

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BOARD SESSION – Regular Session

Wednesday, March 31, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Senator Hearing Room
555 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

PRESENT: Commissioner Kevin Cameron, Commissioner Danielle Bethell and Commissioner Colm Willis. Also present were Jan Fritz, chief administrative officer, Jane Vetto as county counsel, and Brenda Koenig as recorder.

Commissioner Cameron called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

(Video Time 00:00:53)

Commissioner Cameron requested a moment of silence to acknowledge and reflect on the impacts of child abuse in Marion County.

(Video Time 00:01:33)

PROCLAMATION

COMMUNITY SERVICES – ACTION

1. Consider approval of a proclamation declaring the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Marion County. –Tamra Goestch, Patrice Altenhofen, Family Building Blocks, Kelley Parosa, Liberty House, and Shaney Starr, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Marion County

Summary of presentation:

- Every individual has a role in preventing child abuse:
 - It is important to come together and raise awareness to help prevent child abuse.
- An estimated 500 children within Marion County are in the foster care system as a result of abuse or neglect;
- Volunteers and community supports work to keep children safe and families together;
- Risk factors that families experience include some of the following:
 - Living in poverty:
 - Lack of food; and
 - No shelter.
 - No form of transportation;
 - No access to mental health supports; and
 - No access to addiction services:
 - These are all issues that community members can address to help lower the rates of child abuse.

- The state reported an estimated 13,674 confirmed cases of child abuse and neglect in 2019;
- There were an estimated 1,238 confirmed cases in Marion County;
- An estimated 42 percent of the abuse victims were younger than the age of six;
- Community members are encouraged to perform the following:
 - Build relationships with the children in their lives;
 - Recognize the importance of parents and adult mentors;
 - Learn how to talk to children about safe touch;
 - Get trained on the signs of abuse;
 - Take action when you see signs of abuse;
 - Support organizations that foster prevention trainings; and
 - Participate in community efforts that put family and children first.
- Community events to recognize child abuse during the month of April include some of the following:
 - Citizens are invited to wear blue clothing to recognize the stand against child abuse;
 - A car parade will be held on Friday, April 2, 2021; and
 - A blue ribbon and pinwheel garden will be displayed at the following locations:
 - The Oregon State Capitol building; and
 - The City of Salem Police Department.
- More foster homes and community resources are needed to support the victims of child abuse.

Board discussion:

- The smallest children need a voice against abuse;
- Organizations and other entities providing a positive impact for the victims of child abuse include some of the following:
 - School districts;
 - Teachers; and
 - School resource officers.
- The commissioners expressed their appreciation to community members and to all the presenters for the hard work and efforts their organizations have provided to the victims of abuse; and
- One individual can have a positive impact on a child's life.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve a proclamation declaring the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

The commissioners read the proclamation.

(Video Time 00:21:50)

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATION

(Video Time 00:22:14)

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) update. –Chad Ball

- Mr. Ball reported the following updates for the COVID-19 pandemic as of 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 31, 2021:
 - There have been an estimated 19,340 cumulative cases within the county from the start of the pandemic;
 - An estimated 297 individuals have died from symptoms related to COVID-19; and
 - An estimated 17 county residents are currently being hospitalized for symptoms related to COVID-19.
- The following was reported for the two-week period of March 14th through March 31, 2021:
 - The percent positivity rate is estimated to be 3.6 percent; and
 - The county's case rate is estimated at 117 per 100,000.
- The percent positivity rate has decreased throughout the duration of the pandemic to the current rate of 8.6 percent:
 - The statewide percent positivity rate increased an estimated 2.1 percent.
- A large majority of positive cases have been reported for zip codes in the following locations:
 - The City of Salem in the following areas:
 - Central; and
 - North.
 - The City of Keizer; and
 - The City of Brooks.
- The county anticipates receiving an estimated 10,000 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine:
 - An estimated 5,000 doses will be sent to the Oregon State Fairgrounds; and
 - An estimated 5,000 doses will be sent to Marion County Health and Human Services (MCHHS) for disbursement to locations most in need.
- An estimated 1.1 million Oregonians have received either their first dose or their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine:
 - An estimated 135,000 of those vaccine doses were administered in Marion County.
- On Monday, April 5, 2021, individuals in Phase 1B, Group 7, of the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) vaccination plan will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine which includes some of the following:
 - Frontline workers:

- Grocery store clerks; and
 - Government employees.
- Individuals residing in multigenerational homes; and
- Individuals that are age 16-44 with one or more underlying health conditions:
 - A list of qualified individuals can be located on the county's COVID-19 website.
- COVID-19 vaccine doses are limited;
- Individuals that do not have internet access are encouraged to call 2-1-1 or (503)576-2828 for assistance with scheduling a vaccine appointment;
- Individuals that have received a COVID-19 vaccine will not test positive for the virus on a viral test:
 - Research is ongoing to determine if individuals can potentially test positive on an antibody test after receiving a vaccine; and
 - An antibody test indicates an individual's body has responded to the virus by creating an immune system.
- Individuals that have already tested positive for the COVID-19 virus are still encouraged to get vaccinated:
 - Research has not determined how long an individual is protected from the virus once they have been vaccinated.

Board discussion:

- County statistics show that the largest positive case count is occurring in individuals age 20-29:
 - Most individuals aged 20-29 are not currently eligible to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine; and
 - Individuals in the 20-29 age bracket are encouraged to continue with the following:
 - Washing hands frequently;
 - Wearing protective face coverings; and
 - Paying attention when in public settings.
- All individuals age 16 or older will be eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine on May 1, 2021; and
- The county's percent positivity rate needs to be 100 cases or lower per 100,000 to move down to a moderate risk level.

(Video Time 00:28:01)

CONSENT

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Approve Amendment #5 to the Purchase Order contract with Raintree Systems, Inc. to add \$10,320 for a new not to exceed contract total of \$1,344,064.30 for the addition of 15 Emergency Medical Record (EMR) licenses.

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HUMAN RESOURCES

Approve a recommendation to uphold the pay grade for classification #507, Epidemiologist; reactivate #508, Disease Investigation and Control Specialist 2, retitle to Epidemiologist Senior, establish the pay grade, and update the class specifications.

Approve an order revising Policy #305, Protected Leave and accepting the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) and Military Leave guide.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved for approval of the consent agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:29:15)

ACTION

BUSINESS SERVICES

2. Consider approval of a Purchase Order with APi National Service Group in the amount of \$134,380 to upgrade the Marion County Jail administration fire sprinkler system to current fire codes. –Kevin Burton and Terry Stoner

Summary of presentation:

- A fire sprinkler system was not installed in a portion of the Marion County Jail when it was constructed in 1987;
- Approval of the Purchase Order will allow for the installation of a fire sprinkler system in the sections of the jail that were missed; and
- The installation will bring the building up to current fire code compliance.

Board discussion:

- The improvement will continue to ensure the building is a good asset for the citizens of Marion County.

MOTION: Commissioner Bethell moved to approve the Purchase Order with APi National Service Group in the amount of \$134,380 to upgrade the Marion County Jail administration fire sprinkler system to current fire codes. Seconded by Commissioner Willis; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:31:19)

COMMUNITY SERVICES

3. Consider a resolution approving the county's participation in the University of Oregon School of Law grant selection process for the expenditure of funds for community dispute resolution programs within Marion County. –Tamra Goettsch and Heather Wright, Neighbor-to-Neighbor Community Mediation

Summary of presentation:

- Approval of the resolution allows the county to participate in the grant selection process for the expenditure of funds for dispute resolution mediation services within Marion County;
- The University of Oregon (UO) School of Law partners with counties that would like to participate in the selection process;
- The university will facilitate and manage a contract once the selection process has been completed;
- The Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N2N) organization has been providing mediation services within Marion County and Benton County for over 30 years;
- N2N provides an alternative to dispute resolution;
- Programs within the county offered by N2N include some of the following:
 - Juvenile Victim/Offender Mediation Dialogues:
 - N2N has partnered with the Marion County Juvenile Department to offer a program that provides both the victim and the offender an opportunity for a peaceful solution to conflict.
 - Manufacture Home Park Mediation:
 - Free services are available for both the landlords and the tenants of manufactured home parks:
 - A manufactured home may be a tenants last form of housing before homelessness; and
 - N2N helps to facilitate positive conversation between a landlord and a tenant.
 - Parent/Teen Mediation:
 - N2N partners with Taylor's House, a homeless youth shelter located within the City of Salem, to unify teens with their families.
 - Oregon Foreclosure Avoidance:
 - Facilitators assist homeowners that are at risk for home foreclosure.
- N2N works with some of the following entities:
 - Code enforcement for the City of Salem; and
 - Law enforcement in some of the following locations:
 - The City of Woodburn; and
 - The City of Turner.
- N2N provides mediation services related to some of the following issues as an alternative to the court system:
 - Animals making noise;
 - Fallen leaves on neighboring properties;
 - Items encroaching on neighboring properties;

- Tree growth encroaching on neighboring properties; and
- Property lot line disputes.
- Current and future N2N projects include some of the following:
 - A Peer Mediation program:
 - N2N anticipates partnering with a local high school to assist youth with nonviolent communication and processes.
 - A Second Home program:
 - The program helps to mediate a rental agreement for individuals who would like to open their homes to youth as an alternative to the state's foster system.
 - A Home Share program:
 - The program assists with mediating an agreement for individuals who would like to open their homes to families experiencing hardship.
 - A Pre-eviction Mediation program:
 - The program helps individuals who are unable to obtain rental assistance.
- Approval of the resolution allows the county to advertise a Request For Application (RFA) to the community;
- The RFA closes 30 days after it has been opened;
- Once the RFA process is complete then the county will partner with the university in the selection process; and
- The university will contract directly with the selected program for mediation services.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners expressed their appreciation to Ms. Wright for the services that N2N provides to communities; and
- Mediation helps individuals avoid the court process.

MOTION: Commissioner Willis moved to approve a resolution approving the county's participation in the University of Oregon School of Law grant selection process for the expenditure of funds for community dispute resolution programs within Marion County. Seconded by Commissioner Bethell; motion carried. A voice vote was unanimous.

(Video Time 00:43:46)

PUBLIC HEARINGS
9:30 A.M.

None.

Commissioner Cameron read the calendar;
Commissioner Cameron adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.



CHAIR


COMMISSIONER


COMMISSIONER

Board Sessions can be viewed on-line at
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSUQ1gg6M78UsBE3q6w4rdf59Z5rXkEi5>