

# 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

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## 1. Call to Order

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

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## 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.

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## 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.