

MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES
March 26, 2025

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioner Jim Mendiola present. Commissioner Ron Jacobs was absent. Members of the media, public and staff had the opportunity to join the meeting electronically or in-person. Present in the meeting room were Administrative Officer Lorinda DuBois and Economic and Community Development Director Taylor Rembowski. 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 # 2025-0861

LIFEWAYS - LMHA PRESENTATION; UPDATE ON PROJECT HOPE

Lifeways CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Steve Jensen met with the Court and gave a presentation on the Local Mental Health Authority (LMHA) and a Project Hope update. Funding requests for Project Hope have been submitted to Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the governor's office for a crisis stabilization center and a substance use and addiction (SUD) residential program in Ontario. Oregon Health Authority distributes funding (through contracts) to LMHA's and to Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs). The LMHA is the County; the LMHA can provide their own services or contract with a third party to provide the services. The County has contracted with Lifeways to provide the services as the Community Mental Health Program (CMHP) for nearly 30 years. The CCO for our area is the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (EOCCO); EOCCO contracts with OHA to deliver Medicaid (Oregon Health Plan (OHP)) benefits. EOCCO contracts with GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc.) to oversee and manage the mental health benefit for OHP members enrolled in EOCCO. GOBHI contracts with Community Mental Health Programs (CMHP) to provide outpatient behavioral health services to OHP members (in-network providers). See County Clerk for diagram.

The LMHA is required to provide numerous safety net services; and as the CMHP Lifeways provides the services. Services provided by Lifeways include: Crises Stabilization and Respite; Integrated Intensive Behavioral Health Treatment; Jail Diversion; Assertive Community Treatment; Deflection; Aid & Assist; 24/7 two-person Mobile Crisis Response Team; Community Developmental Disabilities Program; Supported Employment; Early Assessment and Support Alliance; Psychiatric Security Review Board; Case Management; School-based Services; Peer Delivered Services; Parent/Child Interactive Therapy; Civil Commitment; Safe Court; Prevention; Problem Gambling; Abuse Investigation; and Housing Assistance.

Key legislation includes the Community Mental Health Act of 1963 (federal); the Community Mental Health Program Act of 1973 (ORS (Oregon Revised Statutes) 430.610-630); and the Oregon Coordinated Care Organization (CCO) Legislation HB3650 & SB1580 in 2012.

The role of the County as the LMHA to provide those services that are required in statutes is separate from the CCO's role of providing the regular therapy assessment types of services.

Judge Joyce asked what the difference was between a Medicaid provider or program and a CMHP provider or program. Judge Joyce explained that about a month ago, Altruistic Recovery approached the City of Vale and sought support for multiple mental health/behavioral health providers in Malheur County; and that Altruistic Recovery is meeting with the Court next week to discuss Choice and Care: Strengthening Malheur County's Behavioral Health Network.

Mr. Jensen explained that there is nothing that connects the County's contract with Lifeways to the contract between GOBHI (Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc) and Lifeways. There is no connection between the County responsibilities and the CCO responsibilities. The CCO is responsible for providing a network of providers to provide services for the Medicaid enrollees. So, is the network referred to by Altruistic Recovery a network for providing treatment under the CCO or the County's (LMHA) safety net services? Because the two are completely separate.

GOBHI has an in-network system (in-network providers and out-of-network providers). Lifeways is the in-network provider for Malheur county and Lifeways has a subcontract with TFP to provide additional resources as an in-network provider. If Lifeways cannot provide an appointment within seven days then it is possible to utilize the entire GOBHI network to get someone into a provider. Altruistic is an out-of-network provider and has the ability to submit claims to GOBHI as an out-of-network provider; Altruistic can go through a pre-approval process to treat individuals who approach them for treatment. GOBHI is trying to hold costs down by having a network; GOBHI uses its in-network providers as well to provide a methodology to control costs. GOBHI uses a capitation system; GOBHI gives the in-network provider a capitated payment; and the provider is required to provide services to everyone within their region. Lifeways is the in-network provider, receives the capitated payment, and treats and sees everybody who walks through their door.

All but 13 counties in Oregon contract with outside entities to provide the CMHP services. The EOCCO has approximately 76,000 individuals enrolled in Medicaid; Malheur County had approximately 16,000 last year.

Update on Project Hope: It is hoped to build a crises stabilization center and secure residential treatment facility on property next to the Lifeways facility on Sunset Drive. Department of Justice and Oregon Health Authority are working on contract requirements for the funding. Mr. Jensen will meet with the Court next week and present a proposed Purchase and Sale Agreement for the County owned property behind the Argus Observer.

Judge Joyce closed the County Court session and opened the Ambulance Service District session.

AMBULANCE SERVICE DISTRICT (ASD) SESSION

The Court met as the governing body of the Ambulance Service District (ASD). Present was Lt. Rich Harriman; representatives of the ambulance providers were present electronically. County Counsel Stephanie Williams explained the providers were requesting additional funding of \$8,500 be added to the disposable medical supplies line-item. \$57,000 was originally budgeted and those

funds have been depleted. The requested \$8,500 would need to be transferred from a different line-item within the ASD budget. The supplies are purchased from Life Assist and used by the providers, such as TVP, Vale Ambulance, Jordan Valley Ambulance, and Rescue 1. Unused medical supplies are disposed of when expiration dates are reached. The ASD is a special district; funding for the ASD is from a \$16 per household assessment, assessment on hotel rooms, and a per employee assessment on employers. Transferring funds will reduce the cash on hand for next year's budget. Judge Joyce moved to transfer \$8,500 from Payroll Costs to Disposable Medical Supplies. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. Ms. DuBois will prepare a budget transfer resolution

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Agreement between Ambulance Service District (ASD) and Richard Harriman - Compensation for Performing Duties of ASD Coordinator on an Interim Basis. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. Lt. Harriman will perform the duties of the ASD Coordinator until the position can be permanently filled. See instrument # 2025-0862

The ASD session was closed and the County Court session was reopened.

COURT MINUTES

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Court Minutes of March 19, 2025 as written. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed.

IGA #26018 AMENDMENT

Judge Joyce moved to approve Eighth Amendment to Oregon Health Authority 2024-2025 Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the Financing of Community Mental Health, Addiction Treatment, Recovery, & Prevention, and Problem Gambling Services, Agreement # PO-44300-00026018. Commissioner Mendiola seconded and the motion passed. Aid and Assist Client Services funds were awarded. See instrument # 2025-0874

GRANT APPLICATION RESOLUTION - ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Commissioner Mendiola moved to approve Grant Application Resolution for the Department of Revenue's County Assessment Function Funding Assessment (CAFFA) Program. Judge Joyce seconded and the motion passed. By approving the resolution, the County agrees to appropriate budgeted dollars based on 100 percent of the expenditures certified in the grant application amount of \$1,446,639. See instrument # 2025-0863

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Judge Joyce asked for public comments from the audience; there were none.

COURT ADJOURNEMENT

Judge Joyce adjourned the meeting.