



togetherforbetter

Clark County Juvenile Justice Services

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12/10/24

Dear Members of the Grant Review Committee,

I am writing to offer my full support for the Neurodiverse Education and Advocacy for Treatment in Court (NEAT Court) program and its application for funding. As a Director at Clark County Juvenile Justice Services, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact that neurodevelopmental disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) can have on youth involved in the justice system. The NEAT Court program's mission to increase access to neuropsychological, psychiatric, and cognitive testing for youth suspected of exposure aligns with critical needs in our community and presents a promising avenue for positive change.

The NEAT Court program is an invaluable initiative, as it seeks to address the intersection between neurodevelopmental disorders and juvenile justice. The goals outlined for NEAT Court ranging from increasing access to timely and comprehensive testing to providing supportive services for affected youth and their families are essential for improving outcomes for these vulnerable populations. By providing youth diagnosed with ASD or FASD the resources, interventions, and educational support they need, NEAT Court will reduce the risk of further justice system involvement and promote healthier, more successful futures for participants.

The proposed budget for the management analyst, neuropsychologist, and services such as ABA Therapy, Parent Training, and Legal Aid will provide the crucial infrastructure needed to carry out these objectives. The inclusion of mentorship, specialized targeted groups, and a focus on early diagnosis and intervention will ensure that youth and their families receive holistic support, improving both their mental health and their prospects for avoiding future involvement with the justice system.

I strongly believe that the NEAT Court program has the potential to make a lasting difference in the lives of youth affected by FASD and ASD. The outcomes expected, such as faster access to treatment, a higher success rate for completing the program, and more effective behavioral interventions, will have a lasting impact not only on the participants but on the community as a whole. I enthusiastically endorse this grant application and strongly encourage you to provide the necessary funding to help NEAT Court fulfill its critical mission.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important initiative. If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



John Muñoz