

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES

February 5, 2020

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 10:30 a.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Larry Wilson and Commissioner Don Hodge present. Staff present was Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website and Courthouse public 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 # [2020-512](#)

Also present was Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of January 29, 2020 as written. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AOC DUES

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve payment of Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) 2020 Membership Dues in the amount of \$21,319.93. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT - IGA #159173

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Fifth (5th) Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2019-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Financing of Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery, & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services Agreement #159173; original IGA is recorded as instrument # [2019-2611](#). Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funds are removed and funds are awarded for A&D (Alcohol & Drug) 63 Peer Delivered Services. A copy of the amendment will be returned for recording.

AMENDMENT - IGA #159822

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Sixth (6th) Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2019-2021 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Financing of Public Health Services Agreement #159822; original IGA is recorded as instrument # [2019-3374](#) Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Funds are added to PE (Program Element) 13-01 Tobacco Prevention and Education Program (TPEP); and to PE 51-01 LPHA Leadership, Governance and Program Implementation. A copy of the amendment will be returned for recording.

SCHOOL BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Present to discuss mental health services in schools were: Malheur Education Service District (ESD) Superintendent Mark Redmond, ESD Student Wellness Coordinator Jennifer Suzuki, Vale School District Superintendent Alisha McBride, Nyssa School District Superintendent Darren

Johnson, Harper Charter School Superintendent Ron Talbot, Ontario School District Superintendent Nikki Albisu, Ontario School District Director of School Improvement Melissa Williams, Lifeways Board Member Mike Hanigan, Lifeways Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Tim Hoekstra, Executive Director of Business Excellence Liz Johnsen, Executive Director of Umatilla and Malheur Counties Micaela Cathey, TFP Therapeutic Services Lead Administrative Assistant Lucy Banks, Juvenile Department Director Susan Gregory, Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth, Planner Eric Evans, and County Counsel Stephanie Williams. Introductions were made. Mr. Redmond explained that the County has the opportunity to accept funds through its State IGA for School Based Mental Health Services (Service Element MHS 13) and that the County can award those funds to whatever provider it chooses. (This is new funding; the State IGA has not provided funding in the past for this service element; funding is \$142,857 for the 2019-2021 biennium.) The various representatives of the schools explained that Lifeways has been involved in the schools in the past (2016-present) and various concerns arose from the partnerships such as sporadic attendance, inconsistent services, not following district policies, waivers not signed by parents, staff turnover, and lack of communication. Services have been provided in Ontario schools since 2016 but the staffing level has been inconsistent and services have been reduced. It was noted that Prevention services provided by Lifeways in the schools have been positive and supportive. Ms. Suzuki mentioned concerns with the response and follow up to students who may be suicidal and that more communication is needed with the high need's students. Melissa Williams noted that the schools have a need for risk assessments and Lifeways does not provide that service. Mr. Redmond explained that in 2018 he was working with Lifeways staff on projects and concerns and then about a year ago communication ended.

Mr. Redmond requested that a proposal process be developed to include review and accountability for the service elements in the IGA between the State and County. Mr. Redmond also encouraged that representatives of the various stakeholders be involved in the development of the comprehensive local plan. The schools are currently developing a Student Success Act Plan (due April 15); mental health is a component of the Plan and funds will be designated for mental health in the various school districts as results of community surveys identify mental health as a top priority.

Mr. Hoekstra thanked those present for the input and explained that when he started with Lifeways two years ago he had considerable concerns for Lifeways in multiple areas, including Umatilla County. One of the reasons for the staff turnover the schools mentioned is that those staff members are no longer with Lifeways due to concerns with the interplay between staff and the schools. Lifeways cares about the outcomes that public health is trying to achieve; cares about what is happening in the jail, emergency departments and hospitals, schools, and the community at large in terms of safety and economic factors. Lifeways services are wide and does great things; and there are certainly areas that can be improved. An overhaul was done in Umatilla County around the relationships with the schools, not unsimilar to some of the concerns voiced today. A system redesign needs to take place in order to create a better system; schools and the FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) have a role in the system. The schools can use their funding to manage the more immediate and brief issues with students and their families and bring in Lifeways as a more intensive community partner around services; this is a common design in a well implemented and structured system. Mr. Hoekstra has encouraged Mr. Redmond to reach out to the ESD superintendent in Umatilla County (InterMountain ESD). The Community Mental Health Provider

(CMHP) is not able to do all things; it has to be a system design. The conversation needs to be "what does the system need to look like and how do we get there".

Ms. Cathey explained that she cannot change or own what happened in previous administrations; today's session has been informative and Lifeways is invested in moving forward and finding solutions. A local behavioral health advisory committee is required by statute and this is an opportunity to develop the committee to advise the LMHA (local mental health authority), CMHP, and stakeholders, and provide a venue for a different level of accountability and a different level of conversation about priorities and how to address those areas. The funding in Service Element MHS 13 does not provide for mental health therapists (Master's level therapists) in all of the schools in Malheur County; mental health is one piece of behavioral health.

Ms. Johnsen explained that her position is centered around compliance and quality; and noted that in the 2017-2019 biennium Lifeways served 21,000 unique clients. Capitation funding must be spread across the entire system - from inpatient services to prevention services. The service element funds are intended to support what is already encountered. Lifeways also applies for the same grants as other agencies apply to. Moving forward all the partners should be reporting on the same outcomes as that is the only way all of the systems can show their value to the State and legislature.

County Counsel noted she did contact Valley Family Health Care (VFHC) about the School Based Mental Health Services service element and she has not received a response. Lifeways noted they are supportive of another entity receiving the funds and providing the services (such as the schools, ESD, VFHC). If Lifeways accepts the funds as the County's community mental health provider the funding will be used to support the services currently provided in the Ontario School District. Mr. Hoekstra reiterated that the FQHC (Federal Qualified Health Center) - Valley Family Health Care - needs to be encouraged to join the conversations.

COURT ADJOURNMENT

By consensus the meeting was adjourned.