

# BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 13, 2022

2:00PM

Benton County Commissioners Meeting Room  
7122 Okanogan Place – Suite E303  
Kennewick, WA 99336

## Agenda

- Call to Order
- Introduction of Members
- Approval of Minutes from 09/08/2022 meeting
- Public Comment
- Discussion Items
  - Presentation from Comprehensive Healthcare on Mobile Crisis Response Teams
  - Formation of workgroups
  - Recovery Center RFP Status
- Public Comment
- Other Business
- Adjournment

**Benton-Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee**  
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# Benton-Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes | September 8, 2022

**Call to Order:** 2:00 PM

**Introduction of Members:** All voting and non-voting members plus their representation/organization

**Approval of Agenda:** Jason Bliss moved to approve the meeting agenda as prepared, Sheriff Raymond seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of July 29, 2022 Minutes:** Sheriff Raymond moved to approve the July 29, 2022 Committee meeting minutes, Jason Bliss seconded. Motion carried unanimously

**Public Comment:** None

## **Action Items:**

1. **Appointment of Officers:**
  - a. **Chairman:** Michele Gerber nominated Sheriff Croskrey; Angie nominated BJ Olsen. A vote of members was taken with Sheriff Croskrey receiving 5 votes, and BJ Olsen receiving 6 votes. Sheriff Raymond moved to appoint BJ Olsen as Chairman, Jason Bliss seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - b. **Vice Chairman:** Michele Gerber nominated Jason Bliss. Sheriff Croskrey was also included in consideration for Vice Chair. A vote of members was taken, with Sheriff Croskrey receiving 4 votes and Jason Bliss receiving 7 votes. Sheriff Raymond moved to appoint Jason Bliss as Vice Chair, Michele Gerber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
  - c. **Secretary:** Erin Petty volunteered. No additional volunteers or nominations were received. Jason Bliss moved to appoint Erin Petty as Secretary, BJ Olsen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Appointment of the 17<sup>th</sup> Voting Member of the Committee:**
  - a. To be selected from the pool of previous applicants in the Lived Experience category
  - b. A workgroup was selected at the last meeting to determine the top three (3) candidates for that position and included: Kim Lettrick, Maria Buxbaum, and Amy Rosen.
  - c. The workgroup reviewed several applications, and all applicants selected for application completeness
  - d. Shelby Beardslee nominated Kim Lettrick as the 17<sup>th</sup> voting member.
  - e. Jason Bliss moved to recommend Kim Lettrick as the 17<sup>th</sup> voting member of the BHAC for final approval by the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners. Seconded by Sindi Saunders. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Discussion Items:**

1. **Request for proposals for Recovery Center and Mobile Crisis Response provider:**
  - a. There is an existing Mobile Crisis Teams (adult and youth) operated through Comprehensive. There is the potential to contract with GCBH to expand that program to meet the needs of the community and the BHAC and Recovery Center.
  - b. Sheriff Raymond asked what the flexibility and cooperation is between the various agencies. Sindi Saunders indicated that the current Mobile Crisis Team is dispatched through a single mechanism and could contact them via 9-8-8 system. Not all calls need immediate dispatch but may just need over the phone intervention or assistance. There is concern of multiple agencies running the same type of service and bifurcating the system and adding confusion and potential barriers to the community.
  - c. If Benton and Franklin County wanted to develop its own contract, they could do so and work directly with Comprehensive and have more services if desired.

- d. There is currently nowhere in the community to place people, where currently there is a backlog of people needing assistance.
- e. Joel Chavez shared a story of someone seeking crisis services for themselves, and was told to go to the ER for medical clearance even after directly contacting a Designated Crisis Responder (DCR). Sindi Saunders indicated that right now, there is a requirement for medical clearance in order to be admitted to any psychiatric facility in the State.
- f. Sheriff Raymond expressed the need for a one-stop location (no wrong door) for first responders and other people to be able to go where they can take someone who is in crisis and in need of services, rather than taking them to jail or ER.
- g. Chief Gear asked about the capability of a DCR to transport someone to the ER for medical clearance. A representative from Comprehensive Healthcare indicated that they do transport if it is safe to do so, but they don't transport someone needing detained or restraint.
- h. BJ Olsen indicated that there would need to be a Memorandum of Understanding with the eventual provider to ensure space at the Recovery Center to ensure medical clearances can be conducted on-site rather than requiring transportation to ERs
- i. Jason Bliss indicated that the current model is broken and will need to change in order to work the way it needs to. There are barriers throughout the State as well as locally that need to be overcome.
- j. There is a lack of community education and public information surrounding this issue.
- k. Brian Ace recommended asking for a report on what the current services and gaps are, and Shelby Beardslee asked to know specifically more about the Mobile Crisis teams and their capabilities/abilities.
- l. The representative from Comprehensive indicated they would be happy to present to the Committee at the next meeting regarding the items on the item above.
- m. The current RFP was written to operate the Recovery Center (Residential Detox, Secure Withdrawal Management, and Crisis Stabilization). Matt reminded the committee that the Counties are not required to be locked in with just one provider for all the services that are needed in the community, but that the selected provider should be able to provide the main services indicated.
- n. The Committee expressed interest in having Comprehensive present at the next meeting for the Mobile Crisis team, and to proceed with the RFP (pulling the mobile crisis unit piece) for approval by the Boards of Commissioners as soon as possible.

**Public Comment:**

1. Representative from Comprehensive said she appreciated the conversation and engagement.

**Other Business:**

1. Sheriff Raymond asked Lee Kerr what pieces of the old KGH campus were actually purchased by the County for the Recovery Center. Mr. Kerr answered the question and Matt Rasmussen provided further clarification as needed.
2. Michele Gerber asked when the RFP would be released, and whether it would be before the Committee meets again. Matt Rasmussen indicated that the goal would be to release the RFP prior to the next meeting date in order to not delay further. Additional clarification was provided regarding the RFP process and the committee members' interactions with potential bidders in the process. If a committee member receives any request or other communication from a potential bidder regarding the RFP, they are asked to refer that person to the RFP representative (Matt Rasmussen and/or Keith Johnson) in order to ensure no biases or unfairness.
3. The KGH facility as the County will acquire it has a lot of space and square footage available for additional services, including potentially having transitional housing, homeless shelters, etc. The committee will need to determine the needs of the community and whether they would be a good fit for the space.

4. Carla Prock mentioned the potential of the Committee to establish some subcommittees to start addressing some of these issues, including engagement with local higher ed, providers, etc.
5. Would the committee want to establish some standing sub-committees/sub-groups for specific issues that could work continuously on certain issues.
6. Rebecca Grohs asked for additional clarification surrounding the RFP and the SUD services being provided. Right now, the RFP is lacking some specifics around services provided, what level of care, and service timeframes. Matt Rasmussen indicated that assistance would be appreciated to add that type of specificity to the RFP – Rebecca Grohs and Joel Chavez indicated they'd be willing to assist with revising the RFP to establish those items.
7. Shyanne Palmus and Carla Prock brought up the need for a communications, education and outreach campaign to inform the community about the current services, the gaps in service, and why services are needed. Matt Rasmussen suggested the committee consider having a working group on this topic as well to ensure the committee have continuity in messaging.

**Adjourned:** 3:03 PM