

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 48
FRANKLIN COUNTY
Commissioners' Proceeding for October 5, 2007

The Honorable Boards of Franklin County Commissioners and Benton County Commissioners met on the above date. The following people were present for the meeting:

Franklin County Commissioners Bob Koch, Chairman; Neva J. Corkrum, Chair Pro Tem; and Rick Miller, Member. Benton County Commissioners Leo Bowman, Chairman; Max E. Benitz, Jr., Member; and Claude Oliver, Member.

Franklin County Administrator Fred Bowen and Clerk to the Board Mary Withers. Benton County staff members: David Sparks, Loretta Smith Kelty and Ryan Brown. Human Services Department: Director Carrie Huie-Pascua, Kendra Simpson and Pat Underwood, Joel Chavez, Robin Callow and Carrie Bayha. Benton-Franklin Community Action Committee (CAC): Judith A. Gidley and Debra Biondolillo. Others present: Robert Holman, Ray Morrison from WAMI, Carl Holder, Tri-City Herald reporter Elena Olmsted and Brooke DuBois.

BENTON-FRANKLIN COUNTIES DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (HS)
County Commissioners' Goals and Objectives for the Human Services Department

The Board members feel there is a need for goals and objectives for the Human Services Department to be established in writing with timelines assigned to them. Mr. Bowman and Mr. Benitz had each prepared a written list of some possible goals. Mr. Oliver referred to information in an October 28, 2005, letter. The Benton and Franklin County Commissioners had **consensus agreement** to ask Ms. Huie-Pascua and her staff to prepare a written document in the next 30 days for the Boards of Commissioners to review using the two written lists and the letter (Exhibits 1, 2 and 3).
Human Services Mental Health Advisory Board / Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH) Board

Mr. Koch said county commissioners are not members of the Mental Health Advisory Board. We are liaison only; we are guests at their table.

Mr. Benitz said he is not ready to accept an appointment by the Benton County Commissioners to replace Mr. Oliver as the appointed commissioner assigned to work with the Human Services Mental Health Advisory Board. He feels the chairman of the

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Advisory Board can notify the county commissioners if there are concerns that are not being addressed.

Mr. Benitz also is not willing to be appointed at this time as a Benton County Commissioner to the Greater Columbia Behavioral Health (GCBH) committee assignment. He is not willing to take on the assignment until the Benton County Board of Commissioners can clearly define its role with GCBH and what is necessary to ensure that we support our personnel and each other as we move forward.

Mr. Benitz asked that there be no more discussion at the press level that would belittle the Human Services director.

Mr. Oliver told the Board members about his work over the past several years to get the Mental Health Advisory Board fully functioning with a nine-member board, work which he did at the direction of the Benton County Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Oliver would like to have the Human Services Department accounting department give a justification about why Human Services still has some reserve funds. He also expressed concern about losing access to \$1.1 million in 2007-2008 funds.

Mr. Oliver told the Board members about a situation that led to press coverage. He said it was never his intention that the situation be reported in the press.

Mr. Bowman said it appears Benton County has more work to do.

Adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

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There being no further business, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners meeting was adjourned until October 8, 2007.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Chairman

Chairman Pro Tem

Member

Attest:

Clerk to the Board

Approved and signed October 8, 2007.