

MEMO

TO: BJ Lambden, Ryan Ankrum

FROM: Robin Bohannon, Community Services  
Monica Rotner, Community Justice Services

DATE: December 21st, 2022

RE: Request to add 1.0 FTE Term position code to Community Justice Services

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Please consider this request for the assignment of one additional term position code to Community Services Department, Community Justice Services Division. Although the term of the current contract is through June 2023, we have been assured by the funder that funding is likely to extend through 2024. Additionally, there are ARPA approved and funded position codes for Navigators that are vacant at the Community Services Department that could be allocated to this position to extend into 2024. This position code request was brought forward in a BOCC meeting on 11/29/22. At that time the board voted to delay the request based on some language in the initial contract with the States BHA. The State and the Boulder County attorney's office have confirmed that the contract signed as is correct given the scope of work agreed on by the County. Please see emails confirming this communication in the packet.

This position will bring much needed behavioral health treatment and critical care coordination services to individuals served by the Pretrial Services Unit who are assessed as having significant mental health or co-occurring disorders. Those identified for the program will be connected to a Resource Navigator to assist them in obtaining intensive behavioral health treatment, medication prescriber support, physical health care, wrap-around services, public benefits determination, and other needed services. The proposed approach is reflective of "High Intensity Behavioral Health Treatment" in that services will be individualized and provided in a community-based, client-centered manner for adults with severe mental health or co-occurring substance use disorders to reduce risk of deeper involvement in the criminal justice system and address behavioral and physical health issues. Services will be designed to ensure continuity of care across the service spectrum, reduce adverse outcomes, improve court compliance, and maintain public safety.

Many individuals served by the Pretrial Services Unit present with mental health and co-occurring disorders. These individuals are at significant risk for escalating symptoms, re-offense and/or the compounding of other adverse conditions while awaiting criminal proceedings. There is a critical need to provide these individuals with targeted, intensive services during the pretrial phase to ensure additional harm is not done to them or to the community. Implementing care coordination services, supplementing existing

pretrial case management with services navigation, and investing in known behavioral health services gaps and housing needs will help to ensure that these individuals obtain care that addresses acute issues, helps improve or maintain health stability, and avoids deeper involvement in the criminal justice system.

The Pretrial Unit has identified several gaps in services when attempting to refer clients to service providers, particularly those providers serving populations with comorbidities. These gaps include lengthy delays in obtaining intake appointments for both treatment and medication, delays in formally starting treatment, and a lack of support in submitting applications for insurance, including Medicaid. The Resource Navigator will provide Pretrial Case Managers with support to bridge these gaps in order to better connect clients to stabilizing services.

The use of a Resource Navigator will help to address the need to improve equitable access to services by ensuring that all participants, regardless of disability, socio-economic status and/or demographic characteristics, are assisted in overcoming barriers to obtaining the services they need. Additionally, efforts will be made to hire a services coordinator who is bilingual Spanish speaking and/or from the BIPOC community to further goals of inclusion and diversity. Finally, procured services, to the extent possible, will be contracted with providers that employ bilingual staff and/or with those who have as their mission serving the BIPOC community so that services better reflect the social and cultural characteristics of served populations.

**Request:**

One Community Justice Professional 2, CC-2 Term position code assigned to CS's CJS Division.

Attached please find the executed contract and MOU documenting the source of funds available.

Approvals:

*Robin Bohannan*

December 28, 2022

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Robin Bohannan, Community Services

*B.J. Lambden*

December 28, 2022

*Ryan Ankrum*

December 30, 2022

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BJ Lambden, Ryan Ankrum, HR

*Bridgette McCarthy*

December 29, 2022

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Bridgette McCarthy, OFM