



# Blount County Government

TO: Blount County Commissioners

FROM: Juvenile Court

RE: Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council Community Grant Award

DATE: May 24, 2024

1. Journey Court is a specialty juvenile court that addresses co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health conditions for the most at-risk children in our community. Blount County does not have an Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) for adolescents and has desperately needed one the last two decades. There is a gap in much-needed services as the nearest adolescent IOP is located in Knox County.
2. Blount County Juvenile Court, in partnership with McNabb Centers, Inc., applied for a Tennessee Opioid Abatement Council Community Grant Award (OAC or OAC Grant Award). The OAC has awarded grant funds to support Journey Court, specifically to fund McNabb Centers, Inc., to provide an adolescent Intensive Outpatient Program for co-occurring substance use disorders and mental health conditions, which will include an evidence-based, validated curriculum, a dedicated therapist, and a dedicated case manager. The OAC Grant Award will also fund court support for Journey Court hearings. NOTE: This item has not been brought previously to the budget committee. *Please see the attached.*
3. Without a local Intensive Outpatient Program, our community's youth must travel to Knox County for treatment, which is a significant barrier to successful outcomes for our community's youth.
4. The OAC Grant Award is a three-year, non-matching grant award of \$220,000 per year, for a total of \$660,000 over the life of the grant. Blount County will contract with McNabb Centers, Inc., to provide the above-referenced services.
5. Without this funding, our community's most vulnerable, at-risk youth will not be able to address potentially life-saving treatment for their substance use disorders and co-occurring mental health conditions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kenlyn Foster", is written over a horizontal line.

Kenlyn Foster, Judge  
Blount County Juvenile Court