



Board Summary Report

Date: June 17, 2020
To: Board of County Commissioners
Through: Tyler Brown, Sheriff
From: Vince Line, Bureau Chief
Subject: Restoring Individuals Safely and Effectively (RISE) Staff Increase Proposal

Request and Recommendation

The purpose of this Board Summary Report is to provide information and request approval from the Board of County Commissioners to increase staffing assigned to the Restoring Individuals Safely and Effectively (RISE) program and to increase the per bed, per day cost paid by Wellpath, LLC.

Background

The Sheriff's Office has been hosting the RISE program since late 2013, when the County first entered into an agreement with GeoCare. This first iteration of the program called for a maximum of 22 beds. At that time, the per bed, per day cost was set at \$88.86. The program was staffed by seven deputy sheriffs providing dedicated supervision during programming, with night and weekend supervision covered by general jail staff. In 2015 the daily rate was increased to \$91.08 and the program was expanded to a total of 52 beds. Since then, the program has expanded to 94 beds staffed by 2 sergeants and 19 deputy sheriffs. Notwithstanding the added supervision hours and ancillary space allotted to the program, the per bed cost has been unchanged since 2015 and remains at \$91.08.

The \$91.08 per bed cost covers housing, 24-hour program-dedicated supervision, meals, clothing, bedding, and toiletries. At the close of each year, the costs and revenue generated by the program are reconciled. Any revenue overages are retained by the Detention Facility to cover possible future shortages and provide additional resources to inmates. Overages retained from 2016 helped fund a facility-wide project to mitigate suicide attempts by those entrusted to our care. This project included a number of tasks identified to reduce potential hang points in the inmate housing areas. Overages retained in 2017 addressed numerous security-related deficiencies identified in the front lobby to the Detentions Facility and provided funding to install a separate Kosher area of the kitchen to serve inmates and RISE patients requesting Kosher diets. Overages retained from 2018 and 2019 have been used to provide an additional mental health professional to the staff.

Links to Align Arapahoe

Foster Safe Communities and Foster a Healthy and Vibrant County – The RISE program helps by evaluating and restoring criminal defendants to a state where they can continue in the legal process. Overall mental health of program participants is significantly increased; the program provides a service to partnering organizations that is in great demand by restoring these individuals in a much quicker time frame than the sister program at the Colorado Mental Health Institute – Pueblo.

Discussion

Current negotiations between the Sheriff's Office and Wellpath, LLC involve adding 3 deputies to supervise the program. This staff increase would necessitate the addition of a supervising lieutenant dedicated half time to the program. The additional cost to cover just the salary and benefits to this additional staff is \$379,876.20, or \$31,656.33 per month. Assuming an average daily population of 71 patients, this cost would be covered by an increase of \$11.69 in the current \$91.08 per bed rate, bringing the new per bed rate to \$102.77.

The new staffing model adding 3 deputies to the RISE Program will free up a current FTE assigned to Detentions Operations staff. ACSO proposes the upgrading of this position (NCDS Position 20001810) to .5 Lieutenant to allow for the other half of the new supervising Lieutenant for the RISE program.

The proposed span of control for the RISE Lieutenant's position would be supervision of 2 Sergeants and 22 Deputies. This position would also assume some administrative functions assigned by the Detentions Operations Captain who currently supervises 4 line operations Lieutenants, 18 line operations Sergeants, 1 administrative Sergeant and 2 civilian staff members. This is in addition to administrative responsibilities associated with being the Captain of Detentions Operations and a member of the Sheriff's Office Command Staff.

Alternatives

The alternative is to not increase the staff to the proposed levels of .5 Lieutenant, 2 Sergeants, and 22 Deputies.

Fiscal Impact

If the daily per bed rate paid by Wellpath, LLC is raised from \$91.08 to \$102.77, it would cover the costs of the additional staff proposed, thereby having no fiscal impact on Arapahoe County's General Fund.

Concurrence

The Sheriff's Office Detention and Administration Bureaus are in concurrence with this decision.

Attorney Comments

Reviewed By:

Olga Fujaros, Budget & Logistics Manager
Vincent Line, Detention Bureau Chief
Tyler Brown, Sheriff
Finance Department
County Attorney