

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 position code to Community Services Department, Community Justice Services Division. This position will be funded through a grant the 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Probation Department received. There is a signed contract in place between 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Probation Department and CJS for CJS to hire and maintain this position. The signed contract has a term through June 2023, and the funding source through SCAO is stable and will be renewed for a term of July 2023-June 2024 although not contract has currently been renewed.

This position will be a Juvenile Mentoring Program Coordinator. This position will fill an identified gap in services provided to high/moderate risk youth on probation. The identified gap is there are no current mentoring programs that serve high/moderate risk youth, and they primarily provide mentors for low-risk youth or as a prevention effort. Youth Mentoring is a consistent, prosocial relationship between an adult or older peer and youth that supports healthy development and a reduction of risk factors. Youth mentoring is established as an effective practice at reducing recidivism and delinquency outcomes and is established as a promising practice in reducing the use of alcohol and drugs, improving school attendance, grades, academic achievement test scores, social skills and peer relationships.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Probation Department supervises a higher percentage of medium and maximum risk juvenile cases (62% based on Q4 FY22) compared to the average across the State (54% based on Q4 FY22). These youth would benefit from mentoring which focuses on both “mattering” (defined as being noticed, needed, and an object of concern, as well as the perception of being acknowledged and relevant to others), and “thriving” (e.g., skills for setting and pursuing goals). We believe that with sufficient training, mentors can successfully work with high-risk youth, as is evidenced by numerous successful programs around the country.

The Juvenile Mentoring Coordinator will develop this youth mentoring program and train up to four volunteers to serve as mentors for moderate/high risk youth. Mentors ideally would reflect the cultural demographic of the youth we serve and have lived experience in juvenile justice and/or behavioral health. Mentoring would include connecting with youth in youth spaces and engaging youth in prosocial activities while supporting ongoing skill building of executive functioning.

The expected outcomes of this position would be an increased sense of “mattering” based on survey results, reduced use of drugs/alcohol, increased engagement in prosocial activities, and an increase in successful terminations from probation.

**Request:**

One Community Justice Professional 2, CC-2 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