



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 14, 2023

**DATE:** Wednesday, November 08, 2023

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Andrew Sherbondy, Sergeant, Department of Alternative Sentencing  
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**THROUGH:** Justin Roper, Chief

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to accept the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the amount of [\$410,513.00; no County match required] to be used to cover personnel costs and operating expenses related to Year 2 of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, for the retroactive grant period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024, and if approved authorize Chief Roper to execute grant award documents; and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (All Commission Districts)

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### SUMMARY

The Washoe County Board of County Commissioners must accept grants and approve amendments to the adopted fiscal year budget and direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

This funding is received from the State of Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health to support the second year of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program for the grant period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024. The sub-award will continue to fund one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor, one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Case Manager, one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator and one (1) FTE Peer Support Specialist position contracted through Northern Nevada HOPES expenses for 12 months.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Vulnerable Populations.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On September 12, 2023, the Board accepted Item #6.B.1., an extension and additional funding related to the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the amount of [\$174,084.00; \$4,420.00 indirect; no County match required] to

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

be used to pay for the remainder of FFY23 grant period extended to September 30, 2023, for the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023.

On July 19, 2022, the Board accepted Item #8, a sub-award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health for the amount not to exceed \$439,487.00 to be used to pay for the establishment of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program for the retroactive grant period of April 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program was implemented in October 2022 in an effort to provide probationers and pretrial releases supervised by the Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) with the wrap-around support necessary to successfully address foundational causes of opioid use disorder, as well as underlying criminogenic behaviors.

Through the course of the STAR program, participants engage in Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), proctored in partnership through the Northern Nevada HOPES clinic as well as other community-based treatment providers. Participants receive one-on-one counseling services, case management, peer support, and on-site programming by way of the *Courage to Change* interactive journaling series while engaged in the program. *Courage to Change*, an evidence-based curriculum, centers on cognitive-behavioral therapeutic principles concerning thoughts, feelings, and behaviors which influence addiction and criminogenic thinking.

In its first year, the STAR program team has made 71 referrals to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, conducted 234 counseling sessions, 134 journaling sessions, 309 home visits, 453 general office/field visits, and 2,418 peer contacts. DAS received 157 referrals to the STAR program since its launch in October 2022 and has carried a full caseload of 25-30 participants since March 2023. Seven male STAR participants engaged in programming through partnership with CrossRoads, and eight female STAR participants engaged in programming through partnership with The Empowerment Center. The STAR team made 204 other referrals to STAR participants for treatment, recovery, education, employment, transportation, and medical services. While the STAR team aims to assist its participants in overcoming barriers to successful recovery, public safety remains a core tenant of the programmatic model as an extension of the overall mission of DAS. Over the course of STAR's initial year of existence, 17 violation arrests were completed among a total of 62 people enrolled. Data for drug testing results in the first nine months of programming shows an average increase of 28% in overall participant compliance with required testing, and a 59% decrease in positive drug test results for individuals engaged in the STAR program. 165 journals were distributed in the first year of the program. Preliminary pre-test/post-test data for interactive journaling with STAR participants shows a 32% increase in understanding journal content.

DAS is committed to the STAR program and its participants. Aside from the core STAR program, DAS has secured over \$1 million in grant and private funding in its first year to expand access to additional recovery services for its participants. Additional services include neuromodulation treatment, transportation assistance, Medication Assisted Treatment cost coverage, an 8-bed recovery house with a house manager, upgrades to the house, additional beds in residential programming, and funds to cover an evaluation partner to evaluate the overall STAR program. This includes a four-year grant that was awarded to cover the costs of a second recovery house.

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

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) FY24

**Scope of the Project:** Wrap-around programming and treatment services for opioid use disorder and criminogenic behaviors within the population served by DAS.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** Takes an active role in addressing root-causes related to opioid use disorder and underlying criminal behaviors as they relate to individuals residing in Washoe County. The STAR program not only addresses recidivism in a meaningful way but becomes a significant component in mending the damage done by the opioid epidemic as it relates to the residents of Washoe County.

**On-Going Program Support:** 12-month grant period

**Award Amount:** \$410,513.00

**Grant Period:** 10/1/2023-09/30/2024

**Funding Source:** Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (SABG) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) CAT 44

**Pass through From:** Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health

**CFDA Number:** 93.959

**Grant ID Number:** SG 26860

**Match Amount and Type:** None

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:**

Northern Nevada HOPES: HOPES will continue to provide a full-time Peer Support Specialist to DAS for the STAR program. This subaward covers the cost of one (1) full-time peer support specialist over a 12-month period, to include fringe calculation, in an amount not to exceed \$48,161.00.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY24 Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing adopted budget will be increased by \$410,513.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object &amp; Description</b>	<b>G/L Account &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
IO 12288 – Federal Grants	431100 - FY24 STAR - Federal Grants	\$410,513.00
IO 12288 – FY24-STAR	701412 - Salary Adjustment	\$243,347.00
IO 12288 – FY24-STAR	705360 - Benefit Adjustment	\$119,005.00
IO 12288 – FY24-STAR	710100 - Professional Services	\$48,161.00

- No match required
- Funds will be drawn as a reimbursement
  - General funds are source of the upfront cash
- Indirect costs are not included in the grant budget to allow for all grant funds to be used for programming.
- As this award funds personnel, if grant funding is reduced or eliminated, the position hours will be reduced and/or the positions abolished accordingly, unless additional funding is secured.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the amount of [\$410,513.00; no County match required] to be used to cover personnel costs and operating expenses related to Year 2 of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, for the retroactive grant period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024, and if approved authorize Chief Roper to execute grant award documents; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to accept the Bureau of Behavioral Health Wellness and Prevention Sub-Award from the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the amount of [\$410,513.00; no County match required] to be used to cover personnel costs and operating expenses related to Year 2 of the Department of Alternative

Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, for the retroactive grant period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2024, and if approved authorize Chief Roper to execute grant award documents; and direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.”