



**FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**FRANKLIN/BENTON BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2023**

The Minutes of the Board of Commissioners proceedings are not verbatim. Access to an electronic audio recording of the meeting is available on the Franklin County website or upon request.

9:00 a.m. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Commission Chairman Clint Didier called the Franklin/Benton Board of County Commissioners Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room in the Franklin County Courthouse at 1016 North Fourth Avenue, Pasco, Washington.

Franklin County Commissioners Present: Commission Chair Clint Didier, Chair Pro Tem Rocky Mullen, and Member Brad Peck not present

Benton County Commissioners Present: Commission Chair Will McKay, Chair Pro Tem Jerome Delvin, and Commissioner Michael Alvarez Present

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9:00 am Regular Business

- **Mental Health and Substance Abuse Recovery Center Update-** Presented by Matt Rasmussen, Benton County Assistant Administrator.

They informed the locations of the Recovery Center—the opportunity to purchase the Bruno Facility. The Benton Franklin Behavioral Advisory Committee has been having regular meetings to discuss resources and Services that can be implemented in mental health services within the focus of the four core services, which are Crisis Stabilization, Secure Withdrawal Management, Detox, and Residential In-Patient Treatment, and 23 Hour Observation. A movement is to start a Sober service specifically being discussed and starting one in Lourdes—Construction Updates.

Commissioner Peck Shared the Gratitude to Benton County for taking the lead. Commissioner Peck asked how the Revenue works for the individuals using the services and if the local individuals will be a priority.

Medicare and Medicaid will be accepted as coverage, and funding will be used to pay for these services. If other counties participate in this Program, it is still in discussion.

The intention is to ensure the individual is being taken care of in diligent care and referring to the Appropriate care they need. Currently, the Recovery Center plans to start with sixteen beds.

- ❖ *Commissioner Didier Moved to ask if there are any other questions. Benton County and Franklin County Commissioner have no further questions.*

9:21 am.

- **Therapeutic Courts – Update on Bi-County Drug Court**

They have updated the Franklin County board with several updates and answers to the Concerns brought up in the previous meetings. I expressed five independent therapeutic drugs currently stated to the Commissioners with the Missions statement and qualifications to get into the Therapeutic Courts. Describes the Importance of knowing the Core of what Therapeutic Courts services are for. Also shared in detail what are the qualifications for individuals be referred to the programs. Appreciate the Gratitude to Attorney Daniel Stovern for his work and participation as a Drug Court attorney. The Program will help provide housing and explain the challenges for individuals to obtain housing.

Commissioner Peck expressed appreciation for the Program. They provided Comments on the numbers of the individuals who have graduated from the Program. Defined the program's goals and would like to know if there is anything they can do to help with continued recidivism other than re-offending.

Commissioner Delvin would like to know about open slot appointments and would like these to be filled instead of keeping them empty. Matt stated that maintaining the Drug court's bare spots



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for Benton County can impact stress for the Clerk. In the future, the number will change to sixty slots. Regarding Franklin County, they are responsible for their places.

Commissioner Alvarez expressed the goal to reduce crime activity and help the community, and the Program is positive.

Commissioner Mullen expressed appreciation and asked if there was anything they could help to communicate.

Commissioner Didier & Marshall Pickett, Clarified the number of individuals who can use this Program in Franklin County.

Commissioner Peck requested clarification on the referral process for the Drug Court Program.

Commissioner McKay, Appreciation of the Program.

❖ *Commissioner Didier Moved to ask if there were any other questions. Benton County and Franklin County Commissioner have no further questions.*

10:02 am Adjourned:

Commissioner Didier Adjourned the meeting.

Chair

Clerk of the Board

Date