

## **MALHEUR COUNTY COURT MINUTES**

**June 24, 2020**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the County Court was called to order by Judge Dan Joyce at 1:30 p.m. in the County Court Office of the Malheur County Courthouse with Commissioner Larry Wilson present and Commissioner Don Hodge present telephonically. Staff present was County Counsel Stephanie Williams. Various members of the public, media and staff were present electronically. Notice of the meeting was posted on the County website 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 [2020-2232](#)

The Malheur County Community Mental Health, Local Alcohol and Drug and Development Disabilities Advisory Committee held a meeting in conjunction with the County Court meeting. Minutes of the committee meeting were provided by Lifeways and are below (minor changes were made by County Court staff).

### **Malheur County Community Mental Health, Local Alcohol and Drug Development Disabilities Advisory Committee**

June 24, 2020

1:30 pm MT

#### **Invited Committee Members:**

Anna LaRosa (Saint Alphonsus Medical Center ER Nurse Manager); Bob Dickinson (Ambulance Service Director); Brian Wolfe (Malheur County Sheriff); Connie Tanaka (Veterans Service Officer); Jennifer Susuki (Student Wellness Coordinator - Malheur Education Service District); Jim St. Michell (Malheur County Community Corrections); Melissa Williams (Director of School Improvement - Ontario School District ); Sarah Poe (Malheur County Health Department Director); Susan Gregory (Malheur County Juvenile Department Director); Wendy Hill (Director Department of Human Services Child Welfare); Ray Rau (Nyssa City Police Chief) (not present); Steven Romero (Ontario City Police Chief) (not present); and Ex-officio members: Micaela Cathey (Lifeways); Megan Gomeza (Valley Family Health Care); and County Judge Dan Joyce.

Also present were: Mark Redmond (Malheur ESD (Education Service District)); Liz Johnsen (Lifeways); Leanne Swetland (Lifeways); Kellie Dickinson (Lifeways); Tammy Cortright (Lifeways); Malheur County Commissioners Larry Wilson and Don Hodge; and Malheur County Counsel Stephanie Williams.

The meeting was called to order by County Court Judge Dan Joyce at 1:30 pm MT.

This was the first meeting of the working group.

A briefing and purpose of committee was reviewed.

- There was a previous County mental health department and it ended in 1998/99. At that time the County entered into a contract with Lifeways and it continues to present. This is for 100% of the County's programs. There are other counties who may have programs such as DD (Developmental Disabilities) or Alcohol and Drug retained at the county level. In Malheur County 100% of its programs were contracted out to Lifeways.
- Under statute Malheur County is the local mental health authority and Lifeways is the local mental health provider. As the provider, all State funding that Malheur County receives is passed thru to Lifeways; no general fund dollars from Malheur County are contributed to the programs or Lifeways. There has always been an advisory committee; no regular meetings have been held in the last few years. With the last audit, it was decided to reestablish the committee. The audit was done by Oregon Health Authority.
- This committee should be a variety of consumers, advocates, families, service providers, schools, and other interested parties to give input on the development of the comprehensive local plan. The committee will need to work on a comprehensive plan; proposed bylaws are drafted and are similar to the bylaws that governed the advisory committee in 1999. The committee quit holding regular meetings in approximately 2017. The only piece currently missing in the membership of the committee is some consumers and it is hoped that Lifeways can help with this. The committee is appointed by County Court. Staffing for the committee has been done by Lifeways in the past.

**Micaela Cathey, LCSW (Licensed Clinical Social Worker) |Executive Director Umatilla & Malheur Counties;** presented.

- Advised committee that Lifeways will work on getting some consumers to attend, but she would also like to see others reach out as well.
- Lifeways will provide minutes as well as a location going forward.
- A preview of data was provided for the group.
  - Malheur current active clients:

Total Active Clients - 2137 (Mental Health Services - 1745; Psychiatric Services - 1330; Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Services - 354; Substance Abuse Services - 444)

Payor Source Breakdowns: EOCCO/GOBHI/DMAP (Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization/Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc/Division of Medical Assistance Program): 1226; Medicare/Medicare Advantage/HMO (Health Maintenance Organization): 362; Other Payor Sources: 549

- A more formal dashboard report will be put together for future meetings.
- Micaela Cathey asked the group if the information given was relevant?
- Also looking at office hours and clients served, would like feedback on preferred timing on when appointments should be available.
- Jim St Michell, Lieutenant Malheur County Sheriff's Office - would like to see successful completions vs number that has been referred. How many clients are following through? This would be for Alcohol & Drug.

- Would like to see something on school age students as well, number of served or community settings vs office. It would be nice to have this broken down to see how many we are able to serve in schools vs in clinic.
- Wendy Hill, District Manager at Oregon Department of Human Services - would also like to see completions for ACT (Area Commission on Transportation).
- Micaela Cathey would like to see a survey put together and sent out to all the attendees vs. schedules (time frames). Office hours – availability for appointments – peer sessions.
- Kids schedules will also need to be looked at for the school year going forward.
- Megan Gomeza, Behavioral Health Director at Valley Family uses Lifeways as a referral source. Would like to understand potential wait time for appointments. She does like the way that Lifeways handles Crisis services. Would like to see data information regarding this as well. Numbers for crisis are tracked and Micaela Cathey will get these on the report.
- Sarah Poe, Director – Malheur County Health Department would like to see how many of these clients go to the Emergency Department (ED) who are experiencing crisis; these are the clients not getting the appropriate follow-up.
- Malheur County has a higher rate of ED visits. These clients do go into a higher level of care. Micaela advised we are currently trying to work on this and the outcome of these clients.
- Micaela Cathey asked for specific information from Sarah if this could be looked into. Liz added that GOBHI clients cannot be seen across the border in Idaho anymore due to a contractual change that GOBHI made. Sarah Poe was asked for this specific information.
- Brian Wolfe, Malheur County Sheriff added that it is very frustrating for Law Enforcement (LE) when LE takes them to the ED – lengthy wait for someone to show up and then an hour later the client is released onto the streets for them to deal with again. Looking for ideas on how to mitigate this issue.
- Anna LaRosa, St. Alphonsus Emergency Services Manager asked the law enforcement to contact the ED if there are clients discharged after evaluated by a Lifeways crisis worker and then back in crisis for the LE officer to deal with.
- Wendy Hill would like baseline data, how many crisis visits to the hospital, what age groups? Wendy Hill would like all ED visits, as well as admission to acute psychiatric care facilities; as well as historical crisis information, possibly information over the last year.
- Megan Gomeza would also like to see data on wait time for referrals for Alcohol & Drug/Substance Abuse services and Mental Health assessments, as well as psychiatric assessments.
- Jenn Susuki, Student Wellness Coordinator ESD (Educational Service District) - as well as ages of clients would also like to see towns included on data.
- Micaela Cathey will work with Quality team on establishing the dashboard.

## **Update on COVID**

- Lifeways went to 90% video during COVID outbreak. We are now doing approximately 60% as we move back into offices. Screening is taking place. Limited staff and clients who come into office. We are offering both services to clients depending on client. We are also beginning to open up scheduled UA's (urine analysis), as well as group times. Numbers will have to be limited due to distancing practices. There will also be full

sanitation. Same goes for peer groups as well as limited numbers. Continual balancing of trying to meet needs and to keep all safe.

- Jim St Michell – can Lifeways staff go into the jail to do assessments? It has been by phone or video, but now utilizing face to face, but not up to full access. MH (mental health) side, will someone be coming into Community Corrections? Micaela Cathey will get more information on this.
- Sarah Poe stated that when moving to phone appointments they have struggled with clients to keep appointments. Wondering what clients are doing on our end. She had heard that with jail diversion from Laurie that this was not happening. With the closure of Lifeways Recovery Center (LRC), how is this now handled?
- Micaela Cathey stated that jail diversion is not a feeder into a residential facility. It also serves the client to provide assessments and to connect to other avenues. There are some limitations with no in-person visits. Follow through rates have been pretty good but seeing quite a few no shows. This will continue to be an option both video and in-person going forward.

**Leanne Swetland, M.S. (Masters of Science) CDDP Program Manager |Foster Home Licensing & Certification Specialist/ Eligibility Specialist/ONA (Oregon Needs Assessment) Assessor/(DRC) Designated Referral Contact**

#### **Malheur County Community Developmental Disabilities Program (CDDP)**

- Overview of services was provided to group. Leanne walked through how many foster homes we have and capacities for DD (Developmental Disabilities), MH (Mental Health) and children. Also help with supported living. Demographics was covered with the groups. 138 individuals currently served. Serviced all around the communities. Needing improvement items were covered. Currently must refer clients out to Pendleton for administrative exams for eligibility. CDDP needs to develop a stronger presence in community. Need intensive supports in this area. All Foster Homes in area are level 1 homes, no intensive medical homes. Some goals were covered with group.

**Kellie Dickinson, CADC (Certified Alcohol and Drug) II, QMHA (Qualified Mental Health Associate) | SUD Program Administrator**

- Overview of program was given. Group would like to see dashboard for success rates. Currently carrying over 190 clients in SUD (Substance Abuse Disorder). Programs offered through SUD were covered. Jail diversion has been a challenge due to COVID 19 restrictions. Hours of operation was discussed. Our community needs more accessibility. Looking at increasing groups, who can access telehealth and who can't. Can we bring them into facility to overcome barriers?

- Jim St Michell – referrals to in-patient, can the counselor send directly? Yes, they should be able to, some are not doing intakes at this time, as there are wait lists.
- Jim St Michell – would after hours groups be at Lifeways? Kellie Dickinson advised that we would, but the groups that are currently at jail would remain.
- Jim St Michell – has Lifeways considered a Sex Offender program? Kellie Dickinson will put this on to the executive team to put on the plate. Melissa Williams advised this is a need for treatment for the offenders.

This will conclude Lifeways presentation.

### **Sarah Poe, Director – Malheur County Health Department**

- Disappointed that we didn't have better preparation for this meeting.
- There are problems with Lifeways. Need leadership – local leadership. CEO (Chief Executive Officer) doesn't show up or know what is going on. Not a lot of Lifeways presentation.
- Huge escalation in communicable diseases, meth uses up, overdoses going up due to not receiving effective treatment. No follow through. Keep hitting a brick wall when trying to connect with Lifeways. Community needs better care.
- Micaela appreciates the feedback and would like to encourage more contact and meetings. The role of coverage for both counties was discussed. LCAC (Local Community Advisory Council) attendance was discussed.
- Jim St Michell asked with the 6 CADC (Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor) – how many work with adults. 4 do. Kellie Dickinson reviewed who works with adults and who with children. Jim St Michell advised that there are a lot of clients coming through community corrections. Sometimes it seems the clinician is too busy to handle most of these. There are concerns with the clinician doing BIP (Batterers' Intervention Program) as well as groups and everything else. This has not been staffed with the clinician, and now that everything is starting back up again, Jim wanted to know if the current clinician would be the only one doing this. Previously Roy had been doing BIP before. Wants to make sure all community needs are met. Kellie Dickinson advised they are looking at all caseloads to make sure that every client's needs are met.
- Jenn Suzuki – would like update on MH care for toddlers and preschool. Micaela Cathey advised what we have for this age group. Some are limited due to COVID. We continue to offer outreach to families. Jenn Suzuki would like to know what groups are available even before COVID. Micaela advised that we have PCIT (Parent-Child Interaction Therapy) program at Lifeways. Also have individual services with WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) program. Play therapy is the primary approach that is utilized when working with the younger kids; family therapy is also an important component. Megan Gomeza asked if we use CPP – Child Parent Psychotherapy. – yes.

Next steps: Next meeting end of July. Dates available and not. Agenda, bylaws, chair and vice chair. At Lifeways and electronically.

Micaela Cathey asked if the group wanted to meet monthly or quarterly. Dashboard report would be provided quarterly. It was suggested we start monthly meetings and move to quarterly later.

Will schedule for the 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30 going forward. Brian Wolfe will not be available in July, Wendy Hill has a conflict through September. There are some conflicts with LRC task force meetings. Suggested for 4th Tuesday with conflicts. Do we want it on a Wednesday for county court? There is not a requirement that it is schedule during county court. Will resume on 4th Wednesday of month going forward. Lifeways will do calendar invite going forward. These meeting minutes are subject to public record keeping and consumers can attend at any time. We can decide how consumers participate. Update on school services for next meeting was requested of Micaela Cathey – Lifeways.

With no further business the advisory committee meeting was concluded at 2:43 pm MT.

The County Court portion of the meeting continued.

### **COURT MINUTES**

Commissioner Hodge moved to approve Court Minutes of June 17, 2020. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **ROAD ACCEPTANCE**

Commissioner Wilson moved to accept road dedication of a portion of 6th Avenue West on Byron and Becky Clark's Partition Plat #20-10. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. See instrument #[2020-2235](#)

### **COMMITTED FUND BALANCES**

Commissioner Wilson moved that the Malheur County Court hereby report the 2019/2020 ending fund balances of the following Special Revenue Funds as "Committed Fund Balances." These committed fund balance amounts can only be used for the specific purposes for which they were imposed unless the Malheur County Court removes or changes the specified use by taking the same type of action (legislation, resolution, or ordinance) it employed to previously commit those amounts.

The Special Revenue Funds are: Major Bridge, Surveyor Corner Preservation, Community Corrections, Law Library, Boat License, Corrections Assessment, DA (District Attorney) Enforcement, Taylor Grazing, Task Force, Ambulance Service District, Juvenile Crime Prevention, Wolf Depredation Fund, Economic Development, Agricultural Educational Extension Service District, 911 Fund, Traffic Safety, Court Facilities Security, State Drug Court, State Mediation, CVSO (County Veterans Service Officer) Expansion, Search & Rescue, GIS (Geographical Information System) Maintenance, Clerk's Record Fund, Special Transportation Fund, Work Release Construction, Federal Forfeitures Fund, and Building Department.

Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. This motion is effective as of June 24, 2020.

### **CONTINUED STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARATION - COVID-19**

Commissioner Wilson moved to approve Resolution No. R20-25: In the Matter of Declaring a Continued State of Emergency within Malheur County. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The County Court finds Malheur County in a continued state of

emergency due to the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19 or Coronavirus and formally declares a continued state of emergency for Malheur County effective June 24, 2020 and continuing until December 31, 2020, unless extended or terminated earlier by the County Court. See instrument [#2020-2234](#)

#### **HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFFING**

Commissioner Hodge moved to authorize Health Department Director Sarah Poe advertise/hire a communicable disease nurse and an Office Assistant II using State COVID-19 funds. Commissioner Wilson seconded and the motion passed unanimously. These will be temporary contract positions.

#### **COURT ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned.

Temporary Policy regarding Face Covering in County Buildings is recorded as instrument [#2020-2290](#) The policy is authorized pursuant to the Governor's County Specific Mask, Face Shield, Face Covering Guidance effective July 1, 2020.