



MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Commissioners' Boardroom  
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Attendance:

**Commissioners:** Danielle Bethell, Colm Willis and Kevin Cameron.

**Board's Office:** Jon Heynen, Trevor Lane, Toni Whitler, and Matt Lawyer.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Community and Economic Development:** Chip Bury, Kelli Weese, Steve Dickey, Sheila Roberts.

**Human Resources:** Sherry Linter.

**Health and Human Services:** Rhett Martin, Sam Andress, Melissa Gable, Phil Blea, and Sid Venkatachalam.

**Public:** Chris Decara

Commissioner Colm Willis called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Informational

**1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Interface Network LLC for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) Enrollment Assistance**

-Rhett Martin

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Proposal presented to partner with Interface Network LLC to:
  - Bring two navigators on-site at county buildings.
  - Assist individuals with OHP enrollment.
  - Help clients understand and maximize OHP benefits.
  - Provide referrals or contact information to other eligible benefits and services.
- Intended implementation:
  - Service offered on Mondays at the Silverton Road office.
  - Focus on helping individuals who are:
    - Having difficulty accessing staff in a timely manner.
    - At risk of losing benefits due to new six-month renewal requirements.
  - Limited to people enrolled or currently served, not general walk ins.
- Existing capacity and potential duplication:
  - Employ health navigators who provide enrollment and benefit navigation.
  - Concern that adding Interface could be duplicative of existing county efforts.
- Scope and risk concerns:
  - Significant concern about vague "other services," with no clear definition of:
    - What additional services could be promoted.
    - Who defines them.
    - Whether they align with county values and priorities.
  - Avoid unintentionally connecting to controversial or inappropriate services:
    - Particularly for minors.

- Recognize that concept comes from an external party:
  - Not from a clearly identified internal county need.

**Board Direction:**

- Request additional information and documentation before approving:
  - Obtain and review Interface Network’s contract with OHA, including scope, outcomes, and service definitions.
  - Clarify and narrowly define any “other services” they would discuss with county clients.
- Do not move forward with the MOU at this time:
  - Bring the item back to the Board after:
    - Legal review.
    - Clarification of scope of services.
    - Evaluation of necessity versus existing county navigator capacity.
- Board will not approve agreements that contain open ended language such as “and other things” or similarly vague service descriptions.

**2. Child Abuse Prevention Month Activities**

-Phil Blea & Sid Venkatachalam

**Summary of Presentation:**

- April designated as Child Abuse Prevention Month:
  - Present a formal Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation to the Board.
  - Coordinate public awareness events, including:
    - A car parade.
    - Blue ribbon displays.
    - Proclamations.
    - Coordinated outreach with community partners.
  - Highlight child abuse prevention and demonstrate shared commitment to child and family well-being.
- Supporting materials provided:
  - Project overview.
  - List of participants.
  - Description of activities.
  - Information on newly restructured committees supporting month’s activities.
- Car Parade:
  - Planned for April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Speakers will present remarks at the conclusion of the parade.
  - Request a Board member to serve as a representative and speaker at event.

**Board Direction:**

- Support the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation as drafted.
- Prioritize Board presence:
  - Intend to have at least one, and preferably two, commissioners present.
- Add Child Abuse Prevention Month events to commissioners’ calendars.

**3. KROC Center General Education Development (GED) Classroom Funding Request**

-Chip Bury

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Request from the KROC Center for funding to support a GED classroom program.
- Funding request amount of \$75,000.
- Proposed funding mechanism:
  - Send application to county Emergent Economic Opportunity Program (EEOP).
  - Treat request consistently with other EEOP applications.
- Timeline:

- Application deadline is March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Staff to guide KROC Center through the established process.

**Board Direction:**

- Invite KROC Center to apply for funding through EEO for the requested \$75,000.
- Process the request through standard EEO application and review process.
- Bring the resulting proposal back to the Board for final consideration.

**4. 2026-2027 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) HOME Funding Direction**

-Steve Dickey

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Background:
  - On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, applicants presented their proposals to the Board.
  - Board to deliberate window to provide funding allocation direction.
- Current status:
  - Staff returned seeking direction on funding decisions for the 2026–2027 cycle.
  - Valor Mentoring requested a change in use for its proposed funding from:
    - Pop up mentoring sites, to
    - Additional funding for a project referred to as the “Rec Commons.”
  - Supporting materials and updated project information provided to the Board.
- Board stated they are not ready to make funding decisions:
  - Need additional time to review applications and priorities.
  - Need to discuss legal questions related to at least one application.
  - Desire for participation from additional leadership.
- Time pressure due to consolidated plan and annual action plan deadlines.
- Target to resolve funding directions by the end of the month if possible.
- Scheduling:
  - Board prefers to handle CDBG/HOME decisions in a dedicated meeting.
  - Use a Board of Commissioners (BOC)/ Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) meeting rather than a work session.
  - Suggest rescheduling a work session on February 26<sup>th</sup> to prioritize this topic and move other items to a management update.

**Board Direction:**

- Defer immediate funding decisions for CDBG/HOME applications.
- Schedule a dedicated meeting before the end of the month to:
  - Address CDBG/HOME funding allocations.
  - Review Ballard Mentoring’s requested change of purpose.
  - Resolve legal questions.
- Calendar adjustments as necessary to prioritize completion within required timelines.

**5. National Volunteer Week Activities**

-Sherry Linter

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Annual participation in National Volunteer Week:
  - Presentation at Board session on April 8<sup>th</sup> with:
    - An annual volunteer report – condensed to high level metrics.
    - A proclamation recognizing volunteers.
  - Special guests such as:
    - Sheriff’s Office representatives.
    - A cadet - subject to school schedule constraints.
- Printed thank you cards mailed to:
  - All volunteers who donated service in calendar year 2025.

- All volunteers who have donated services to date in 2026.
- Visual and communication efforts:
  - Lobby/window display:
    - Front window display with “Powered by People Who Care” theme.
    - Coordinate with Child Abuse Prevention Month display to share space.
  - Social media, lobby screen, and other channels to highlight contributions.
  - Departments and programs plan recognition activities for their volunteers.
- Volunteer awards:
  - Current nomination period is open for volunteer awards:
    - Nominations accepted through the end of March.
    - Awards are to be presented by commissioners at the Marion County Fair.

**Board Direction:**

- Proceed with National Volunteer Week plans including:
  - April 8<sup>th</sup> Board session presentation.
  - Proclamation.
  - Volunteer report and thank you mailings.
  - Lobby/window display and communications.
- Provide commissioners with:
  - A consolidated list of departmental volunteer recognition events.
  - About one month to sign printed thank you letters and certificates.
- Coordinate window and communications logistics:
  - Share use of downstairs window with Child Abuse Prevention Month.
  - Continue using the “Powered by people who care” theme across materials.

**6. Legislative Update**

-Alvin Klausen

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Civil commitment transport bill:
  - The civil commitment transport bill:
    - A scheduled public hearing.
    - A scheduled work session.
  - Considered a significant advocacy priority.
  - Persistent engagement with legislators is beginning to show success.
  - Written testimony is being prepared and oral testimony is planned.
- Woodburn Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) expansion – Senate Bill 1564 and related:
  - Public hearing scheduled:
    - Including a tour at 3 p.m.
  - Written testimony is being prepared to ensure county position is on record.
  - Discussion of broader UGB policy:
    - Interest in state legislation enabling more practical UGB expansions.
    - Improved flexibility can benefit cities along I-5 and within county.
    - Explore county helping cities understand and use UGB expansion tools:
      - Especially for industrial and employment land.
- Wolf compensation and Transient Lodging Tax (TLT) use:
  - Draft letter opposing TLT as primary source for wolf compensation funding.
- Cheriots funding requests:
  - South Salem Transit Center/mobility hub:
    - Similar in concept to the Keizer Station transit center.
  - ADA bus replacement or expansion.

**Board Direction:**

- Cheriots Funding Request:
  - Repeated similar requests previously declined.

- Perception that Cherriots should fund such projects from its own reserves.
- Competition with county priorities for limited federal funding.
- Civil Commitment Transportation Bill:
  - Contact key community members to testify:
    - Speak to Phil Blea on suggestions.

**7. Board Session**

- **February 11, 2026 – Agenda Review**
- **February 18, 2026 – No Meeting**
- **February 25, 2026 – No Meeting**
- **March 4, 2026**
- **March 11, 2026**

-Commissioner Colm Willis

**Summary of Presentation:**

- Agenda overview.
- Add a BOC/CAO meeting after:
  - Valor Mentoring to be topic of discussion.

**Board Direction:**

- Good with update.

COMMISSIONERS’ COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS and UPDATE

**Commissioner Danielle Bethell**

- Oregon Associations of Counties (AOC):
  - Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) funding frustration.
- AOC 120 Year Anniversary.
- Spoke to Senator Todd Nash:
  - TLT Bill.
  - Housing Bill.
  - Meet after session regarding land use.
- Spoke to Senator Anthony Broadman:
  - Federal Decoupling Bill.
  - Public Safety.

**Commissioner Kevin Cameron**

- N/A

**Commissioner Colm Willis**

- N/A

Other

**UGB Expansion Fix Bill**

-Commissioner Danielle Bethell

**Summary of Presentation:**

- New “fix” bill that adjusts or clarifies a prior UGB/housing bill from last session.
- Intent of fix is to make it practically usable for cities to do one-time UGB expansion.
- Commissioners note this tool could:
  - Be especially valuable for I-5 corridor cities and Marion County,
  - Help add industrial/employment land and strengthen the tax base.
  - Concern that many cities do not understand how to use this tool effectively.
  - Agreement that county needs more detail on how fix changes existing law.

**Board Direction:**

- Alvin Klausen to set up meeting with legislator.
- Mr. Klausen to write a memo comparison of the two bills.

**Adjourned** – time: 10:17 a.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White