



Office of
**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
ATTORNEY**

Dylan Reingold, County Attorney
William K. DeBral, Deputy County Attorney
Susan J. Prado, Assistant County Attorney

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dylan Reingold, County Attorney

DATE: February 9, 2023

SUBJECT: Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Program

BACKGROUND

On July 12, 2016, the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) authorized the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network to file a Notice of Intent to Submit an Application to the Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment Grant Review Committee for a Florida Department of Children and Families Criminal Justice, Mental Health, and Substance Abuse Reinvestment grant (the “Grant”). Indian River County was successful in obtaining the Grant in the amount of \$1.2 million over a three-year period. The Grant was used to assist the Indian River County Mental Health Court program.

On January 8, 2019, the Board voted to apply for another Grant to be used to support expanded services for the mental health court program. Indian River County was again successful in obtaining the Grant in the amount of \$1.2 million over a three-year period. The Grant has been used to assist the Indian River County Mental Health Court program in expanding services and successfully diverting individuals from the criminal justice system.

On March 15, 2022, the Board voted to support the application for another Grant which would be used to support further expanded services for the mental health court program. Unfortunately, the Department of Children and Families did not open up a request for applications for the Grant. However, the Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network has identified two potential grant opportunities through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance to help with funding for the Indian River County Mental Health Court program. Thus, the County Attorney’s Office recommends that the Board authorize Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network to file these applications, if applicable and appropriate, on behalf of Indian River County. The County Attorney’s Office also recommends that the Board authorize the chair to execute the attached draft letter, after review and approval by the County Attorney’s Office.

FUNDING

The current Grant, which contributes \$400,000 per year to the Indian River County Mental Health Court program, expires in June. It is the goal to seek an equal amount of funds through grant opportunities with the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance as well as other funding opportunities. At this time it is not known what, if any, matching funds will be required.

RECOMMENDATION

The County Attorney's Office recommends that the Board authorize Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network to file applications for grant opportunities through the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance on behalf of Indian River County, as applicable and appropriate. The County Attorney's Office also recommends that the Board authorize the chair to execute the attached draft letter, after review and approval by the County Attorney's Office.

ATTACHMENT

Designation Letter