April 16, 2019

## Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Department of Mental Health 25 Staniford St., Boston, MA 02114

Re: Jail/Arrest Diversion Grant Program

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to provide this Letter of Support for the South Hadley Police Department to request grant funding from the Department of Mental Health to develop a Crisis Intervention Team to respond to community members with behavioral health disorders. With the implementation of an effective Crisis Intervention Team model of providing police services, the South Hadley Police strive to reduce the growing number of people with mental illness and/or co-occurring substance use disorders from entering the criminal and juvenile justice system. I support this approach to assisting our community members in crisis. The South Hadley Police Crisis Intervention Team committed to providing a linkage for people with behavioral health disorders to treatment improves the safety for the South Hadley community. I am further encouraged that the South Hadley Police grant proposal will focus on both elders and juveniles/and their families as there is a great need to serve these populations.

Sincerely,

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