

# BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 10, 2023

2:00 PM

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

## Agenda

- Call to Order
- Introduction of Members
- Approval of Minutes from 7/13/2023 meeting
- Public Comment
- Discussion Items
  - Recovery Center Naming
  - Proposals for Sobering Center
- Public Comments
- Other Business
- Adjournment

**Benton-Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee**  
Matt Rasmussen, Benton County Deputy Administrator  
[Matt.Rasmussen@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:Matt.Rasmussen@co.benton.wa.us) | 509-786-5600  
[www.co.benton.wa.us](http://www.co.benton.wa.us) | [www.co.franklin.wa.us](http://www.co.franklin.wa.us)



# BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | July 13, 2023

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

**Introduction of Members:** All voting and non-voting members introduced themselves.

**Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2023:** The committee members all reviewed the June 8, 2023 committee meeting minutes. Unclear who moved to approve the minutes as presented. Unclear who seconded. Minutes were approved.

## **Public Comment:**

1. Member of the public, Nancy Roach, strongly encouraged deciding on a name for the center.
2. Pamela Vergara, Community Resources Coordinator for the City of Pasco, requested funding for the community resource coordinator program through Pasco Municipal court (Treatment Services).
  - a. Community Justice Counselor Program
    - i. Implemented in therapeutic courts, gives resources to those that come through the courts
      - Housing, food, clothing, etc.
      - Classes that are not covered through the state (anger management)
    - b. Currently, 52 people in the program. However, not all need treatment.
    - c. Program previously was funded by a grant from the Administrative office of the Courts (AOC)
    - d. Ms. Vergara said the AOC terminated the grant and told her to use the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% to help fund this program.

## **Discussion Items:**

1. **Update on Proposals for Sobering Center (Matt R.)**
  - a. United Family Center responded.
    - i. Expect to receive a proposal within 20 days
  - b. Had an architect reach out, high proposal cost.
    - i. Matt Rasmussen will reach back out to ensure they understand the scope of work
    - ii. If proposal amount remains high, he will reach out for a second opinion.

*Cameron Fordmeir, removing himself from the next discussion due to potential conflict of interest.*

- Nature of conflict of interest: married to the person who oversees one of the Field Responders proposals.
  - BJ Olson states that as a non-voting member, he does not see enough of a conflict of interest for Cameron to be required to leave the room.
    - Carla Prock agreed and there were no objections from the committee.
    - It was suggested Cameron does not participate in the discussion but can stay to listen.
2. **Discussion on Proposals Received for Field Responders**
    - a. All three proposals (Pasco Fire, Comprehensive, Lourdes) were sent out for the committee to review, prior to the meeting.
      - i. Opportunity to discuss now, no need to decide currently

- b. Bob Gear, abstain from voting on this due to his previous affiliations (Pasco Fire)
  - i. Mentioned Pasco Fire considering withdrawing their proposal
    - Concern; lacking the sobering facility, don't want to get too far ahead on the responder program and not have anywhere to take someone.
- c. Carla Prock mentioned the disparities in the proposals
  - i. The RFQ didn't give a budget template.
  - ii. What is going to be included, and what isn't
    - Rent / vehicles / etc.
  - iii. Important to get this nailed down, or ensure not to let that be an eliminating factor
- d. Erin Petty liked the inclusion of the option for a Nurse Practitioner that Pasco Fire was willing to add to their proposal.
- e. Matt Rasmussen suggested emailing comments or questions about the proposals to Nicole Webb or himself to work on addressing those,
  - i. Would like to be prepared to start making decisions next month at the next meeting.
    - Nicole Webb email: [nicole.webb@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:nicole.webb@co.benton.wa.us)
    - Matt Rasmussen email: [matt.rasmussen@co.benton.wa.us](mailto:matt.rasmussen@co.benton.wa.us)
- f. Bob Gear noticed there was a significant difference in the format of the three proposals.
  - i. Sindi Saunders confirmed that the RFQ did not have an outline of what was necessary, to be submitted.
    - RFQ was sent out as a call for interest
      - a. If interested, submit plan of what it would look like if you were able to do it.
    - "Cost of the staff", was the only item previously discussed regarding funding.
    - If Committee agrees to pay for other items (cars / phones / etc), then the other two submitters need an opportunity to redo proposals and add information.
      - a. Sub-committee could look into this
  - ii. Erin Petty mentioned two proposals were specific about the training that will be required to do (for peer staff), but one wasn't.
    - Chad Michaels believes when a more formal RFQ gets put together, each proposal would be more fleshed out in their responses.
- g. Sindi Saunders asked for the Committee to outline what it is willing to pay for.
  - i. Resend out a more formal Request
  - ii. Allow the other entities to re-submit their proposals
- h. John Roach mentioned the potential sequencing problem
  - i. If there is an *existing* set of services that are tied to a facility
    - Very different proposition than,
  - ii. If something were to happen now, where we would need to pay for the provisioning of all that; facilities, hardware, infrastructure, etc.
    - Order of magnitude different cost
- i. Field Responder original intention:
  - i. Be able to respond and evaluate the calls
  - ii. Send individual to the appropriate person/facility as needed.
  - iii. Not providing a service to any individual
  - iv. Service is to be provided to Law Enforcement, Fire
    - Intent was to not make them go out to every single call when some calls could be delegated to the Field Responder, dependent on situation.
- j. Michelle Gerber emphasized this has been the problem in the Tri-Cities for many years
  - i. No place to take people in need.
  - ii. Design/build for Recovery center is projected out to 2025.
    - Matt Rasmussen discussions have been had with contractors to deliver in phases, not just a single delivery date.
  - iii. Carla Prock asked if the existence of the Field Responder service is contingent on at least having the Sobering Services available.
    - Bob Gear agreed

- a. Simply adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> responder, but still no where to take these individuals in need.
  - iv. Sindi Saunders says the initial goal of the Field Responder was to alleviate the time of first responders.
    - Never was discussed that the Field Responder would take anyone anywhere
    - Just there to connect them to right person (Crisis, LEO, ER)
    - Bob Gear concerned about the people in immediate need and needing somewhere to go.
      - a. Sindi Saunders says that is the intent of the recovery center as a whole
        - i. Field responder program is different than the center.
        - ii. Law Enforcement wanted help now to alleviate their calls
    - Jason Bliss, what he has seen in other areas
      - a. First responder gets dispatched and goes out there
        - i. Trained in mental health / first aid / CPR / de-escalation tactics
        - ii. Work with person, ground them, outpatient services set up
        - iii. If we can cut that by 1/3, that's more time for Law Enforcement to deal with other issues.
      - b. Matt Rasmussen was in line with this idea.
        - i. Not going to help 100% of the people
        - ii. But a percentage of the calls that could be resolved in the field
        - iii. Next step would be to add the Sobering Center
    - Field responders → Sobering Service → Recovery Center
    - Carla Prock, curious if this needs to be prepared at the same time as the sobering service.
      - a. Wants to have a good idea of what we are asking in this program
      - b. Does it need to be scalable once services open up.
      - c. Chad Michael thinks it could be, Sindi Saunders agrees.
        - i. Different options available for transport
      - d. Ties up resources of Law Enforcement when they are doing transports
      - e. Carla Prock wants to ensure this is put into the future RFPs as the programs are being designed.
        - i. Pick up program, not drop off program.
  - k. Matt Rasmussen, discussed there are three entities interested in providing this service.
    - i. A detailed plan was not requested, just asked for general interest.
    - ii. Suggests to have a group of people from the Committee to narrow down what it is we want the Field Responder service to do.
      - Reach back out to the three interested entities with a request to adjust their proposals to fit the newly decided on details
      - Recommends to the Committee to create a sub-committee for this
    - iii. Jason Bliss volunteered to get copies of the original RFP's used from other counties
      - Could give the Committee a good starting point to build our requests

**MOTION:** Chad Michael makes a motion to create a sub-committee to develop an RFP draft for the Field Responders and present a draft to the Committee next meeting. Sindi Saunders seconded and upon vote, motion carried.

**Sub-Committee Members:** Erika Barton, Jason Bliss, Erin Petty, Chad Michaels, Sindi Saunders, Kim Lettrick

*\*Anybody who wants to discuss this, should be part of the committee. Can email BJ Olson or Matt Rasmussen if interested \**

### 3. Discussion on Naming Recovery Center

- a. CBRC (racquet club) is too similar to the proposed name of C3RC
- b. Naming is back open for discussion

- i. John Roach summarizing email chain:
  - Unlikely there is any legal liability
  - More of a community goodwill concession
- o John Roach concerned that this kind of branding discussion is too difficult for a large group.
  - Suggests a sub-committee is formed
    - Takes in suggestions over the next 2 weeks
      - o From group AND community
    - Decides on top 3, with reasonings
    - Brings back to committee next month for a vote
  - Should be able to find a name that 90% of the people here and the community will be happy with.
  - No rush in this, it isn't going to affect the grants or fundraising

**MOTION:** Jason Bliss makes a motion to create a sub-committee that will come up with the names for the Behavioral Health Center. Erin Petty seconded and upon vote, motion carried.

**Sub-Committee Members:** John Roach, Michelle Gerber, Erin Petty

*\* Any name ideas will be sent to John Roach, within the next 2 weeks \**

**Public Comment:**

1. Nancy Roach (responsible for John), Franklin County resident. Curious how the committee proceeds with suggestions like Ms. Vergara's from initial public comment section?
  - a. BJ Olson explained that the Chair or one of the County Administrators to receive more information on her topic, then possibly invite her to submit a presentation.
    - i. Get a better idea of what they do and how much they are asking for
  - b. John Roach asked about the generation of a high-level budget information that can help with evaluation of these types of requests
    - i. Matt Rasmussen explained biggest issue of that is an unknown; what is the contract with comprehensive going to cost
      - Just had the first meeting at the end of June
      - They can't give us a concrete number until we give them more information on exactly what services we are looking for having here
  - c. John, another output from conversations with Comprehensive
    - i. High-level services, sequencing, scaling, not needing to be set in stone
    - ii. Even just to have a 90% idea;
      - We "think" it will fit, but still open to change
    - iii. Hard in a group of 17
      - Nobody is tagged as the "architect" to set that vision
    - iv. Matt Rasmussen; once we get closer to a ballpark estimate, we can then have conversations on how to allocate the budget.
      - Meetings today with the 2 design/build team
      - Narrow down to get schedules
        - o Each one of these can stand alone, doesn't have to be a full grand opening
        - o Get done what services they can, sooner rather than later
        - o A lot of moving parts
        - o Funding piece linked to this too
    - v. Chad Michael reiterates to prioritize services too.
      - Field Response Teams, Sobering Center, Facility, etc.
    - vi. Matt Rasmussen can send information out of total funds coming in,
      - Still does not give the full picture
    - vii. John Roach mentioned the complexity
      - Some things can be reimbursable, some cannot be.

- viii. Matt Rasmussen says Comprehensive will get us a list of what can be provided that are reimbursable with funds other than the County
  - Start there, go from that point
- d. Sindi Saunders brought up that in the last 1-1.5 months,
  - i. Two inpatient facilities closed due to funding
  - ii. A third one potentially closing as well
  - iii. A long-term care facility that terminated their contract with the Healthcare Authority,
    - 100 beds for individuals that are on long-term holds for 90-180 day holds
  - iv. State was just sued and lost a lawsuit, \$100million dollars
    - Eastern state hospital has to discharge all civil individuals on civil committees in the next 90 days.
      - Over 100 individuals
  - v. Another Evaluation Treatment Center on the other side of the state
    - Closing due to funding as well
  - vi. Another youth facilities, two locations
    - DOH restricted and removed license
    - Not allowed to provide services anymore
    - All youth had to be discharged
  - vii. A lot of things closing due to funding
- e. Michele Gerber, not sure if the Committee should fund other entities
  - i. Not within our core business
  - ii. If they want money, they should go to the Commissioners
    - Matt Rasmussen informs that the Commissioners (Benton County) will put it back on this Committee to determine if it should be recommended and push forward to the Board
- f. BJ Olson, wants to have a clear statement of what the dollars the Committee is overseeing are for, so we can screen out those that don't fit into that category
  - i. Those who are looking outside the box at services that can help with crisis services are encouraged and invited to reach out
  - ii. May need a sub-committee if a ton of requests start to come in
- g. Carla Prock believes as a resident, stakeholders with a vested interest in the topic are the ones who should be recommending topics and subjects to the BOCC.
  - i. Providing comprehensive service in our community
  - ii. Not just about the Behavioral Health Recover Center.
- h. BJ Olson asked about the idea of a project manager either on the provider or government side
  - i. Who would be the person who is the point of contact in seeing the big picture and help the Committee and Commissioners have that vision?
    - Issue doing something by Committee, 20+ great ideas but can't do all of those.
  - ii. John Roach commented that Matt Rasmussen has done a great job with the presentation of what has happened so far, tying all the pieces together
    - What's missing:
      - What the next 3 years looks like in terms of specifics
        - i. Facilities
        - ii. Services offered
        - iii. How it is going to impact the community
        - iv. How it will intersect with all existing service providers
      - Not able to tell that story until Comprehensive came on board.
    - iii. Maybe it will be someone at Comprehensive to help develop that story
      - Every person on the Committee, should be able to tell it
      - Hard for 17 people to develop that story together
      - "Vision architect"
    - iv. Matt Rasmussen will take some time to put some thought into it
      - Reach out to Kyle Sullivan, who has a lot of experience in that realm
- i. Jason Bliss asked for clarification on funding requests that is being spoke of, 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1%?

- i. Premature to entertain those presentation
    - ii. Until we have firm numbers from Comprehensive, Engineers, Developers
    - iii. Mission “creep” concerns Michele Gerber.
      - Matt Rasmussen said we need to get the big pieces done first to prevent the mission creep.
    - iv. Timeline needed on priorities for core mission, and future wants.
  - j. Carla Prock mentioned that settlement dollars weren’t part of the conversation when the Committee was created
  - k. Chad Michael warned to be conservative, don’t make cuts so the Committee can be prepared for the unexpected.
2. Courtney (Comprehensive) discussed the first conversation in June and how it went.
- a. Conversation went well. Tip of the iceberg
    - i. Started by reiterating what they can do
    - ii. Her task, to go back and map out what they know to do
      - Tell them what more the Committee wants
      - See if there is way to weave those wants in
      - Help identify what the 1/10<sup>th</sup> needs to go towards
    - iii. A lot of that will be determined by the design phase as well.
      - If the intent is to phase open
        - Licensing goes a certain way
        - DOH - active construction while occupying space.
    - iv. There to help describe what the service array will look like.
      - Matt Rasmussen can help with cost details
3. AOC reached out to Ms. Vergara, to tell her to use the 1/10<sup>th</sup> money for her services. Thus, her proposal at the beginning of the meeting during Public Comment.
4. RCW says what the 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1%, what it can be used for
- a. Chemical dependency, mental health programs and service, therapeutic court, etc.
  - b. Not a one-word answer, other counties have gotten creative with its use
  - c. For Benton County, Recovery Center takes top priority.

#### Other Business:

- 1. Announcement: Michelle Gerber
  - a. 5K Run for Recover (Recovery Coalition), September 16<sup>th</sup>, Wade Park (Pasco)
    - i. Sign up Online
    - ii. Money raised goes to their (minimal) operating expenses, then to the Recovery Center
    - iii. Fun Run
    - iv. Open Mic for individuals to talk about Recovery Stories
    - v. Sponsorships
    - vi. Flyer will be sent to the Committee
- 2. Matt Rasmussen
  - a. Proprietary meeting this morning
    - i. In person meeting with a selection committee and design build team
  - b. Received 4 initial statements of interest, along with qualifications
  - c. Narrowed down to 2 teams selected for proposal process
    - i. Site walk throughs done last week
    - ii. Final proposals being prepared, due on July 26<sup>th</sup>
    - iii. Takes about 1 week to evaluate proposals
    - iv. Recommendation from that selection committee will go to Commissioners for an award to one of the 2 teams.
  - d. Awarded in August, Under contract in September (targeted time frame)

**Adjourned:** 3:08 PM

DRAFT