



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** June 11, 2019

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 22, 2019

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** James Popovich, Specialty Courts Manager, Second Judicial District Court (775) 325-6769, [james.popovich@washoecourts.us](mailto:james.popovich@washoecourts.us)

**THROUGH:** Jackie Bryant, District Court Administrator and Clerk of Court

**SUBJECT:** **Recommendation to acknowledge the grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Second Judicial District Court, in the amount of [\$369,804 No Match Required], to support the Specialty Court programs, effective retroactively May 31, 2019 through May 30, 2020, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts).**

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### SUMMARY

The Second Judicial District Court, in partnership with Washoe County, was awarded \$369,804 from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Grant funds will be used to expand and enhance the Adult Drug and Diversion Courts.

Chief Judge Scott Freeman explains, "The Adult Drug Court relies on community partnerships to successfully manage each participant's case. This grant award signifies the effectiveness of this multi-disciplinary team approach. These collaborative efforts and grant award will result in improved outcomes, lower recidivism, and provide a safe, more secure, and healthier community."

The request is made retroactively due to the timing of receiving the notice of grant award and when the budget period begins.

County Priority supported by this item: Safe, secure and healthy communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

This is the first year of a five year grant award. There has been no previous action.

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

**BACKGROUND**

Prior to October 2014, Drug Court clients were not screened for mental health issues, nor were they provided a comprehensive evaluation to determine if there was the presence of a co-occurring mental health issue that needed to be addressed as part of the treatment plan.

From October 2014 to November 2015, through a collaboration with the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, a pilot project was conducted where Drug Court clients were provided a standardized screening for mental health symptoms (Modified Mini-Mental Health Screen) and administered a comprehensive evaluation with a licensed psychologist. Through this process, the number of co-occurring mental health disorders detected, diagnosed, and recommended for clinical attention in treatment rose from 6% to well over 70%. The rate of co-occurring disorders not detected and diagnosed is more consistent with known prevalence rates within criminal justice populations who present with a substance use disorder. Approximately 80% of individuals on probation who are sentenced to participate in substance abuse treatment have co-occurring mental disorders. This data suggests that prior to the implementation of this pilot project, many co-occurring disorders were left unaddressed among the Drug and Diversion Courts' populations. (Hiller, Knight, Broome, & Simpson, 1996; as cited in Screening and Assessment of Co-Occurring Disorders in the Justice System; Roger H. Peters, Ph.D., Marla G. Bartoi, Ph.D., and Pattie B. Sherman, M.A.)

**GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Second Judicial District Court's Grant to Expand and Enhance Adult Drug Court.

**Scope of the Project:** Under the SAMHSA Adult Drug Court Expansion Grant, all drug court participants in the Second Judicial District Court (SJDC) will receive a comprehensive evaluation to identify risk and need related to substance use, mental illness, and criminality, as well as identify and treat needs across the entire spectrum of psychosocial conditions that are crucial for long-term success and rehabilitation in accordance with the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) Model.

This will be accomplished by expanding the existing drug courts into a track system where participants will engage in treatment and rehabilitation that is specific to their risk and need as determined by a comprehensive evaluation administered by two grant-funded licensed clinical social workers and one licensed alcohol and drug counselor. These tracks will be: (1) high-risk/high-need; (2) high-risk/low-need; (3) low-risk/high-need; and (4) low-risk/low-need. Placing participants in tracks with offenders of similar risk and need, in combination with the targeted treatment, rehabilitation, and life skills development as identified in the comprehensive evaluation will dramatically increase successful outcomes resulting in greater efficacy, reduced recidivism, and less strain on the local and state criminal justice systems. In current form, existing SJDC drug courts treat *only* for substance use disorders and fail to address the 80% of participants who have mental health disorders and other psychosocial needs co-occurring with their substance use disorders.

The target populations to receive services under this grant are criminal offenders at the District Court level located in Washoe County, Nevada, who are diagnosed with a substance use disorder, and whose criminal behavior is catalyzed by that substance use disorder. Washoe County is the second largest county in the state of Nevada and is home to over 460,000 citizens. These grant funds will be used to provide services to 350 new

drug court participants each year of the grant period, which includes expanding services to an additional 40 participants each year.

There are three primary goals of this project: (1) To implement a new assessment process to assist placement into the most appropriate treatment supervision track to better match needs and prognostic risk of individuals as outlined by the RNR model; (2): To enhance the administration of Drug Court by developing tracks for treatment and supervision per the RNR model; and (3) To expand the continuity of care and the use of evidence-based practices that best meet individual needs by matching medically necessary treatment and support options based on the intensity of risk and need. By September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, two full-time licensed clinical social workers and one full-time licensed alcohol and drug counselor will be hired, trained, and actively administering comprehensive evaluations. By October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, the four-track system will be implemented in accordance with the RNR model. Participants will be receiving highly individualized treatment and life skills development through partnerships with regional community resources.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** The benefit of utilizing the SAMHSA grant for the Adult Drug Court is to improve the existing evaluation and treatment model by identifying those with co-occurring disorders, in addition to just substance use disorders, and matching them with the appropriate levels of care. This will result in better treatment and specialty court outcomes with the ultimate goal of preventing substance use relapse and reducing recidivism.

**On-Going Program Support:** These funds are made available through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and will support the Second Judicial District Court's expenses with clinical evaluations, outpatient substance use and mental health counseling, transitional housing, medication-assisted treatment, and training for community treatment providers.

**Award Amount:** \$369,804

**Grant Period:** May 31, 2019 through May 30, 2020

**Funding Source:** Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
Administration

**Pass Through Entity:** N/A

**CFDA Number:** 93.243

**Grant ID Number:** 1H79TI081956-01

**Match Amount and Type:** N/A

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** The Second Judicial District Court will contract with treatment and housing providers in Washoe County. Contracts for services are expected to be executed by June 30, 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board acknowledge this grant award, the FY19 adopted budget will be amended in the following accounts:

<b>Internal Order</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11574	431100	\$ 369,804.00
	<b>Expenses</b>	
11574	711210	\$ 16,200.00
11574	710300	\$ 25,047.00
11574	710100	\$ 309,184.00
11574	710509	\$ 2,385.00
11574	710500	\$ 16,988.00

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommend to acknowledge the grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Second Judicial District Court, in the amount of \$369,804, to support the Specialty Court programs, effective retroactively May 31, 2019 through May 30, 2020, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts).

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Move to acknowledge the grant award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to the Second Judicial District Court, in the amount of \$369,804, to support the Specialty Court programs, effective retroactively May 31, 2019 through May 30, 2020, and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts).