



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 11, 2025

**DATE:** February 11th, 2025

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Colin Dowling, Manager, Detention Operations  
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**THROUGH:** Darin Balaam, Sheriff

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) to establish a partnership aimed at reducing recidivism by providing Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs to detainees at the Washoe County Detention Facility (WCDF). Additionally, authorize the Sheriff to sign the Cooperative Agreement MOU. (All Commission Districts.)

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### **SUMMARY**

Approval of this service partnership agreement between TMCC and WCSO will support educational programming and workforce development for detainees at WCDF.

#### **Washoe County strategic objectives supported by this item:**

Long-Term Sustainability: Develop and analyze plans to ensure the County's financial health over the long term.

Efficient Delivery of Regional Services: Enhance the efficiency of services provided across the region.

Support a Thriving Community: Foster conditions that promote economic prosperity and quality of life.

Support Vulnerable Populations with a Regional Approach: Collaborate regionally to assist those in need.

Strengthen Our Culture of Service: Promote a service-oriented culture within the County.

Ensure Equitable Access to Services: Guarantee that all residents have fair access to County services.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

Periodically, the Board approves cooperative agreements as necessary during the fiscal year to support department reorganization and realignment of resources to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

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

## **BACKGROUND**

WCSO and TMCC recognize that education during incarceration significantly reduces recidivism by:

- Increasing employment opportunities post-release.
- Enhancing critical thinking and problem-solving skills for reintegration.
- Providing access to post-secondary education and workforce training.

Under this MOU, TMCC will administer ABE programs, including:

- High School Equivalency (HSE) Preparation – Instruction in math, reading, and writing aligned with College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) to prepare detainees for the HiSET exam.
- English Language Learning (ELL) – Instruction to support language development and workforce readiness.
- Career Pathway Training – Introduction of industry-recognized certifications and reentry planning support.

WCSO will provide infrastructure and operational support, including:

- Facility & Security Support – Secure access to classrooms and maintenance of educational spaces.
- Student Enrollment & Assessment – Screening and pre-assessment of eligible detainees.
- Testing & Records Management – Proctored testing and maintenance of student records.

Historically, WCSO partnered with RISE Academy to provide math instruction for HiSET preparation. However, the previous MOU with RISE Academy has expired, and RISE Academy have indicated they cannot fund the additional instructional positions needed to meet the needs of the entire eligible detainee population. As a result, WCSO has pursued alternative partnerships to expand educational programming.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should there be additional costs associated with this MOU (i.e. increased HISET testing due to expanded opportunity), they will be absorbed through the Inmate Commissary Fund.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO) to establish a partnership aimed at reducing recidivism by providing Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs to detainees at the Washoe County Detention Facility (WCDF). Additionally, authorize the Sheriff to sign the Cooperative Agreement MOU.

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with the staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

“Move to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC) and the Washoe County Sheriff’s Office (WCSO) to establish a partnership aimed at reducing recidivism by providing Adult Basic Education (ABE) programs to detainees at the Washoe County Detention Facility (WCDF). Additionally, authorize the Sheriff to sign the Cooperative Agreement MOU.”