

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
October 25, 2023

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Ron Jacobs and Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website, Courthouse bulletin board and emailed to the Argus Observer, Malheur Enterprise, and those persons who have requested notice. The meeting was audio recorded. The agenda is recorded as instrument # 2023-3046

GREATER OREGON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INC/LIFEWAYS

Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc. (GOBHI) CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Karen Wheeler and GOBHI Board Member/Lifeways CEO Steve Jensen met with the Court. Also present were: Lourdes Reyna, GOBHI Community Health Development Director; Yamileth Gonzalez from Oregon Health Authority; Lifeways Outpatient Clinical Director Ron Van Ausdal; Lifeways Intensive Outpatient Services Clinical Director Andrea Recla; Lifeways former client and current employee James; and Lifeways client Chris. Ms. Wheeler also serves as the Behavioral Health Director for Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO) and the Tribal Liaison for EOCCO.

Ms. Wheeler provided a brief background of GOBHI and EOCCO. EOCCO has no staff; GOBHI and Moda Health staff EOCCO. GOBHI and Moda Health are the primary owners of EOCCO (each own 29%); the other is owned by hospital systems, two independent physician clinics and a federally qualified health center. On behalf of EOCCO, GOBHI administers the behavioral health benefit and the non-emergent medical transportation benefit and also takes the lead on the community engagement work for EOCCO. Every five years each coordinated care organization must complete a Community Health Assessment and GOBHI is preparing for the next assessment.

Ms. Reyna provided information on the Community Health Assessment process. EOCCO serves 12 counties and expanded community and member engagement is a goal in completing the community health assessment process. A team of individuals who live within the various counties will be assisting in the process. Health data will be reviewed. Priority goals for the next five years will be developed - to include priority goals for each of the counties as well as the region. The final Community Health Plan is due December 2024.

Ms. Wheeler explained how the behavioral health system is financed; because the population of the CCO (Coordinated Care Organization) region is so small GOBHI mainly works through the Community Mental Health Programs (CMHP's). Oregon Health Authority (OHA) provides capitation funds to the CCO's; EOCCO sends the capitation funds for behavioral health and the non-emergent transportation component as well as a per member/per month dollar amount for community engagement work to GOBHI. GOBHI then sends most of the capitation funds to the

Community Mental Health Programs such as Lifeways. CMHP's are also at risk for hospital level of service; when a client accesses psychiatric hospital level of care that cost is taken from the CMHP's capitation funding.

Ms. Wheeler reviewed the array of behavioral health services that are funded for both youth services and adult services. GOBHI also administers Therapeutic Foster Care statewide; this is outside of the CCO work but is a Medicaid funded service through Department of Human Services (DHS).

Value-based payment model was put into place last year (also called alternative payment model); certain benchmarks are included in the CMHP contracts and there are financial payments for meeting the benchmarks.

Mr. Jensen provided data on Lifeways services and clients for the last several years. In 2020 the total number of services dipped quite a bit; this was during the pandemic when the economy shut down and people did not get out much. Lifeways offers a full array of behavioral health services.

Ms. Recla provided an overview of crises services. The need for crises services has dramatically increased and state funding was made available to expand crises services. Lifeways now has a 24-hour mobile crises team that can respond in teams of two within the community. Mobile Response Stabilization Services (MRSS) is a crises services program that helps individuals 20 and younger and their families who may need a bit more help. There is also a 24-hour crises dispatch team. In 2022 Lifeways provided 232 crises assessments in Malheur county. As of today, in 2023 there have been 370 crises assessments (53 unique mobile crises services with an average response time of 35.6 minutes). Congressional funding is expected summer of 2024 for a crisis's stabilization unit.

Mr. Van Ausdal explained that Lifeways recently opened a youth center in Ontario. Youth will be provided treatment in the facility and it is a warm safe place to go. Various services for youth are offered through Lifeways.

Mr. Jensen explained that the Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) grant funding was split three ways in Malheur County; Lifeways received about one-third of the funding and used the funding to expand services for low barrier treatment. The focus going into the next year will be to work towards creating a drop-in facility. Mr. Jensen is also advocating for use of some of the funding for medical detox. Additionally, grant funding has been received for a 10-12-unit housing project; this will be supported housing for individuals going through treatment.

Personal client stories were shared by James and Chris.

See instrument # 2023-3047 for the 23/24 Community Health Assessment - Community Engagement/Data Sharing document from GOBHI; and instrument # 2023-3048 for Lifeways 2023 Data Sets document

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Court Minutes of October 18, 2023 as written. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

IGA 180022 - AMENDMENT

Commissioner Jacobs moved to approve Amendment No. 3 to Oregon Health Authority 2023-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement for the Financing of Public Health Services, Agreement #180022. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funding is added for PE51-03 ARPA WF Funding. A copy will be returned for recording.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was called in accordance with ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 192.660(2)(a) - Employment of Public Officers, Employees and Agents with Judge Joyce presiding and Commissioner Jacobs and Commissioner Mendiola present. Also present were: Assessor Dave Ingram, Snake River Economic Development Alliance (SREDA) Executive Director Kristen Nieskens, Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Taylor Rembowski. No decisions were made during the session.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Consensus of the Court was to authorize Ms. DuBois to make an employment offer to the number one candidate beginning at Step 1 on the salary schedule.

TRACK C

Commissioner Jacobs moved to authorize payment of MCDC (Malheur County Development Corporation) invoice for steel for Track C in the amount of \$531,361.37. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed unanimously. (This amount will be deducted from the \$2 million the Court previously authorized for construction of Track C.)

COURT ADJOURNMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.