

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Malheur County Advisory Committee

Date: June 25, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Hybrid (In-person and Zoom)

Attendees:

- **Committee Members and Guests:**
 - Jenn Susuki (MESD)
 - Rachel Weideman (Lifeways)
 - Steve Jensen (Lifeways)
 - Annette Volk (Altruistic Recovery)
 - Anna LaRosa (Saint Alphonsus)
 - Jody Warnock (Community in Action)
 - Cathy (STAR Center)
 - Jim St. Michell (Parole & Probation)
 - Dan Joyce (Judge)
 - Ken Hart (VFHC)
 - Travis Johnson (Sheriff)
 - Suzanne Steele (Lifeways – SUD)
 - Ron Van Ausdal (Lifeways – Outpatient Clinical Director)
 - Brad Andrews (Lifeways – DD Program)
 - Andrea Recla (Lifeways – IOP Clinical Director)
 - Ted Martinez (Youth Parole & Probation)
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Meeting Highlights:

Introductions & Quorum

- Welcomed new attendees including Jody Warnock and Cathy (STAR Center).
- Noted this meeting has been ongoing (with some breaks) for 30+ years and is required by statute.
- Quorum was not initially met, but later confirmed upon Ken Hart's arrival.

Approval of Minutes

- **April 8th and May 2025 minutes** were approved once quorum was established.
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Key Updates and Presentations:

Steve Jensen: Major OHA Changes & Local Planning

- Provided a detailed history of mental health authority development since 1963.
- Reviewed upcoming **OHA changes effective January 2026**:
 - Transition from categorical funding to a **block grant model**.
 - Counties/CMHPs must submit a **local plan and budget by October 1, 2025**.
 - Priority services are now:
 1. Aid & Assist
 2. PSRB
 3. Civil Commitment
- Significant concern regarding **funding adequacy**, flexibility, and sustainability of safety net services under the new model.
- Counties pushing back on intergovernmental agreement (IGA) language to avoid unfunded mandates.

Discussion Points:

- Need for community needs assessment or leveraging existing assessments.
 - Lifeways and committee must identify service gaps and draft a plan with budget.
 - Rachel may lead coordination of draft local plan and will distribute the IGA for review.
 - Group acknowledged increased workload and short timeline.
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Program Updates:

Lifeways (SUD & Outpatient):

- New clinicians hired; no waitlist for EOCCO members.
- Harm reduction vending machine operational (excluding needle exchange).
- SUD program receiving new “Burden” funding (July 2025–June 2029).

Crisis Services & Respite Facility:

- 5-bed respite facility nearing completion (pending trench work and fencing).
- Increased crisis response volume noted.

Developmental Disabilities:

- New project: client info binders shared with local police (comforts, triggers, contacts).
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Community Partner Updates:

Community in Action (Jody Warnock):

- All shelter and transitional housing sites remain open.
- Received funding for onsite restrooms and office space at tiny shelter site.
- Seeking elected official to serve on their board (quarterly meetings).

Saint Alphonsus (Anna LaRosa):

- Partnering more with Lifeways to align senior-level collaboration.
- New clothing closet project for ER patients supported by grant funding.

STAR Center (Cathy):

- Nearing completion of remodel.
- Appreciated use of Lifeways space during recent facility closures.

Parole & Probation (Jim St. Michell):

- Jail diversion program functioning well; ongoing collaboration with Lifeways.

Valley Family Health:

- Focused on behavioral health integration, warm handoffs.
- Launching in-house pharmacies in multiple sites.
- Working strategically to improve core services without overexpanding.

Malheur ESD / Schools (Rachel):

- 270 prevention presentations across schools conducted by either ESD Counselors or Lifeways Staff.
- Behavioral safety assessments with clinical input are highly valued by schools.

Action Items / Next Steps:

1. **Distribute IGA Document** to all committee members for review.
 2. **Develop Draft Local Plan & Budget** by October 1, 2025.
 3. **Identify Service Gaps** and discuss prioritization of services at upcoming meetings.
 4. **Jenn to connect with Anna** regarding chairing the next meeting.
 5. **Committee Chair Elections** postponed to allow for increased member participation.
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Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn passed. Meeting concluded at approximately 1 hour and 26 minutes after start.