam Brown, Deputy Director (H3S) and Vahid Brown, Housing Services Manager

### WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and Health, Housing & Human Services are requesting approval from the Board to proceed with site development and program planning for a 23-hour stabilization center.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Currently, Clackamas County community members experiencing a behavioral health crisis, including those experiencing homelessness, do not have an easily accessible resource for rapid assessment and stabilization. Quite often, these community members draw the attention of law enforcement and are either taken to jail or a hospital emergency room. Over the past five years, the Clackamas County Jail has seen an increase of 15% in intakes for low-level offenders in mental health crisis. This is a drain on public safety resources and police are often not equipped to provide the level of behavioral health support that is needed to effectively respond to these types of situations (individuals with mental illness spend, on average, 900% more time in jail than the average adult in custody). Additionally, overburdened emergency departments routinely medically clear individuals or refuse to admit them due to the lack of emergency mental health beds. For these reasons, there is a critical need in the community to create an effective alternative and provide short-term crisis assessment and stabilization.

In response to this need, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office and Health, Housing & Human Services (H3S) have partnered to develop a 23-hour crisis stabilization center ("23-hour" refers to the duration of services an individual can receive in this setting before triggering requirements associated with 24-hour residential care). This proposed partnership was included in the Shelter and Housing Projects Plan & Board Engagement Strategy approved by the Board during the Policy Session on December 7, 2022. The 23-hour stabilization center will be located in the former Women's Center building at 9200 SE McBrod Avenue in Milwaukie. It will provide a safe, supportive environment and compassionate care to address behavioral needs in the moment and provide stabilization and connection to medium- and long-term supportive services. Services will be offered on a walk-in basis and for voluntary drop-off by community-based organizations, mobile crisis teams, and law enforcement agencies across the county, providing much-needed diversion from jail or emergency departments. The core objectives are to provide voluntary assessment and stabilization, reduce reliance on jail and hospital beds, develop effective care plans, clearly define measurable interventions, and provide connection to the appropriate level of care on site and going forward. The anticipated capacity is services for up to eight participants at a time.

This facility and program are being modeled off of successful programs in other communities, including the Hourglass Community Crisis Center in Eugene, Oregon. Staff have engaged the service provider from that facility to inform site-specific needs related to retrofitting the intended site. Initial meetings have been held with that provider, the Sheriff's Office and H3S project team, county Facilities, and an architectural and engineering firm. The initial assessment is that the site is suitable for the proposed 23-hour crisis stabilization center. It may also allow for a small emergency shelter, which would provide a short-term stay option for individuals that need

temporary shelter as part of their crisis stabilization (this would be separate programming due to program delivery regulations). The architectural and engineering firm is developing a proposed scope of services for design, permitting, bidding, and construction. This will include preliminary estimates for the cost to retrofit the facility. Staff are recommending that crisis stabilization services be prioritized (Phase 1) and that the temporary shelter option (Phase 2) be further assessed for feasibility based on initial architectural and engineering design work.

Pending Board approval of continued site development and program planning, staff will brief the Board again once the architectural and engineering designs and preliminary costs estimates have been completed and before proceeding with the formal construction bidding process(es).

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):**

Is this item in your current budget?  YES  NO

See information below.

What is the cost?

There are one-time and ongoing costs associated with the development and operations of this facility. No county General Funds are involved.

**One-time Costs:**

- Initial architectural and engineering: State Community Mental Health Program (CMHP) funds are available within the Behavioral Health Division's current budget to carry out the initial architectural and engineering design work (\$50,000 approved to this point).
- Site retrofitting:
  - Cost to be informed by architectural and engineering work and the scale/scope of improvements required. The county has some flexibility on the scope/scale of improvements. Staff will make value-based recommendations once estimates are available.
    - The Clackamas County Sheriff has submitted an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding request for \$1.0 million for one-time capital improvements. This ARPA request has not been reviewed or approved by the Board. The request to move forward with architectural and engineering work is not contingent upon availability of ARPA funds. However, the availability of ARPA funds may inform the scale/scope of improvements recommended by staff.
    - Health, Housing & Human Services will use a combination of one-time Behavioral Health State CMHP funds and Metro Supportive Housing Services funds, as allowable based on the programming associated with Phase 1 and Phase 2.

**Ongoing Costs:**

- 23-hour center: \$1.5 million in operating funds committed by Care Oregon as part of a solicitation for strategic investments in CMHPs.
- Short-term shelter: Supportive Housing Services funds available for ongoing operations.

What is the funding source?

See above.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

- How does this item align with your Department's Strategic Business Plan goals?
  - This item aligns with the following Department strategic priorities:
    - Assist individuals and families in need to be healthy and safe
    - Increase self-sufficiency
    - Increase community safety and health
    - Continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of services
- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?
  - This item aligns with the following County strategic priorities:
    - Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities
    - Grow a vibrant economy
    - Build a strong infrastructure
    - Build public trust through good government

**LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS:** N/A

## **PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION:**

On December 7, 2023, Health, Housing & Human Services presented the Board with a Shelter and Housing Projects Plan & Board Engagement Strategy. This project was included in that plan and the plan was approved by the Board. The Sheriff's Office has had preliminary discussions with the Milwaukie Mayor, City Manager, and Chief of Police. They are supportive of this project and the project team will continue engagement with the City of Milwaukie.

## **OPTIONS:**

1. Approve continued site development and program planning for the 23-hour crisis stabilization center. (ARPA decision to be considered separately.)
2. Modify site development and program planning for the 23-hour crisis stabilization center.
3. Reject site development and program planning for the 23-hour crisis stabilization center.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Option 1: Approve continued site development and program planning for the 23-hour crisis stabilization center. (ARPA decision to be considered separately.)

**ATTACHMENTS:** None

## **SUBMITTED BY:**

Division Director/Head Approval: Adam Brown & Malcolm McDonald

Department Director/Head Approval: Rodney Cook, Director & Angela Brandenburg, Sheriff

County Administrator Approval \_\_\_\_\_