

Total	\$98,786.00
Required County Match	
Total less County Match	\$98,786.00

Home

personnel to address gaps in tracking data and how to use the current data system and expand its usage. Expand the current system to track additional details:

List of services SW refer people to: homelessness, drug treatment, med managements, benefits apps, civil needs etc

Data showing the number of referrals

Data showing the type of referrals made: use it for funding discussions and to increase services in this area

Competency waitlist number - broken down to misdemeanor vs. felony

The length of stay on the waitlist

Diversion options

Number of people who were restored to competency without going to state hospital (those that got re-evaluated by HHSC)

The number of arrests each month

Number of arrests for criminal trespass (or other common charges that highly correlate with MH/IDD)

The number of 16.22 requests made each month

Number of 16.22 orders granted

Number of 16.22 assessments completed

Number of cases declined/dismissed due to MH/IDD

Number of individuals who do voluntary inpatient treatment

Number of individuals who do involuntary inpatient treatment

Number of individuals sent to outpatient treatment (probably as condition of bond)

Number of individuals that SW work with that fail to appear in court

f. Evaluation

In addition to the specific grant performance measures and the Indigent Defense Expenditure Report measures provided to TIDC, the NHCPDO will track monthly and report quarterly to the Oversight Board, the Commissioner's Courts, and TIDC the following:

1. Documentation of the hiring of the additional social worker.

2. Quarterly reports that document the number of clients the social worker is involved with and a breakdown of service involvement including:

a. OCR clients

b. LTD clients

c. Clients screened for competency

d. Clients screened for IDD

3. Intake and referral forms will be kept in client's digital file.

g. Future Funding

The NHCPDO is currently in its second year of its grant and is funded 33.3% by Burnet, Llano, and Blanco Counties. Following year three, the counties will modify their interlocal agreements to reflect changes in costs.

h. Budget Narrative and Budget Form

Hourly rate would be \$31.14 for an annual salary of \$64,771.

Medicare, insurance, retirement, workers compensation, unemployment and SBD would approximate at \$25,015 creating a total personnel cost of \$89,786.

Travel is estimated at \$2,500 with gas prices in recent years seeing severe fluctuation and supply chain issues, as well as the fact the NHCPD covers a tri-county area.

Training and Conference would have a budget of \$2,000.

Office supplies would have a budget of \$500.

One-time set-up costs such as computer and accessories are calculated at \$4,000. The total project budget would be \$98,786. Requested grant amount is \$79,029 or 80%. Any additional years would be 66.67% Matching funds for the first year would be \$19,757 or 20% and would be spread across the tri-county area. Any additional years would be 33.33%.

Considering the NHCPD is currently receiving an improvement grant, if requested this project could be absorbed into the other project for a unified project in FY25.

Personnel Costs		\$89,786.00
FTE's	1.00	
Salary	\$64,771.00	
Fringe Benefits	\$25,015.00	
Travel and Training		\$4,500.00
Equipment		\$4,000.00
Supplies		\$500.00
Contract Services		
Indirect		

headway and the courts have begun to appoint attorneys ad litem and pursue investigation of whether guardians are proper and to explore funding for such.

Because of the non-responsive and inconsistent responses of the LMHAs she has to find other novel solutions such as finding doctors to conduct evaluations (such as CMEs) in a rural area. There is no OCR resource in our region, and so, she is also pioneering OCR procedures by using out-of-county resources. The time required to build these relationships is incredible and has required her to spend an immense amount of time on the phone and on the road. In the midst of all this she is working to transform the system from a triage basis to one of actual long-term planning. To this end, in April she is conducting a regional mental health training among all stakeholders (roughly one hundred souls) as we strive to align our client's interests with the sparse resources of a rural region. Her action as a change agent has greatly increased the involvement of Burnet County Sheriff's Office Mental Health Deputies in actual jail diversion and they are also reaching out to other local departments to train them in these skills. LTDP work is intensive and she does not have enough time for more routine tasks such as mental-health assessments, record requests and review, participation in mitigation work, and assisting attorneys in aiding competent but mentally ill clients. LTDP makes sense because, ultimately, we are 1) re-allocating taxpayer funds from a punitive penal context into a recuperative context; 2) ending needless suffering and depersonalization. Respectfully and humbly, we are asking you to help us be the fulcrum of change by funding another mental health social worker to allow your mental health social worker to focus on LTDP.

Resources:

1 Beginning in 2020 Gregg Ranch in Marble Falls began efforts to add 1250 homes to the region.

<https://www.kvue.com/article/money/economy/boomtown-2040/marble-falls-gregg-ranch-240-acres-boomtownnew-homes/269-ced2396c-b7c6-4dde-ac40-3cf0f525a47b>

2 In July of 2021 construction began on the Thunder Rock development in Marble Falls, ultimately slated to constitute 1,966 single-family residential homes, 924 multifamily units and 150 active adult units.

<https://www.kxan.com/news/more-than-2000-homes-slated-for-new-marble-falls-mixed-use-development/>

3 In early February 2023, Burnet County Commissioner's Court approved a new 3500 home development for Spicewood. <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/hill-country/burnet-county-commissioners-ok-part-of-thomas-ranchdevelopment-plan-that-falls-within-county-line/>.

d. Objectives

Our central objective in adding a caseworker is to expand jail diversion and, most significantly, establish LTDP for patients that are spending their lives in-and out of jail and mental hospitals and to establish OCR in the region. As we move from a triage basis to one of planning and provision we will end the needless suffering in jail and sequential cascading trauma and humiliation of being arrested and depersonalized over and over again.

To do this, your social work division would

1. Hire one more caseworker within 90 days of funding.
2. Meet with current IT personnel to address gaps in tracking data and how to use the current data system and expand its usage.
3. Expand the current system to track additional details.
4. Continue pursuit of LTDP for the most vulnerable of our clients.
5. Provide increased support to the Llano/Blanco offices with Social Work presence, knowledge, case management, and resource provision.

We will separate job duties in the following way:

Our new mental health social worker would:

Monitor Article 16.22 compliance-an ongoing problem with jail staff, magistrates, and local MHMR personnel. Work to ensure proper services are provided.

Receive training in the Chapter 46B standards and procedures, aiding in early identification and advocacy for potentially incompetent clients, and coordinating services with evaluators, treatment providers, the courts, and other interested parties. Accompanying clients to intake and screening appointments to aid in navigating service providers' requirements.

Assess clients for mental-health issues, using established tools with the objective of providing early intervention.

Data collection and collation.

Our current mental health case worker would:

Provide higher-level services to a focused group of high-needs clients.

Continue to develop relationships with and coordinate trainings with administration at the MHMR provider, with a goal towards greater longer-term systemic improvements.

Provide in-court testimony as necessary.

Advocate with the local stakeholders.

Assist in high-level mitigation evidence development (for sex-based offenses and murder cases).

e. Activities

The additional caseworker would split the tri-county social worker caseload and cooperate with our chief caseworker in our efforts to expand services to mental health clients. In addition, the new caseworker would meet with current IT

2024 Burnet County Improvement Grant Application Narrative
NHCPD Add'l Mental Health Case Worker
Multi-year

a. Application Form

Counties Represented: **Blanco, Burnet, Llano**
 Fiscal Year: **2024**
 State Payee Identification Number: **74-6000454**
 Division To Administer Grant: **Texas**
 Program Title: **NHCPD Add'l Mental Health Case Worker**
 Requested Grant Amount: **\$79,029.00**
 Authorized Official: **James Oakley**
 Financial Officer: **Karin Smith**
 Program Director: **J. Allan Garrett**
 Mailing Address: **220 S. Pierce St; Burnet, TX 78611**

b. Introduction (Executive Summary)

The North Hill Country Public Defender seeks grant funding for an additional Mental Health Social Worker. The needs of mental health clients within the 424th and 33rd Judicial District, are in-depth, systemic, and multi-faceted. The NHCPDO is in need of an additional Social Worker to transform from a reaction-basis provision of services to long-term diversion planning ("LTDP"). That is, to transform how we help clients from a triage basis to one of planning.

c. Problem Statement

A mental health social worker was added to the office in October 2021 as part of the North Hill Country Public Defender's Office (NHCPD) funded by TIDC. The office expanded into a tri-county office covering Burnet, Llano, and Blanco Counties. This coverage region is home to a population of 84,818 pursuant to the 2021 census. Population density is increasing; in 2020 a new development was slated to add 1250 homes (1), in 2021, a new development began to add 1,966 single-family residential homes, 924 multifamily units and 150 active adult units(2), and last month a new 3,500 housing development was approved by the Burnet County Commissioner's Court.(3) Our mental health social worker was added to the office in October 2021 as part of the expansion advanced by TIDC. Her caseload built rapidly. 2022 metrics demonstrate involvement in 20% of felonies (166/805) and 19.5% of misdemeanors (78/399) for the region. She operates at an eight-to-one attorney to social worker ratio; when fully staffed, this will be nine-to-one. Her involvement is always in-depth and that is a function of the current lack of resources in the region.

The LMHA in Blanco and Llano Counties provides level one care only which constitutes one phone call a month. The Llano and Blanco LMHA subcontracts crisis services with a third-party vendor in another county. Response times are highly variable and limited. In 2022 there were two suicide attempts in the Llano County Jail, each requiring days to secure a hospital bed for each patient who remained in the jail in the interim. Llano County jail is non-compliant with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. While Burnet County has a more responsive LMHA their jail diversion staff member has had his time divided as he is now required to cover two counties. (This is further complicated in that the Burnet jail houses inmates for other counties.)

The coverage region has one male and one female sober house, both are small and provide recovery care. Besides AA and NA meetings and post-SAFPF drug court there is no substance abuse treatment in these counties. While Blanco, Burnet, and Llano have CRCs and one is slated for development in Kingsland the region remains in the infancy for provision of social services to indigent mental health clients.

Your social worker's involvement is intensive. In most cases, she is confronted with a multi-front battle to secure resources and best outcomes for mentally ill clients. Typically, she will be communicating with the client, community contacts such as a family member or friend, the attorney, will accompany client and attorney to court to help a mentally ill client navigate these waters, the LMHA, and novel contacts as the case necessitates. This can include full-bore crisis intervention with a client in complete meltdown.

The increasing focus of her involvement with LTDP are an emergent group of clients that are nonfunctional and incapable of self-care. Because their condition is caused by mental illness and self-medication they are disqualified for many resources because of "substance abuse." While free, their families or friends (or frankly, users/abusers) do what they can but cannot provide sufficient care and in each instance are overwhelmed by the challenges of poverty, lack of community resources, self-interest, and the emotional burden. The current system addresses the needs of these clients by cycling them in and out of jail and at times deporting them for a brief stint in an out of county mental hospital. This population alone is sufficient work for one full-time social worker.

To address these issues our social worker and attorneys have met with the County Court at Law Judge in Burnet, Judge Nelson, and regional County Judges. The social worker is pioneering a solution for this emergent group. Some of them will require guardians, a daunting task in a rural county with clients that have no independent means and a healthcare system that is bare bones and devoid of psychological professionals. Nonetheless, she has made

New Mental Health

			Round	FICA/Med	Insurance	Retirement W/C	Unemp	SBD	Total
				0.0765	12000	0.1173	0.001685	0.00245	0.003 Fringe
Mental Health	31.14	64,771.20	64,771.00	4,955.00	12,000.00	7,597.66	109.14	158.69	194.31 25,014.80

Salary	64771
Fringe	25015
Travel	4500
Inventoried Equip	4000
Office Supplies	500

	98786
Grant	79028.8
Match	79029
	19757

Burnet	0.67916	13,418.16
Llano	0.21762	4,299.52
Blanco	0.10322	2,039.32

		0.8 Burnet	
	Grant	Match	
Salary	64,771	51,817	8,798
FICA	4,955	3,964	673
Insurance	12,000	9,600	1,630
Retirement	7,598	6,078	1,032
WC	109	87	15
Unemp	159	127	22
SBD	194	155	26
Travel	4,500	3,600	611
Inventoried Equip	4,000	3,200	543
Office Supplies	500	400	68
	98,786	79,029	13,418 92,447

Clare
13418.16

Plan
7,598.40

Public Defender

			FY 23	FY24	FY24	Total	Longevity	Total	Round	FICA/Med	Insurance	Retirement	W/C	Unemp	SBD	Total	
Nathan	PD		59.95	124,696.00	64.746	64.75	134,680.00	134,680.00	1900	136,580.00	136,580.00	10,448.37	11,550.00	16,020.83	230.14	218.53	423.40
Nicole	1st Asst		46.87	97,489.60	50.6196	50.92	105,913.60	105,914.00		105,913.60	105,914.00	8,102.42	11,550.00	12,423.71	178.47	169.46	328.33
Ivan	Asst	Felony	44.45	93,496.00	48.546	48.55	100,984.00	100,984.00		100,984.00	100,984.00	7,725.28	11,550.00	11,845.42	170.16	161.57	313.05
Sean	Asst	Felony	44.95	93,496.00	48.546	48.55	100,984.00	100,984.00		100,984.00	100,984.00	7,725.28	11,550.00	11,845.42	170.16	161.57	313.05
Emily	Asst	Juvenile	38.99	81,099.20	42.1092	42.11	87,588.80	87,589.00		87,588.80	87,589.00	6,700.56	11,550.00	10,274.19	147.59	140.14	271.53
Alejandra	Asst	Misdemeanor	38.99	81,099.20	42.1092	42.11	87,588.80	87,589.00		87,588.80	87,589.00	6,700.56	11,550.00	10,274.19	147.59	140.14	271.53
(Revis)		Misdemeanor				42.11	87,588.80	87,589.00		87,588.80	87,589.00	6,700.56	11,550.00	10,274.19	147.59	140.14	271.53
Unfilled	Asst	Felony				48.55	100,984.00	100,984.00		100,984.00	100,984.00	7,725.28	11,550.00	11,845.42	170.16	161.57	313.05
(Steve)						48.55	100,984.00	100,984.00		100,984.00	100,984.00	7,725.28	11,550.00	11,845.42	170.16	161.57	313.05
Amber	Executive		30.1	62,608.00	32.508	32.51	67,620.80	67,621.00	3600	71,220.80	71,221.00	5,448.41	11,550.00	8,354.22	170.01	113.95	220.79
Melissa	Legal Asst		23.29	48,443.20	25.1532	25.15	52,312.00	52,312.00		52,312.00	52,312.00	4,001.87	11,550.00	6,136.20	88.15	83.70	162.17
Scott	Investigator		33.79	70,283.20	36.4932	36.49	75,899.20	75,899.00	2840	78,739.20	78,739.00	6,023.53	11,550.00	9,236.08	132.68	125.98	244.09
Christina	Mental Health		30.1	62,608.00	32.508	32.51	67,620.80	67,621.00		67,620.80	67,621.00	5,173.01	11,550.00	7,931.94	113.94	108.19	209.63
							1,170,748.80	1,170,750.00	8340	1,179,088.80	1,179,090.00	90,200.39	150,150.00	138,307.26	1,986.77	1,886.54	3,655.18
Revis	PT Asst	Misdemeanor	38.99			42.11	87,588.80			87,588.80	87,589.00	6,700.56		10,274.19	14.76	140.14	271.53
Steve	Asst	Felony	43.6	90,688.00	47.088	47.09	97,947.20			97,947.20	97,947.00	7,492.95	11,550.00	11,489.18	165.04	156.72	303.64
																	0.327529
Salaries				Grant	Burnet												
Public Defender	134,680.00			89,787	30,489					372195							
First Assistant	105,914.00			70,609	23,977					1176053							
Felony	403,936.00			269,291	91,445					1548248							
Juvenile	87,589.00			58,393	19,829												
Misdemeanor	175,178.00			116,785	39,658												
Exec Dir	67,621.00			45,081	15,308												
Legal Asst	52,312.00			34,875	11,843												
Investigator	75,899.00			50,599	17,182												
Mental Health	67,621.00	1,170,750.00		45,081	15,308												
Longevity	8,340.00	1,179,090.00		5,560	1,888												
Benefits	386,186.00	0.32753		257,457	87,426												
Office Supplies 500X13	6,500.00			4,333	1,471												
Travel	18,000.00			12,000	4,075												
Training	15,000.00			10,000	3,396												
Professional Fees	2,900.00			1,933	657												
Contract Services																	
Rent	20,000.00			13,333	4,528												
Utilities	14,000.00			9,333	3,169												
Telephone	9,100.00			6,067	2,060												
				1,100,518	373,710												
	1,650,776.00																
	1,100,506.33	1100506															
	550,269.67	550270															
Burnet	0.67916	373,721.15		373,721.00													
Liano	0.21762	119,749.69		119,750.00													
Bianco	0.10322	56,798.84		56,799.00													
				550,270.00													

	Grant	Total	Match
FICA	90,200.00	60,134	20,420
INSURANCE	150,150.00	100,100	33,992
Retirement	138,307.00	92,205	31,311
W/C	1,987.00	1,325	450
Unemp	1,887.00	1,258	427
SBD	3,655.00	2,437	827
	386,186.00	257,458	87,427
			344,885
			128,728