

BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | October 12, 2023

Call to Order: [2:02 PM]

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

Approval of Minutes from September 14, 2023: The committee members all reviewed the September 14, 2023 committee meeting minutes. Chad Michael moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sindi Saunders seconded. Minutes were approved.

Public Comment:

David Fritch – President of the condo association, across from the Auburn property. Redeveloping and revitalizing that center across the street. Several vacant units still and would be interested to know what would be beneficial to put in there during this period of construction.

Discussion Items:

1. Recovery Center Updates – Matt Rasmussen

- a. Within the last month;
 - i. Executed contract with design build firm.
 - ii. Kick off meeting with them
 - iii. Entering into Validation Phase of the project
 1. Work with the County and a representative from Comprehensive Healthcare
 - a. Take surveys of all the facilities to get an idea of what currently exists
 - b. Give recommendations on layout, floorplan
 - iv. Expect to see significant progress in the next three months.
- b. Small group meeting with Comprehensive again next week
 - i. Further discussions on what the contract starts to look like when facility is ready to open.
 - ii. Questions coming out of these discussions to bring back to this committee.
 1. Will compile a list and request feedback at an upcoming meeting.

2. Sobering Center Recommendation – Sub-Committee (Follow Up)

- a. **Joel Chavez** – brief overview of last committee meeting
 - i. Group met on Sept. 21st
 - ii. Three recommendations:
 1. Agreed for Lourdes to start providing service at the Margaret Street location, but with the expectation that if the recovery center opens prior to the end of the contract year, an effort will be made to collaborate providing sobering services at the Kennewick site.
 2. Include language that allows us to evaluate the demand and average occupancy of the unit at the year after the contract to determine if operating costs is in alignment with services needed or being delivered.

3. Adding additional expectations around periodic reviews, such as outcomes, and having a communication structure that supports the model of quality improvement and open communication with partnering agencies.
- iii. **Jim Raymond** – sounds like they are amiable to having a year contract.
 1. Margaret location sits between the jail and the hospital.
 2. Law Enforcement and Fire Fighters can at least drop people off there.
 3. United Family Center withdrew.
 4. In favor
- iv. **Chad Michael** – Margaret Street location; does it meet the code requirements?
 1. They made it sound like it does – J. Chavez
 2. Asked for an offsite certification through the DOH – J. Chavez
 3. Estimated 3 months to open – J. Raymond
- v. **C. Michael** – Medical staff evaluation; will that be in place with no expectation that EMS is providing that service for them?
 1. Have not spoken with Lourdes since the presentation. Can go back and ask them this. – J. Chavez
 2. They indicated they would have the opportunity to walk an individual over to the hospital should they need evaluation, but they did not commit to that. – Kim Lettrick
- vi. **Ryan Washburn**– Are we possibly looking at a second location at KGH as well?
 1. If the site becomes available; make primary site at Auburn, and Margaret Street will become the offsite location. – J. Chavez
 2. Contract with Lourdes would need to be renegotiated once both sites are up and running. – J. Raymond
 3. Margaret Street would be just the interim venue.

MOTION: Joel Chavez makes a motion to recommend to the County Commissioners to enter into a contract with Lourdes for a period of 1-year to provide sobering services at the Margaret Street location in Pasco in the interim. Jim Raymond seconded. After discussion and upon vote, motion carried.

Discussion:

- i. Assumption that since the services are in Franklin County, it would be a Franklin County contract with Lourdes and then Benton County would have an interlocal agreement to share in those services. – M. Rasmussen
- ii. Can there be a caveat put in the place regarding licensure of facility? – Kyle Sullivan
- iii. That comes down to a decision for the Commissioners to make based on the what the ultimate cost of the contract comes down to. – M. Rasmussen
- iv. Lourdes responsibility, not this group, as far as the RFP. They plan on using their license under their hospital. – J. Raymond

MOTION: Joel Chavez makes a motion to recommend to the County Commissioners that outcome-based language is added to the contract as well as updates for utilization statistics. Jim Raymond seconded. Discussion was held and amendment was added. Upon vote, motion carries.

Amendment: Mike Gonzalez proposed an amendment to add a sub-committee to make recommendations.

Discussion:

- i. A sub-group to meet with Lourdes and meets on a monthly basis to record statistically what is happening. Holding them accountable to ensure they are doing true 23-hr sobering services. – J. Raymond
- ii. Would it make more sense to have a sub-group to work on a contract with all the outcomes we want in it, instead of putting that onus on the Commissioners to make sure that language is in there? – Sindi Saunders

- iii. Disagreed as legal has to be involved looking at the contract (prosecutor's office, in County settings). – J. Raymond
- iv. Amendment to the motion suggested to add a sub-committee to help with the contract, providing recommendation; provide evaluation tools. Lourdes will need to be involved as well. – M. Gonzalez
- v. Franklin County will have to develop that contract. Giving direction of things that this committee feels are valid, to be included in that motion would be appropriate. – M. Rasmussen
- vi. Group could provide recommendations regarding what evaluation tools or what we want to see evaluated or reported on, but not the whole contract.
- vii. Small group could meet, amendment agreed upon. – J. Chavez
- viii. Suggested that Sindi could take a look at that piece and mirror what the state is doing. – J. Raymond

AMENDED MOTION: Joel Chavez makes a motion to recommend to the County Commissioners that outcome-based language is added to the contract as well as updates for utilization statistics and add a sub-committee to make recommendations. Chad Michael seconded. Upon vote, motion carried.

3. Field Responder RFP – Sub-Committee (Follow Up)

- a. **Chad Michael** – Draft sent out based on the feedback from last group meeting
- b. Big question: written as a Benton-Franklin County RFP. Should it be one county or both?
 - i. Typically easier from a contracting standpoint for one county to have the contract and the second have an interlocal agreement. County administrators can discuss further and follow up. – M. Rasmussen
- c. RFP is done from their view, just need to update the language to have one County if that is what is recommended by the County administrations. – C. Michael

MOTION: Chad Michael makes a motion that after the Benton County Deputy administrator and the Franklin County administrator meet to confer on the language and who is the host agency is, that it will put the RFP out as written. Sindi Saunders seconded. Upon vote, motion carried.

Public Comment:

- 1. Nancy Roach
 - Wondering if the suggestion for the committee to have language around mission and vision was ever taken up and if it seems like that is something that should happen.
 - Believes it would be helpful to the community to have a little more clarity around this.
 - *Response:* Beyond what was established by the County Commissioners when the committee was created, no other work was done regarding the mission and vision. Going beyond that, would have to be revisited by the Commissioners. – BJ Olson
 - *Response:* That was discussed and included with the branding. It is important to have a mission and vision statement of what we are doing and where we want this to be. Let's the community what we are about and the goal we have. – Erin Petty
 - *Response:* There is an established communications sub-committee that could take the original formation resolution and instill a mission and vision statement that can be taken back to each Board of Commissioners. Not unusual to do. – M. Rasmussen
 - *Response:* Could be useful in defining the scale and scope of the committee's work. The recovery center is a large focus but is it broader than that or is it narrowed to that. Mission and vision could help define it.
 - *Response:* Nothing that stops anyone to sit on the communications sub-committee to provide help with development of a mission and vision statement for the committee. – J. Raymond

(Communications Sub-committee Members: Michele Gerber, John Roach, Carla Prock, Glenn Vaagen)

Sub-committees are now listed on Benton County's [Behavioral Health Advisory Committee](#) website

2. Vijay Reddy
 - Pharmacist from Doctor's Pharmacy, Richland
 - Offering services to help or advise
 - Glad to help the community

Other Business:

1. Franklin County is in the process of establishing a therapeutic court. Just recently hired a coordinator there. Is there a way to add a representative into the committee? – R. Washburn
 - a. *Response:* The Resolution spells out the voting and non-voting members of the committee, so it would need to be amended. Absolutely should be added now that it exists. – M. Rasmussen

MOTION: BJ Olson makes a motion that we Recommend to the Commissioners to add the Franklin County therapeutic court representative to the non-voting member list for this committee. Sindi Saunders seconded. Discussion was had and upon vote, motion carries.

Discussion:

- i. By doing this, it will be a good foundation to the district court/therapeutic court process. Would be very helpful to have their input. – J. Raymond
2. Has any progress or development occurred with the branding since the last meeting? – Michele Gerber.
 - a. *Response:* No, but it is still on the to-do list. – M. Rasmussen

Adjourned: [2:47 PM]