

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-____

Accepting grant funding through the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation and creating two full-time School Psychotherapist positions at the Human Services Department

Executive Summary

Jefferson County Human Services (JCHSD) has determined an increase in the need for mental health and substance use treatment for youth in Jefferson County. Youth are experiencing more stress and anxiety, and consequently suffering more long-term adverse childhood experiences, due to the pandemic. County school districts are also concerned about youth missing school as well quality learning time. Monica Oss, CEO of Open Minds, a mental health industry resource, has said: "And the future view is that we can expect a "tsunami" of children's mental health needs in the years ahead, driven by the trauma of the pandemic."

JCHSD and the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation have partnered to further support our youth and school districts as well as offer more on site and preventive services. By employing social workers and therapists who work directly in the schools, youth will be provided universal resiliency skills, screens and assessment, and mental health treatment. The overall outcome is for more youth to successfully complete high school and prevent long standing mental health and substance use issues. Therefore, the Jefferson County Human Services Director is requesting to create two School Social Psychotherapist positions, funded jointly with the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation for two years at \$100,000 per position for each of the two years, with each stakeholder funding \$50,000 per position per year for a total of \$100,000 per year. After two year, JCHSD would sustain each position by having built the necessary revenue streams through Medicaid and insurance billing.

On March 23, 2021, the Human Resources Committee reviewed the request from the Human Services Director and County Administrator to create two School Psychotherapist positions at the Human Services Department, funded jointly for the first two years with the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation. The Human Resources Committee considered this resolution at its meeting on March 23, 2021, and recommended forwarding to the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors for approval.

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WHEREAS, the above Executive Summary is incorporated into this resolution, and

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WHEREAS, mental health issues, including but not limited to substance abuse, stress, anxiety, and depression, is significantly increasing with youth in Jefferson County, and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the County proactively address these mental health concerns of County youth to increase the rate of successful graduation from high school as well reduce the risk of mental health illness after high school, and

WHEREAS, to address the ongoing and increasing need to address mental health issues with County youth, the Human Resources Committee recommends creating two full-time School Psychotherapist position at the Human Services Department, in partnership with the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2021 County Budget setting forth position allocations and funding at the Human Services Department and is hereby amended to create two full-time School Psychotherapist positions at the Human Services Department, to become effective upon passage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2021 County Budget be amended to accept grant funding through the Greater Watertown Community Health foundation in the amount of \$200,000, with ~~approximately \$58,333 designated for 2021,~~ \$100,000 designated for 2021², and ~~the remaining \$100,000~~^{4,667} designated for 2022³.

Fiscal Note: The grant through the Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation is for 24-months for a total of \$200,000. Salary and fringe benefits for the two full-time School Psychotherapist positions for the remainder of 2020 is \$99,724.93 and \$16,941.07 in overhead expenses, for a total of \$116,666. The two full-time School Psychotherapist positions are funded 50% through the by a grant from Greater Watertown Community Health Foundation in the amount of \$100,000 grant and 50% \$16,666 through if from insurance billing; therefore, no tax-levy is required for these positions. Please see the attached Budget Adjustment or Amendment Request form for the proposed adjustment to the 2019 budget. These budget amounts were approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021 as a part of the 2020 carryovers. This is a budget amendment. County Board approval requires a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the County Board (20 votes of the 30-member County Board).

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Ayes _____ Noes _____ Abstain _____ Absent _____ Vacant _____

Requested by
Human Resources Committee

04-20-2021

REVIEWED: County Administrator _____; Corporation. Counsel _____; Finance Director _____