



August 1, 2022

Mr. Paul Briseno
City Manager
City of Brookings
520 Third Street, Suite 230
Brookings, SD 57006

RE: Brookings Behavioral Health & Wellness Funding Request – One Time ARPA Funds

This letter is submitted to your attention to request that the City Council of Brookings approve an allocation of \$1.2 million for one-time capital needs to Brookings Behavioral Health & Wellness from the available ARPA funds.

BBHW is a private, not-for-profit corporation registered in the State of South Dakota and founded in 1971. BBHW is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization by the Internal Revenue Service and is accredited as both a community mental health center and community substance abuse treatment center. BBHW is one of eleven community mental health centers in the State and is the designated center for Brookings County. BBHW contracts with the State of South Dakota (on a "fee-for-service" based) to serve the special needs of the State's most critically, behaviorally, challenged individuals; including adults diagnosed as "Severely Mentally Ill" (SMI) and children/adolescents diagnosed as "Severely Emotionally Disturbed" (SED). BBHW also provides a full range of community-based individual, couple and family therapy, mental health and substance use disorder services to Brookings County residents. In addition to state contracts, BBHW receives revenue from Medicare, Medicaid, Private Insurance, and Private Pay billing. These additional funding sources have continued to increase over the last several years as our agency profile has risen and the reputation of our clinicians and services have improved. This has allowed us to serve a broader base of Brookings County residents.

Proposed project

Brookings Behavioral Health & Wellness (BBHW) is planning a building renovation and expansion to support the growth of the organization. The current building housing BBHW was built in 1976 and is roughly 6000 square feet. At an estimated 400 sq ft per clinical staff member, this was an appropriate size for the organization at 15 staff members. We currently have 20 clinical staff and 5 administrative staff. We are proposing to add 14,000 sq ft with new construction and renovation of our existing structure. This would get us to 20,000 sq ft which would accommodate continued growth of clinical staff as well as provide appropriate space for groups, community education events, staff training, etc.

This project will take place in two phases. Phase I will include the building of a new structure to the north and west and include a main floor and basement. Phase II will include renovation of the existing structure and expansion to the west. Completing the work in the proposed two phases will allow for operations to continue on-site with minimal disruption to staff and clients of BBHW. The goal is to initiate construction in Q2 of 2023 with project completion by Q2 of 2024. The estimated project cost is \$3.6 million which is consistent with current construction costs of \$180 - \$200/sq ft.

**Funding request**

Given a total project cost of \$3.6 million, BBHW is asking the City of Brookings to contribute \$1.2 million toward this project in the form of a one-time allocation from available ARPA funds. BBHW has also requested \$1.2 million from Brookings County as well as initiated a private capital campaign for the remaining \$1.2 million.

Outcomes as it relates to the priority areas

As the designated Community Behavioral Health Center for all of Brookings County, we have a direct impact on the identified priority area of mental health care. BBHW is distinguished from private mental health providers and other organizations by the public assistance and support role it fulfills. Professional behavioral health services are provided to everyone regardless of ability to pay for those services. This means that the comprehensive array of services offered by BBHW are available to the residents of Brookings County who would not otherwise have the financial means to access necessary behavioral health services. The BBHW professional multi-disciplinary staff offer a broad array of services to meet the special needs of individuals, families, the Brookings County schools, the county, circuit and state correctional systems, courts, and other community agencies.

Metrics that can be measured over the next two years

BBHW is accredited by the State of South Dakota Division of Behavioral Health to provide both mental health and substance use services. Because of this, we have strict clinical and administrative outcomes that are measured on a monthly, quarterly, and annual basis. Additionally, we undergo an accreditation site visit every two years. Examples of these outcomes includes a review of access to services, clinical documentation, quality of service provision, client recidivism, and client reported improvement in symptoms or functioning.

Assurance guidelines can be met or reasons why they cannot

The members of the BBHW leadership team have combined experience of more than 75 years in behavioral health service provision, program development and management, and non-profit management. Additionally, the teams Associate Director and Clinical Director have 23 years and 11 years respectively, of tenure with the organization. Under the leadership of this team over the last 4 years alone, BBHW has more than doubled its annual budget, improved partnerships within the community, expanded programs, and served more individuals in Brookings. BBHW continues to assess our efforts in the community and make changes accordingly to improve the quality and quantity of services provided. This project directly supports that effort in allowing us the space to meet the service needs of this community.

Any additional information

In addition to the comprehensive behavioral health services offered by our clinicians, BBHW also provides 24/7/365 emergency services to Brookings County. At all times, there is a behavioral health professional available to provide emergency services. These professionals all work as full-time clinicians at BBHW, then rotate in providing evening, weekend, and holiday emergency coverage. Emergency services are provided anywhere needed at any time of day or night and regardless of whether the



emergency involves mental health, drug, alcohol, or any other problem identified by the caller as an emergency. To address challenges encountered during crisis intervention in our community, BBHW has led a quarterly stakeholder meeting to ensure open communication, partnership, and problem solving when it comes to managing mental health or substance abuse crisis in the community. BBHW clinical and administrative leadership is actively involved with community initiatives to support the improvement of crisis care. These include assisting in the planning, implementation, and execution of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for law enforcement and first responders, participation in the pilot eCare program in Brookings County, and having trained individuals participate on the CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) team to support law enforcement and first responders following a traumatic event. As described in previous presentations, the number of referrals for service and calls for crisis service have gone up exponentially over the last year.

Below is a summary of data of emergency calls from January 1 – December 31, 2021.

Total # of Calls	# of Individuals Served	Contact Hours
408	573	241 hours

Below is a summary of data of emergency calls from January 1 – June 30, 2022

Total # of Calls	# of Individuals Served	Contact Hours
382	499	217 hours

This project will have a direct and significant impact on our ability to provide the quantity and quality of services to Brookings residents who need it and allow us to continue meeting our mission: to provide comprehensive, integrated behavioral health services that promote personal well-being and quality of life for all. The vision of BBHW is to inspire confidence and respect as a leader and partner in the delivery of comprehensive behavioral health services and to collaborate with community partners to actively fulfill the mission.

We greatly appreciate the support and partnership the City of Brookings has provided, and we look forward to continuing this partnership as we strive to provide Brookings residents with access to quality behavioral health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Beth Fishback". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Mary Beth Fishback, MSPAS, MPH
Executive Director
Brookings Behavioral Health & Wellness