

MINUTES

BOARDS OF BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Bi-County Board Meeting
March 24, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room
Benton County Justice Center, Kennewick, WA

Benton County

Present: Chairman Max Benitz, Jr.
Commissioner Leo Bowman
Commissioner Jim Beaver
County Administrator David Sparks
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

Employees Present: Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; Personnel Manager Melina Wenner; DPA Ryan Brown; Human Services Manager Carrie Huie-Pascua; Deputy Manager Ed Thornbrugh and Carol Carey; Clerk Josie Delvin.

Franklin County

Present: Chairman Rick Miller
Commissioner Brad Peck
Commissioner Bob Koch
County Administrator Fred Bowen

Benton Franklin Community Action Committee

Judith Gidley and Crickett Cordova, CAC and Carl Cadwell gave a Power presentation on the feasibility study of the consolidated crisis response center. The report included detailed information of the following:

- Overview, History and Trends, Population Growth
- Involuntary Treatment Act Investigations (ITA)
- Bi-County Reports
- State Pilot Projects
- Feasibility of consolidation and space needs
- Overhead costs and potential savings

After a brief discussion with CAC, the Boards agreed to appoint a Commissioner from each County to work with Ms. Huie-Pascua on a financial and cost analysis, terms of agreement, and quality of care. Franklin County Commissioner Brad Peck and Benton County Commissioner Jim Beaver agreed to be the point commissioners on the issue.

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Human Services - Goals & Objectives

Carrie Huie-Pascua and Ed Thornbrugh gave highlights on the completed 2008 accomplishments and discussed the 2009-2013 goals and objectives, briefly described as follows:

- Developmental Disabilities (social security assistance; improve availability of the data for planning; develop community-wide transition system to improve post-school performance; collaborate efforts between HS and DDD service providers; strengthen DD service provider leadership; develop career path to employment; and increase efforts to obtain grants and funding).
- Housing (complete interlocal agreement and program model; provide assistance to fund program and contracts; seek increased funding for expansion; improve housing options at the county level; strengthen partnerships to assist in WA State Growth Management Act affordable housing mandates; expand current housing program with emphasis on sustainability; commitment to service for vulnerable populations).
- Mental Health (enhance community support; maintain PACT; implement Children's Service Delivery protocol; improve the efficacy of the Mental Health Advisory Board; provide recommendation for best use of studies; development of CCRC; define state vs. county responsibilities; increase participation on state level mental health; reduce hospitalization bed usage; collaborate with RSN; adopt best practice models of service).
- Substance Abuse and Prevention (prevention – reduce availability of drugs, family problems, and early initiation of problem behavior; development of prevention services to youth who are marginalized; substance abuse treatment – increase capacity to service co-occurring disorders; increase outreach and education; increase development for chemical dependency counselors; address barriers to receiving services; increase transition housing beds for HIV/AIDS individuals; maintain and improve treatment rate for youth and adults).

Chairman Benitz said the Greater Columbia Health Board (RSN) had been working with the state on a new formula based on a “per population basis” with an expected increase to Benton & Franklin Counties.

Executive Session

The Boards went into executive session at 10:21 a.m. for approximately 10 minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee. Also present were Melina Wenner and Cami McKenzie. The Boards came out of executive session at 10:38 a.m. Chairman Benitz announced that no decisions were made in executive session, but direction was given.

There being no further business before the Boards, the meeting immediately adjourned.

Clerk of the Board

Chairman, Benton County