

Meeting Minutes

Malheur County Community Mental Health, Local Alcohol & Drug, and Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee

Date: October 22, 2025

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Virtual / Hybrid Meeting

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair **Jenn Susuki**.

2. Approval of Agenda & June Minutes

- Agenda was reviewed; no revisions requested.
 - June meeting minutes approved unanimously.
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3. Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

4. Behavioral Health Program Updates

Mental Health Services (Lifeways)

Presenter: Ron Van Ausdal

- Lifeways continues to maintain *no wait list* for EOCCO members; **same-day access** remains above 90% compliance.
- **Crisis Respite Center** (former Valley Family building on 4th Ave.) expected to open **within ~3 months**, goal **January**.
 - Facility purpose is short-term respite and stabilization (rest, shower, meals, service linkage).
 - Not intended to function as a shelter or long-term housing.
- Future campus planning may allow building repurposing; **no assurances** at this time.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services

Presenter: Lifeways SUD Team

- New **bilingual CADC** hired; working toward certified interpreter credentials.
- Planning creation of **youth-specific drop-in day/activities**, including recreational supports.
- School-based services expanding: now in **Vale High School**; interest in **Huntington**.

Developmental Disabilities (DD) Program

Presenter: Lifeways / CDDP

- **CDDP relocation** scheduled for the **first week of November** to new Ontario downtown location.
 - **New bilingual service coordinator** hired; expected to begin during the move.
 - DD team reports generally positive collaboration with school districts, with recent coordination support noted.
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5. Legislative & Policy Updates

- **Local Plan** submitted to OHA; revisions likely due in **December**.
 - OHA funding model is shifting to a **single combined funding allocation** rather than separate categorical streams.
 - Community prioritization will be needed; crisis response remains top identified community need.
 - Recent survey feedback emphasized:
 - Strengthening **mobile crisis response**
 - Clearer coordination with schools and first responders.
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6. Community Partner Updates & Discussion

Law Enforcement

Presenter: Travis Johnson

- Crisis response interactions increasing.
- Challenges persist when individuals decline voluntary services and do not meet legal criteria for holds.
- Emphasized need for continued progress in crisis response/mobile services.

Schools

Presenter: Jose M.

- School districts appreciate **ongoing collaborative communication** with Lifeways when complex student situations arise.

Community Behavioral Health Providers

Presenter: Annette

- Their medical provider expected to complete **Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner** credentialing by **December** (openings anticipated early 2026).
- Continued willingness to collaborate, share referrals, and co-support clients.

Hospital / Emergency Care

Presenter: Anna LaRosa

- Strong support and excitement for Lifeways' Crisis Respite Center; noted it will reduce unnecessary ER boarding and improve appropriate behavioral health response.

Youth Empowerment Program

Presenter: Barb

- Youth listening sessions completed; priorities identified:
 - **Life skills**
 - **Certifications**
 - **Mentoring**
 - **Safe recreation/connection spaces**
 - **Skill Up for Life** sessions ongoing (CPR/FA, Food Handler, QPR, Safe Sitter).
 - Program now includes transportation support and alumni mentors.
 - Planning upcoming **youth self-defense training series**.
 - Partnership success with Nyssa Christian Fellowship for youth activity space.
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7. Committee Business

- Committee chair and vice chair elections will be conducted **via email** to ensure quorum.
- Discussion regarding meeting frequency: proposal to move to **every other month**. Vote to be held via the same email ballot.
- **Holiday Scheduling:** November and December regular meetings fall near holiday eves. Intention to **move next meeting to earlier December**; details forthcoming.