



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** July 8, 2025

**DATE:** Wednesday, July 02, 2025

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Chesa Flickinger, Sergeant, Department of Alternative Sentencing  
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**THROUGH:** Kate Thomas, Asst County Manager  
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**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 [\$298,618.00; no County match required; renewing existing grant] to be used to cover personnel costs and operating expenses related to Year 4 of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, for the retroactive grant period of July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, and if approved authorize Connie Lucido, County Grants Administrator to execute grant award documents on behalf of DAS; and direct Fiscal to make the necessary budget amendments. Alternative Sentencing. (All Commission Districts.)  
**FOR POSSIBLE ACTION**

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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 third year of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability, and Recovery (STAR) program for the grant period of July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. The sub-award will continue to fund one (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Officer, one (1) FTE Mental Health Counselor, and one (1) FTE Grants Coordinator expenses for 6 months. One (1) FTE Alternative Sentencing Case Manager for July and Aug of 2025, the remaining salary coverage has been approved through the current Office of Justice Programs grant award to cover the shortfall in state funding.

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

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

## **PREVIOUS ACTION**

On August 20, 2025 the Board accepted Item #11, 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 [\$587,698.00; no County match required] to be used to cover personnel costs and operating expenses related to Year 3 of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, for the retroactive grant period of July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

On November 14, 2023, the Board accepted Item #11, 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.

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 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 releasees 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.

Since inception, the STAR program team has made 79 referrals to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services, conducted 518 counseling sessions, 291 journaling sessions, 587 home visits, 764 general office/field visits, over 1,300 case management contacts, and over 3,800 peer contacts. DAS received 434 referrals to the STAR program since its launch in October 2022 and has carried a full caseload of 25-30 participants since March 2023. The STAR team made 331 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. Since STAR's inception, 28 violation arrests were completed among a total of 118 people enrolled. Data for drug testing results since the launch of STAR shows an average 88% in overall participant compliance with required testing, and an average 23% in positive drug test results for individuals engaged in the STAR program. 374 journals were distributed to participants since STAR began. 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 nearly \$1.2 million in grants and private funding since programming began to expand access to additional recovery services for its participants. Additional services include transportation assistance, Medication Assisted Treatment cost coverage, two transitional recovery houses with house manager salaries, additional beds in residential programming, funds to cover the cost of an academic evaluation of the overall STAR program, supportive permanent housing, and tuition assistance for STAR participants.

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:** STAR DPBH FY26.1

**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:** 6-month grant period

**Award Amount:** \$298,618.00

**Grant Period:** 07/01/2025-12/31/2025

**Funding Source:** Substance Use Prevention Treatment and Recovery Services (SUPTRS) State General Funds

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

**CFDA Number:** NA

**Grant ID Number:** SG-2026-00078

**Match Amount and Type:** None

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** None

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY26 Washoe County Department of Alternative Sentencing adopted budget will be increased by \$298,618.00 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 12547 – STAR DPBH FY26.1	432100 - State Grants	\$ 298,618.00
IO 12547 – STAR DPBH FY26.1	701412 - Salary Adjustment	\$ 174,080.00
IO 12547 – STAR DPBH FY26.1	705360 - Benefit Adjustment	\$ 119,538.00
IO 12547 – STAR DPBH FY26.1	701300 - Overtime	\$ 4,000.00
IO 12547 – STAR DPBH FY26.1	710300 – Operating Supplies	\$ 1,000.00

- No match required
- 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 [\$298,618.00; no County match required; renewing existing grant] to be used to cover

personnel costs and operating expenses related to Year 4 of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, for the retroactive grant period of July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, and if approved authorize Connie Lucido, County Grants Administrator to execute grant award documents on behalf of DAS; and direct Fiscal to make the necessary budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: "Move 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 [\$298,618.00; no County match required; renewing existing grant] to be used to cover personnel costs and operating expenses related to Year 4 of the Department of Alternative Sentencing Support in Treatment, Accountability and Recovery (STAR) program, for the retroactive grant period of July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025, and if approved authorize Connie Lucido, County Grants Administrator to execute grant award documents on behalf of DAS; and direct Fiscal to make the necessary budget amendments."