



Management Update Minutes

OREGON

Tuesday, July 13, 2021, 9:30 a.m.

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem
5th Floor, Suite 5231, Commissioners Boardroom

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners Kevin Cameron and Danielle Bethell, Jan Fritz, Tamra Goettsch, Scott Norris, Kathleen Silva, Lisa Trauernicht, Matt Lawyer, Jessica Stanton, Tim Glisson, Corissa Neufeldt, Christina Bertshi and Kristy Witherell as recorder.

Jan Fritz called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INFORMATIONAL:

Discuss the Contract with the Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) to Strengthen, Preserve, and Reunify Families

- Corissa Neufeldt and Christina Bertshi

Summary of presentation:

- This is a pilot project initiated by ODHS;
- ODHS submitted a request to extend the contract;
- The goal of the program is to engage families that are involved with Child Welfare:
 - The families have a child or children who have been removed from the family, or are at risk of being removed.
- The state has identified that the primary barrier to reunification is housing:
 - ODHS has been unsuccessful in housing the families.
- As part of the project there is a housing specialist that works directly with the families:
 - Have housed four families; and
 - Have had 13 referrals.
- Barriers:
 - One of the biggest barriers is the housing market in Marion County:
 - Available properties go fast.
 - Other barriers:
 - Criminal history; and
 - Past debt.
- The program has been very successful:
 - The state would like to find permanent funding.
- The families are connected with Family Building Blocks so that they receive support moving forward.

Board discussion:

- The goal is to get families housed within 90 days:

- Other housing programs provide longer term support.
- Many of the individuals in the program have vouchers to pay for their rent;
- It is intended that the families' social service worker follows them once they are housed;
- Child Welfare is collecting retention data:
 - Are the families remaining in stable housing; and
 - Were they successfully reunified with their children.
- The project does not get involved with relationship building between the child and family;
- The sole focus is to help families find housing, and to connect them with resources that can help them maintain their housing;
- The contract is with Marion County's Human Services Division under the supported housing unit;
- A staff member was moved from another unit to help with the program;
- Commissioner Bethell would like to be involved up front with any new programs presented by the state:
 - Concerned that the state will withdraw future funding; and
 - The need could grow.
- The pilot was through June 2021:
 - The state would like to extend the program through December 31, 2021.
- The original contract was for 15 families to be housed; and
- The Commissioners would like a work session with ODHS on the program.

Ice Storm/Beachie Creek/COVID-19 Update

- All

Summary of presentation:

Kathleen Silva:

- No update on the fire in Linn County; and
- Talked to the chief and assistant fire chief in Detroit and Idanha:
 - They would like more social media engagement to provide their communities alerts and updates; and
 - There is a fire preparedness panel discussion taking place this week that several Marion County employees are attending.

Tamra Goettsch:

- The \$2.2 million COVID business grant is on Ms. Goettsch's desk, ready to be signed:
 - Applicants can apply multiple times, with a \$50,000 limit; and
 - The county has established a \$3,500 limit for this round of funding:
 - Previous recipients are eligible for additional funding up to the \$3,500 limit.

Board discussion:

- The commissioners received an update on the Linn County fire this morning:
 - The fire covers 60 acres of U.S. Forest Service land;
 - Air support is being used;
 - No immediate danger to the cities of Detroit and Idanha; and

- Need to make sure residents are receiving accurate information.

OTHER:

Lisa Trauernicht:

- Introduced Tim Glisson, the new Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program manager; and
- The commissioners are touring Mill City on Monday:
 - Some CDBG funds are being spent on infrastructure in the canyon.

Tamra Goettsch:

- The fair had a record breaking weekend at the gate and at the carnival:
 - Food vendors were also very successful.
- There were several heat-related medical incidents.

COMMISSIONERS COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AND UPDATES:

Danielle Bethell:

- Would like to see the community breakfasts expanded to other cities:
 - Rotate between cities.

Kevin Cameron:

- Attended a meeting with Detroit and Mill City;
- Contacted the Bureau of Land Management:
 - Current plans are to open Fishermen's Bend day use area next year:
 - Do not know the status of the septic system:
 - It was damaged before the wildfires.
- Need to look for an alternative site that could host a RV dump station;
- The listening sessions with cities have been very productive:
 - Prefers the listening sessions over the breakfasts.
- Before COVID board sessions were held in other communities once a quarter:
 - Should maybe start doing this again.
- The county should attempt to get all responsible parties together to discuss Detroit Lake excavation.

Colm Willis:

- The Homeless Alliance has established a subcommittee for youth homelessness:
 - It would be nice to have board representation on the subcommittee.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

COMPLETED BY: **Betsy Young**
Reviewed by: *Melissa Rounds*