



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE: May 24, 2022**

**DATE:** Monday, April 11, 2022

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Kerri Heward, Crime Lab Director WCSO  
(775) 328-2803; [kheward@washoecounty.gov](mailto:kheward@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Darin Balaam, Sheriff

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve the sub-grant award # 2019-SAKI-04 between the Nevada Office of the Attorney General and Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division to allow the DNA Section to outsource the testing and analysis of sexual assault kits in the total amount of [\$100,000.00; \$92,638.00 for testing; \$7,362.00 for related reviewing overtime costs] for the retroactive period of April 7, 2022 through September 30, 2022. If approved, direct Comptroller's Office to make appropriate budget amendments. (All Commission Districts).

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### **SUMMARY**

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division requests the Board of County Commissioners to approve the sub-grant award # 2019-SAKI-04 between the Nevada Office of the Attorney General and Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division to allow the DNA Section to outsource the testing and analysis sexual assault kits in the total amount of [\$100,000.00; \$92,638.00 for testing; \$7,362.00 for related reviewing overtime costs] for the retroactive period of April 7, 2022 through September 30, 2022.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal sustainability – Efficient delivery of regional services; and Economic Impacts – Meet the needs of our growing community.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

None.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Forensic Science Division (WCSO-FSD) has been working with the Nevada Attorney General's Office to mitigate the backlog of sexual assault kits for several years. The initial project was to identify and test all sexual assault kits in northern Nevada that had never been submitted to the WCSO-FSD for DNA testing. Over 1200 such kits were identified. They have all been tested. Additionally,

**AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_**

funds were provided to pay for costs associated with the outsourcing of sexual assault kits in the WCSO-FSD's backlog as a result of the passing of AB97. These sexual assault kits have all been tested. The Attorney General's Office recently offered to provide additional funding to the Sheriff's Office through the SAKI grant to outsource sexual assault kits currently waiting to be tested. Due to reduction in DNA staffing, outsourcing approximately forty (40) sexual assault kits will be of great assistance to the WCSO-FSD ensuring a prompt turnaround time for the testing of these kits. The Sexual Assault kits to be outsourced will be outsourced to two private laboratories to accommodate a quicker turnaround time. As with previously outsourced cases, all data obtained from the testing of these kits will be reviewed by the WCSO-FSD and appropriate DNA profiles entered into the DNA database by the WCSO-FSD. Overtime funds from this grant will ensure that reviews are completed promptly.

Reason for retroactive approval: Item was submitted to the first available BCC meeting once all paperwork was received and processed.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** *DNA testing on Sexual Assault Kits*

**Scope of the Project:** *DNA testing of sexual assault kits in Northern Nevada.*

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** *Sexual Assault Kits will be processed for DNA . DNA Profiles will be entered into the DNA database. It is expected that this DNA will help identify serial rapists.*

**On-Going Program Support:** *N/A*

**Award Amount:** *\$100,000.00*

**Grant Period:** *April 7, 2022 – September 30, 2022*

**Funding Source:** *U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance*

**Pass Through Entity:** *Attorney General of the State of Nevada*

**CFDA Number:** *16.833*

**Grant ID Number:** *2019-SAKI-04*

**Match Amount and Type:** *none*

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** *none*

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY22 budget will be increased by \$100,000.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Increase Revenues

11993-431100 Federal Grants	\$100,000.00
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Increase Expenditures

11993—710200 Service Contracts	\$ 92,638.00
11993 – 701300 Overtime	\$ 7,362.00

- No match amount
  - Grant funds will be drawn as a reimbursement
    - Source of the upfront cash – General Funds.
- No indirect costs included in the grant budget.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the sub-grant award # 2019-SAKI-04 between the Nevada Office of the Attorney General and Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Forensic Science Division to allow the DNA Section to outsource the testing and analysis of sexual assault kits in the total amount of [\$100,000.00; \$92,638.00 for testing; \$7,362.00 for related reviewing overtime costs] for the retroactive period of April 7, 2022 through September 30, 2022. If approved, direct Comptroller’s Office to make appropriate budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to approve the sub-grant award # 2019-SAKI-04 between the Nevada Office of the Attorney General and Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Forensic Science Division to allow the DNA Section to outsource the testing and analysis of sexual assault kits in the total amount of [\$100,000.00; \$92,638.00 for testing; \$7,362.00 for related reviewing overtime costs] for the retroactive period of April 7, 2022 through September 30, 2022. If approved, direct Comptroller’s Office to make appropriate budget amendments.”