

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RATIFIED SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR A COVID-19 HEALTH DISPARITY GRANT FOR THE LARAMIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITY OF CHEYENNE POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CHEYENNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.00, ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY, WYOMING**

**FOR THE PURPOSE OF:** REQUESTED FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR A MENTAL HEALTH RESPONSE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS HOUSED AT CRMC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR OVERTIME, SUPPLIES AND EVALUATION OF PROJECT.

WITNESSETH

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of Laramie County desires to participate in the Wyoming Department of Health COVID-19 Health Disparity grant program by sponsoring this grant to assist in financing this project for the Laramie County Sheriff's Department, City of Cheyenne Police Department and the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health Unit; and

**WHEREAS**, the Wyoming Department of Health requires that certain criteria be met, as described in the Center for Disease Control rules governing the program, and to the best of our knowledge this application meets those criteria; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governing Body of Laramie County has been provided with preliminary cost estimates and information on the project; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF LARAMIE COUNTY** that a grant application be submitted to the Wyoming Department of Health for COVID-19 Health Disparity Grant funds in the amount of \$300,000 for consideration of funding this project.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Sandra Newland, or her successor in the position of Laramie County Grants Manager, is appointed as agent of the Laramie County Board of Commissioners to execute and submit applications and certifications for these funds and to receive funds and implement the programs funded under this grant.

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2022.**

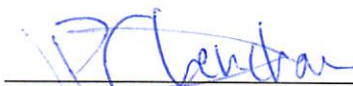
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Troy Thompson, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Lee, Laramie County Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Received and Approved as to Form only By:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Laramie County Attorney's Office

1/4/2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Laramie County, Wyoming COVID-19 Health Disparity Grant Application**

1. **Name of Contractor/Subrecipient:** Laramie County, Wyoming will be the grant applicant/subrecipient. Duns # 197732709
  - a. Laramie County will then have agreements with City of Cheyenne Police Department and CRMC.
2. **Method of Selection:** will be a grant.
3. **Period of Performance:** As soon as possible, through May 2023
4. **Scope of Work**

We are requesting funding to create a co-responder program where we partner law enforcement officers with trained mental health professionals to respond to behavioral health, social service, quality of life and substance use calls. Through this project, we are utilizing the existing resources within our community to serve people who are experiencing a mental health episode or substance use addiction that has been exacerbated by COVID-19. The pandemic has negatively affected many people with mental health and substance use disorders and created barriers to seeking care and treatment along with a decrease in availability and access to care.

The Laramie County Sheriff's Department, the Cheyenne Police Department, and the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health Services recognize the need for mental health services within our community. Along with the need to work in a cohesive and comprehensive coordinated manner of response. The three partnering agencies desire to work collaboratively to provide a specialized patrol unit, which includes a mental health professional trained in mental health crises and substance use disorders. This initiative will mesh the response of the law enforcement service implementation together with an immediate mental health response to provide a timely and impactful experience for the individual. This project will address the needs of individuals for treatment and support outside of incarceration or Emergency Detention. This grant project will be implemented throughout the entirety

of Laramie County, which encompasses 2,685.91 square miles. Laramie County is comprised of six separate communities: Cheyenne, Pine Bluffs, Carpenter, Burns, Hillsdale and Albin. Laramie County's estimated population of 100,512 (2020 census) ranges from rural communities such as Hillsdale and Albin to the capital city of Cheyenne. The entire county is designated, as a high needs section under the Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA) for mental health services. Laramie County has limited accessible resources for individuals who suffer from mental illnesses and/or substance use. We are requesting funds for assisting individuals who are mentally ill and/or substance abusers to move out of the justice or hospital system and towards support services in the community.

**Operation of the unit:**

This project allows for an officer from the Laramie County Sheriff's Department or the City of Cheyenne Police Department and a qualified mental health professional from CRMC BH to ride together in organized shifts, responding immediately to mental health and substance use calls for service. This system provides an opportunity to strengthen our collaboration, as well as the possibility of increasing individual follow up with referral opportunities for community resources. Our mission is to respond to as many mental health, suicide, and substance use calls and to conduct follow-ups as possible.

These specialized units will provide the attention and resources that these calls require. These units will ride and respond as a collaborative effort for investigation and offering community services to the individual. The shifts will be developed by each of the two law enforcement agencies, according to notable trends with the designated incident calls for service, by the time of day and day of week. Our objective is to provide safe and valuable experiences for individuals experiencing mental health and substance use crises and connecting them to appropriate community resources. All new officers and deputies who work overtime under the grant will first be provided with a basic orientation on the purpose of the work, tasks being completed, and data on types of calls and their support for CRMC BH.

**Goal 1: Strengthen collaboration among law enforcement and community services to meet the needs of individuals with mental illness and/or substance use issues.**

**Goal 2: Reduce crime and recidivism among low-level offenders who suffer from mental illness and combined mental illness and substance use.**

**Within our efforts, we will address and correct these factors in mental health and substance use calls:**

- Law enforcement lacks appropriate time and qualifications for connecting clients with mental health and substance use services.
- The Cheyenne Regional Medical Center, Behavioral Health Services is overwhelmed with mental health and substance use cases. Direct services and advocacy is limited during the aftermath of an incident.
- Persons identified as mental health or substance users by law enforcement are not receiving community services after the initial calls for service.

**Description of Partner Agencies:**

The Laramie County Sheriff's Department is one of the largest agencies of its type in the state of Wyoming. The Laramie County Sheriff's Department exists to serve the needs of the public and is committed to an agenda of proactive law enforcement using planning and foresight to help solve the problems within the community. The Laramie County Sheriff's Department and the Cheyenne Police Department law enforcement personnel work together daily, sharing information and conducting joint investigations and operations. In the past, the two departments have successfully collaborated on several projects. There are currently 41 deputies assigned to the patrol duties of the Laramie County Sheriff's Department who respond to mental health, suicide, or substance use calls.

The Cheyenne Police Department is a progressive agency of 101 sworn officers and 27 civilian employees. The department serves the Cheyenne community with innovative policing and programs,

specializing in units that officers can participate in. Of the 101 sworn officers, 83 are assigned to patrol duties, which includes responding to incidents of mental health and substance use disorders. Officers are overwhelmed with the number of calls for service, and have a difficult task of responding, investigating, and making appropriate legal decisions to clear the call to move on to the next call. Rarely are officers able to complete any follow up beyond their initial response and investigation. There are additional needs for extended care and resources for individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use disorders.

The Cheyenne Regional Behavioral Health Services will provide contracted mental health professionals that respond with law enforcement. These professionals are well versed in mental health and substance use needs as well as current resources in the community. Ideally, the goal is to assist in intervention with these calls and divert to appropriate resources, safety plans, or rule out if this is an acute psychiatric crisis or substance use issue. These clinicians will be able to detain under Title 25 if needed and work with other agencies for appropriate referrals. As 60% of the individuals detained under Title 25 are diverted from the Emergency Department, we are hoping to decrease these emergency detention admissions with community intervention as well.

#### **Development of Application:**

Mental health disorders are rising amidst coronavirus and civil unrest and Wyoming ranks twelfth for the most mental health disorders in the country. PsyDPrograms.org released a non-peer reviewed study on Mental Health Incidents in 2020 by State, after analyzing data from Mental Health America on anxiety, depression, substance use and suicidal thoughts. In Wyoming 22.6% of adults reported experiencing a mental illness compared to the national average of 18.6%. For substance use, Wyoming ranks 23rd with 7.8 % of adults reporting substance use disorder, compared to the national average of 7.7%. In Wyoming, 5.7% of adults reported serious thoughts of suicide (3<sup>rd</sup> highest in the U.S.). This data supports the effects COVID-19 has had on mental health and substance use problems

within Wyoming. Historically, our community has always struggled with providing appropriate and timely mental health services and COVID-19 has only highlighted our known gaps.

Cheyenne Regional Behavioral Health Services uses the Psychiatric Assessment Referral and Treatment (PART) Team to conduct assessments in the Emergency Department and inpatient units. These assessments determine the appropriate level of care for the patient. Over the past three years, the PART Team has assessed many patients to determine their psychiatric needs: 2,443 (2019), 2,255 (2020), and 2,051 (through 12/28/2021). Like many other healthcare systems, Cheyenne Regional experienced disruption in patient volumes due to Covid-19. The development of a mental health co-response model will help ensure patients receive the right care at the right time in our community.

In 2020, the Cheyenne Police Department reported that 56.8% of incidents where force was used, suspects were using drugs or alcohol. There were 706 mental health calls for service and drug distribution in 2020, which made up 68% of their overall caseload. The City of Cheyenne Police Department has a Diversion Directed patrol program that tracks calls for service for alcohol, narcotics, and behavioral health within city limits. They report that from December 2020 through November 2021, the department received 407 behavioral health related calls, 766 attempted suicides, 499 alcohol related calls, and 668 narcotic calls. This is a representation of what was reported through dispatch and is not a complete representation of the categories, as they do not include calls listed by crime code where impairments or behavioral health may have been a factor. The City of Cheyenne Police Department pulled a tabulation of incident calls related to behavioral health, narcotics, suicide, and welfare checks results that shows an upward trend in these calls with no indication of decreasing.

In 2021, the Laramie County Sheriff's Office had 94 emergency detention calls (1/1/21-12/16/21). These calls involve a significant amount of time for deputies to take an individual to the hospital and sit with them until they can be admitted. Also in 2021, the Sheriff's Department has over 225 calls for service for mental health calls that involve behavior problems, and suicidal threats. In the last year, the

Sheriff's Department had 100 suicidal threats and 45 behavior problems that were classified as violent. Like the City of Cheyenne Police Department, these numbers are a representation of what was reported through dispatch and is not a complete picture of all behavioral health calls. In our statistics, we show that Mondays are the busiest days for calls along with May being the busiest month for suicide calls for service.

The Wyoming Department of Health has an established work plan on community mental health in response to emergency calls and COVID-19. Through this project, our agencies are enhancing the local efforts to support individuals experiencing mental health symptoms, substance use and suicidal ideation in Laramie County by providing them with immediate access to behavioral health professionals. Our project supports the Wyoming Department of Health's plan to boost community efforts to help respond to and mitigate the mental health impacts associated with COVID-19. Through our efforts, the populations that are deemed high risk that are also underserved will be addressed through evidence-based policies and systems to connect the community to support resources. These resources will assist individuals in combating the adverse effects of the pandemic in terms of mental health and substance use.

#### **5. Method of Accountability**

The Laramie County Sheriff's Department, City of Cheyenne Police Department and the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health Services will coordinate with the Wyoming Department of Health on all reporting measures through attainable goals and objectives. Laramie County will also have an agreement with Dr. Clair White, Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology at the University of Wyoming. Her research focuses on various police responses to mental health crisis calls and has extensive experience in collaborating with law enforcement and behavioral health agencies. Laramie County will partner with her to provide evaluation services for this project to assess the effectiveness and short-term impacts of the Laramie County Co-Response Team. Law

enforcement variables and measures may include: length of time spent addressing the incident; number and percent of dispositions, by type (arrest, by type of charge, transportation to services by law enforcement, referral to EMS, stabilized in the community, etc.); number of total custodial arrests, by type of charge; or rate of use of force. Behavioral health variables and measures may include: number and percent meeting criteria for inpatient admission; average length of stay in the ED and inpatient unit, if admitted; insurance, by type; discharge outcome (including to home, warm hand-off to community provider, to shelter, etc.); or number and percent of patients able to be diverted from the ED to other community resources.

#### **6. Itemized budget and Justification**

The Laramie County Sheriff's Department in collaboration with the City of Cheyenne Police Department and Cheyenne Regional Medical Center's Behavioral Health Services requests three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000), from the Wyoming Department of Health COVID-19 Health Disparities Program to fund the Laramie County Co-Response Team. The subrecipient (Laramie County) will do this through contracts with CRMC Behavioral Health, the City of Cheyenne Police Department, and Dr. Clair White.

##### **1. CRMC Personnel:**

- a. This award would compensate a full-time mental health professional from Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Behavioral Health Services to coordinate and work with law enforcement. We are also requesting a part time position and overtime to allow for adequate coverage of mental health professionals to work with law enforcement.

##### **Full Time Employee:**

\$65,000 annual salary plus \$15,600 for all benefits for a total of \$80,600 or \$38.75 per hour.

##### **Part Time Employee:**



\$32,500 annual salary plus \$7,800 for all benefits for a total of \$40,300 or \$19.78 per hour.

Overtime:

Estimation of twenty hours of overtime for 52 weeks equals a total of 1,040 hours of annual overtime.

The average pay per clinician is \$35 per hour plus the \$17.50 overtime rate equaling \$40, 950 per year.

Supplies for CRMC BH staff:

We are requesting two laptops and two cell phones to be used by CRMC Behavioral Health Staff to coordinate all calls with law enforcement and track services provided to individuals. We are estimating that the cell phones will be \$800 each and monthly bill to run \$80 a month per phone.

Phones = \$1,600.00

Monthly cell service x 2 = \$1,920.00

Two laptops = \$2,000.00

Printing Costs= \$1,500.00

**Total CRMC Behavioral Health Services Request \$168,870.00**

2. City of Cheyenne Police Department Overtime

- a. This award would provide overtime and benefits for the City of Cheyenne Police Department patrol officers to respond to calls for service with a mental health provider.

Overtime:

For this application, we are estimating a total of twenty hours a week for officer's overtime. We are assuming the 52-week performance period for a total of 1,040 hours of overtime. Average overtime rate plus benefits for the City of Cheyenne Police Department is estimated at \$50.00 per hour. We are requesting **\$52,000** for the City of Cheyenne Police Department.

3. Laramie County Sheriff's Department Overtime

- a. This award would provide overtime and benefits for the Laramie County Sheriff's Department patrol officers to respond to calls for service with a mental health provider.

**Overtime:**

For this application, we are estimating a total of twenty hours a week for deputies. We are assuming a 52-week performance period for a total of 1,040 hours of overtime. Average overtime rate plus benefits for the Laramie County Sheriff's Office is estimated at \$47.00 per hour. We are requesting **\$48,880** for the Laramie County Sheriff's Department.

**4. Evaluation Services – Dr. Clair White**

- a. This award would provide funds for evaluation services of this project. It will include law enforcement and behavioral health variables and measures and a final report.

**Evaluation Services:**

For this application, we are requesting evaluation services for the length of the project. The evaluator will establish the evaluation design for the outcome measures over course of this project. Project and evaluation staff will collect and analyze data necessary for process and outcome evaluation of program activities as required throughout the project period. We are requesting **\$30,250** for Dr. Clair White.

**Total grant request \$300,000.00**