



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Board Session Agenda Review Form

Meeting date: May 31, 2023

Department: Board of Commissioners Agenda Planning Date: 5/11/2023 Time required: 10

Audio/Visual aids

Contact: Matt Lawyer Phone: 503-588-5192

Department Head Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

TITLE: Resolution Supporting a Recovery Oriented System of Care in Responding to the Addictions, Mental Health and Homelessness Crisis

Issue, Description & Background: Drugs, Crime and Untreated Mental Illness which all play into the homeless crisis are top threats to health and safety

Financial Impacts:

Impacts to Department & External Agencies: Health and Human Services, Sheriff's Office, Juvenile.

Options for Consideration: Approve the resolution, amend the resolution or deny the resolution

Recommendation: Recommend approving the resolution.

List of attachments: Resolution, list of Behavioral Health Programs and Law Enforcement Programs.

Presenter: Commissioner Bethell

Copies of completed paperwork sent to the following: (Include names and e-mail addresses.)

Copies to:

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR MARION COUNTY, OREGON

In the matter of Supporting a Recovery-)
Oriented Systems of Care in Responding to the)
Addictions, Mental Health and Homelessness)
Crisis.)

RESOLUTION No. _____

This matter came before the Marion County Board of Commissioners at its regularly scheduled public meeting on May 31, 2023.

WHEREAS, Marion County has identified drugs, crime, and untreated mental illness, of which homeless encampments are a symptom, as top threats to the health, safety and wellbeing of all residents; and

WHEREAS, Marion County believes in the dignity and worth of its residents, and the communal good that is achieved when residents are on a path toward the realization of their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Marion County acknowledges that 78% of those struggling with homelessness throughout North America also contend with the complex diseases of mental illness and/or addiction, whether a precursor to, or a result of, homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Surgeon General specifically describes addiction as a brain disorder disease that results in reduced brain function, t inhibits an individual’s ability to make decisions and regulate his or her actions, emotions, and impulses, and furthermore states that changes in the brain persist long after substance use stops; and

WHEREAS, Marion County recognizes that housing alone cannot cure mental illness or addiction, and the nature of addiction and serious mental illness can make sufferers unable to recognize their own illnesses or seek help willingly; and

WHEREAS, Marion County agrees that open air drug scenes create violence that is incompatible with clean, safe and vibrant public spaces, and make recovery from addiction more difficult; and

WHEREAS, Marion County believes that all people have a right to clean, safe and vibrant public spaces, as well as safe emergency shelter when needed; and

WHEREAS, Marion County believes that harm reduction services, when not antithetical to a recovery-oriented system of care, can be effective in saving lives. However, they must be provided within a full continuum of compassionate care that includes prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery for those suffering from addiction; and

WHEREAS, Marion County believes that recovery is possible and most will recover, now, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that all efforts to address homelessness by the County and its employees, in partnership with local organizations, must focus on helping all Marion County residents who are in crisis participate in realizing their full human potential by providing behavioral health and prevention services and protecting public spaces for the use of the entire community.

DATED at Salem, Oregon, this 31st day of May 2023.

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chair

Commissioner

Commissioner