

# BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 11, 2024

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 06/13/2024 meeting
- Public Comment
- Discussion Items
  - Substance Use Disorder Service Sub-Committee – **updates**
  - Mental Health Services Sub-Committee – **updates**
  - Communications Sub-Committee – **updates**
  - Behavioral Health Workforce Development Sub-Committee – **updates**
- Public Comment
- Other Business
- Adjournment

**Benton-Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee**  
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# BENTON-FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes | June 13, 2024

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

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

**Voting Members:** BJ Olson, Chad Michael, Erin Petty, Angie Manterola, Brian Ace, Mat Clarke (alternate for Benton County – Law Enforcement), John Roach, Mauricio Gomez (alternate for Franklin County – Hospital Representative), George Block (alternate for Benton County – Lived Experience), Becky Grosh (virtual), Jim Raymond, Kevin Kennedy

**Non-voting Members:** Matt Rasmussen, Kelly Harnish (alternate for Benton-Franklin Health District), Michele Gerber, Kyle Sullivan, Ryan Washburn

Commissioner Bauman (Frankling County) was present.

**Approval of Minutes from May 9, 2024:** The committee members all reviewed the May 9, 2024, committee meeting minutes. BJ Olson called for a vote to approve the minutes as presented. Minutes were approved.

**Public Comment:** No public comment.

## Discussion Items:

### 1. **Joon Therapy Pilot Presentation** – Tracy Stride

- a. PowerPoint presentation (will be sent separately to committee)
  - i. 100% online, mental health therapy for 13-26 year olds
  - ii. Live teletherapy sessions with qualified therapist (1:1)
  - iii. Meets at whatever frequency the acuity demands (weekly, twice-a-week, etc.)
  - iv. All evidence-based care
  - v. Availability: 7AM - 9PM, 7 days a week
  - vi. Mission Alignment
    1. **Goal** – provide timely treatment of addicted and/or mentally ill persons to help restore them to full and productive lives
    2. **Fact** – approximately 2,555 community members per year need behavioral health services (just for Benton County)
- b. **Question:** J. Roach – Why 26 (years old)?
  - i. **T. Stride** – Insurance considers 26 the child cut-off age. Also, about when young adults are finishing college now a days. It used to be 24 for Joon, but now it is 26.
- c. **Question:** B. Ace – Progressive Funding, utilize insurance before public funds; Is there a way to set a monthly maximum from a public fund perspective to minimize financial exposure while testing the water?
  - i. **T. Stride** – All sorts of controls can be put in place, just depends on your budget. Not yet since Seattle jumped into a contract
- d. **Question:** B. Ace – Any estimates from similar communities to ours on what the mix of insurance/public funds?

- i. **T. Stride** – Not yet since Seattle jumped into a contract without the trial. Other locations are wanting to do the try-before-you-buy method, but no data is ready yet.
- e. **Question: E. Petty** – Any data on keeping appointments using telehealth vs face-to-face?
  - i. **T. Stride** – No data on that yet, but will get that information.
- f. **Question: BJ Olson** – Response (recovery) rates seem high; how do you measure that data?
  - i. **T. Stride** – Will share data (several pages long). They truly are that high.
- g. **Question: J. Raymond** – have you given this presentation to the greater Columbia behavioral health, are you planning on it?
  - i. **T. Stride** – Not yet but would be happy to if given a direct contact.

## 2. **Columbia Valley Center for Recovery Updates** – M. Rasmussen

- a. Completed validation phase, received report from Bouten
  - i. Published on [County Website](#) (200+ pages)
- b. Schematic Design phase in progress now
  - i. No final positions for anything yet.
  - ii. Once an option is developed, they have to go back and cost that option to ensure it fits in the given parameters.
  - iii. August – preliminary design expected to be done
- c. Hoping that Demolition and Mechanical Construction phase can happen simultaneously
- d. December 2025 end date – still on track
- e. Tour yesterday (6/12/24) at the Auburn property
- f. Bouten is working on cost savings but hasn't found any time savings yet.
- g. Team wants to add a secure drop-off location.
  - i. Wanted to get input on this from the Fire and Law Enforcement community
    - 1. J. Raymond will participate
    - 2. C. Michael will participate as well

## 3. **Timeline for Deliverables for the next 12-24 months** – M. Rasmussen

- a. What is tied to the construction timeline – once we get through the preliminary design and comfortable with the floor plan, that is when we can go back to the contract with Comprehensive so they can build their staff model based on the floor plan.
- b. **Question: J. Raymond** – Is there a sense of going late or over budget?
  - i. **M. Rasmussen** – No, Bouten is on track and confident that they won't find any major surprises
- c. **Question: J. Raymond** – Have the vandalism stopped or been secured?
  - i. **M. Rasmussen** – Occasional unsuccessful break-in attempts still.
- d. **Question: B. Ace** – Construction and Operation piece of the budget; what is going to be that mix?
  - i. **M. Rasmussen** – validation report does have a budget in
  - ii. **M. Rasmussen** – Floor plan → Staffing model → Negotiating with Comprehensive
    - 1. Ideally end of 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, beginning of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter
- e. Anyone who wants to take a look, Benton County can arrange that.
  - i. May arrange regular dates
- f. **Question: J. Roach** – M. Gonzalez isn't here, but regarding the Franklin County money "sitting in the bag"; is there a way, from a Franklin County perspective, look at the betterments that are out of budget reach.
  - i. **J. Raymond** – Would have to read the RCW's.
  - ii. **M. Rasmussen** – BC will end up dedicating a significant portion of our fund balance to the recovery center project. Expect to spend several million dollars, but not until the tail end. Want to spend grant funds first, due to time restrictions on them.
  - iii. **J. Roach** – Is it worth making a motion to suggest that the committee ensure that the Franklin County commissioners are aware of the change in the RCW and flexibility?

- iv. **J. Raymond** – The 26<sup>th</sup> – voting board is meeting with Frankling Co. and that can be brought up to them then.

4. **Field Responder Teams** – C. Michael

- a. There were 2 documents sent out to the committee, read at your convenience.
- b. Key Points:
  - i. **Work schedules** – Proposing 7 days a week coverage
  - ii. **Program role out** – Long term vision will take time
    - 1. Terminals in cars where they would be able to get calls for service, would not happen immediately
    - 2. Once Commissioners agree to move forward with the contract, creating a sub-group with Benton & Frankling County medical program director (Dr. Hodges) to continue to flesh this out
    - 3. Clear where the program starts, will most likely not be where it finishes
  - iii. **Office space** – Comprehensive already has space, no added cost
  - iv. **Length** – Start with 1 year, “test year”, build out to multi-years
    - 1. Employment concern – will I have a job after that “test year”?
  - v. **Training included** – Mental Health First Aid, CPR, etc.
  - vi. **Reporting requirements** – What data do we expect to get.

**MOTION:** Chad Michael moves to move forward with putting together a draft contract for Field Responder Teams RFP. Seconded by Kevin Kennedy. After discussion, motion passes.

**Discussion:**

- i. Is there a quick answer to how this interfaces with the other similar programs that we continue to talk about that are funded in different ways? What does that alignment look like? What holes does this fill? – B. Ace
  - 1. **C. Michael** – Sindi has the best feel for what connects to what
  - 2. **Courtney** (Comprehensive) – Sees this as an adjunct. Targeted to first responder calls. Peeling off those calls from the current crisis team and funneling those to this team for quicker response time. Originally had a suggestion in proposal to consider a care coordinator position.
  - 3. **BJ Olson** – to put it into a short statement; Serious enough to have a response, but maybe not necessary to detain them? Also would increase response times for people do need to be detained.
  - 4. **R. Washburn** – Adding the mobile response team to the network, would that affect communications in any way?
    - a. **C. Michael** – Wouldn't think so. Initially envisioning they would have a cellphone, not a radio. Even with a radio, doesn't think it would overwhelm the system.
    - b. **M. Rasmussen** – Those calls are already going to dispatch anyways.
  - 5. **B. Ace** – Cost perspective; this is a bi-county cost estimate?
    - a. **Courtney** (Comprehensive) – yes.
  - 6. **B. Ace** – Current 1/10<sup>th</sup> tax collection, estimate per year?
    - a. Benton County; averaging \$400,000 a month
    - b. Franklin County; averaging \$200,000 a month

5. **Substance Use Disorder Service Sub-Committee** - updates

- a. No Updates

6. **Mental Health Services Sub-Committee** – updates

- a. No Updates

7. **Communications Sub-Committee** – updates
  - a. No Updates
8. **Behavioral Health Workforce Development Sub-Committee** – updates
  - a. No Updates

**Public Comment:**

1. **Nancy Roach** – List of betterments; kitchen. Are we opening phase one without a commercial kitchen?
  - a. **M. Rasmussen** – Current plan is to have a warming kitchen and would have an outside food contractor to come in. One of the top betterments to finding funding for. Likely will contract with one of the food vendors we currently use; Aramark, Summit. Would like to see the commercial kitchen, but is currently outside of budget.
2. **Commissioner Steve Bauman (Franklin County)** – Presentation by Joon, what is the decision making process? Did this board decide to table Joon? Is this board part of criteria decisions for contracts? Did this board recommend Comprehensive to be the provider? Is this board exclusively who makes recommendations to the Counties? It's a 17-member board?
  - a. **BJ Olson** – Joon presentation was to entertain the gaps that exist in the network of services. Tabled those for now, until we have a clear idea of the recovery center dollars, then we could entertain other pieces of the services we can add in our community. Gaps in services for outpatient services in our community.
  - b. **J. Roach** – this board can vote to make a recommendation to the Commissioners
  - c. **B. Ace** – Both Benton & Franklin County Commissioners approved set positions for the advisory committee as well as accepted nominations of applied for positions for this body.
  - d. **J. Raymond** – 8 voting members on each side and 1 at large.
  - e. **M. Rasmussen** – Intent is that as we get into the contract negotiations and have that language, that contract would come back to this body to be reviewed to ensure that the services are consistent with what the Board would expect or what they've said are important in the community for the recommendation going back to the Commissioners to enter into that contract or not. For the RFP, this committee reviewed the RFP, approved it to go out, reviewed the responses, made that formal recommendation to the Board to award that to Comprehensive.

**Other Business:**

1. **B. Ace** – Any updates to the sobering center?
  - a. **J. Raymond** – people are confused how the sobering center came about. The temporary sobering center was voted on previously. Pasco FD is concerned about building. It is progressing, but is bogged down in politics.
  - b. **B. Ace** – Is an update on a timeline feasible?
    - i. **J. Raymond** – Will give a slide presentation
    - ii. **C. Michael** – budget numbers were the concern (few different versions were presented)
  - c. **M. Gomez** – Final budget was submitted months ago (can do a presentation next meeting)
2. **Commissioner Bauman** – Requesting the Franklin County members give an update at the Franklin County Commissioners meeting.
3. **M. Gerber** – Commercial Kitchen is beyond the reach of the Recovery Coalition
  - a. **M. Rasmussen** – On the betterments list. Asking to get a breakdown on the cost they are expecting for their initial estimate.
  - b. **J. Raymond** – Contracting food services is more cost effective
  - c. **B. Ace** – Food service / job training – programmatic value. Concept presentation on this?
    - i. **M. Rasmussen** – Could ask Mike to come present

- ii. **M. Rasmussen** – Conversations with Legislature for additional funding. Cost is high, but so is the value of the training piece in the kitchen, janitorial, landscaping, housekeeping for individuals that are through their recovery and at a point of stabilization for those at the recovery center.

**Adjourned: 3:08**

DRAFT