

16TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COURT SERVICES, COUNTY OF KANE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LISA J. AUST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 21, 2022

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Lisa Aust, Executive Director of Court Services
Re: Support for the Aurora Police Department's FY 22 Crises Intervention Team Grant

I am the Chief Probation Officer and Executive Director of Kane County's Court Services, under the jurisdiction of the 16th Judicial Circuit of Illinois. I oversee the operations of temporary juvenile detention, adult pretrial services, and adult and juvenile probation. The City of Aurora is the second largest city in the state of Illinois, the largest city in Kane County, and the single largest source of arrests for the local court. I was the Aurora probation manager for five years before becoming the Chief of Probation and have worked with the Aurora Police Department (APD) in some capacity my entire career. I have worked with Family Services Association of Greater Elgin Area (FSA) for many years through our probation and juvenile detention units. I wholeheartedly support APD in their pursuit of the FY22 Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT) grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as their partnership with FSA to implement the CIT.

Working in community corrections is not easy. A large part of what we do is trying to find agencies that will work with our clients even when they are disruptive and difficult to work with. FSA has consistently been able to work with our clients with all of their challenges, strengths, and needs. FSA has worked with us on various court driven initiatives, supported our specialty courts, served on various community mental health and domestic violence committees, done crisis interventions in our juvenile detention facility, and facilitated hospitalizations when needed.

When the APD partnered with FSA a couple of years ago on CIT, we saw a significant decrease in arrests and police referrals to court. I'm not surprised. Their partnership not only provides mental health resources to people who may be in crises, but they also work to increase collaborations with community partners including hospitals, schools, court services, social service organizations and other law enforcement agencies. They have been successful at connecting individuals with mental health and other services in lieu of jail.

I truly support the continued collaboration between APD and FAS and the application for the FY 22 Crises Intervention Team Grant. The CIT program makes our community stronger and safer.

Sincerely,

Lisa Aust, Executive Director