



O R E G O N

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# Work Session Summary Minutes

## Community Mental Health Program Local Plan

August 19, 2025. 1:30 PM

Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Salem

5th Floor, Suite 5232, Commissioners Board Room

### ATTENDANCE:

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

**Board's Office:** Matt Lawyer, Trevor Lane, and Alvin Klausen.

**Legal Counsel:** Steve Elzinga.

**Health and Human Services:** Ryan Matthews.

Commissioner Danielle Bethell called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m.

### **Discussion of Community Mental Health Program Local Plan**

- Reviewed the 28-page draft of the local plan:
  - Outlines current services and spending.
  - Shows the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) how funds are being used.
- The plan was developed to meet a June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline:
  - Has undergone a cursory legal review.
- Uncertainty about the negotiation process with OHA:
  - Expected to be detailed and may require multiple meetings.
- Plan aims to reflect local priorities and operations, not just OHA's prioritization list.
- Start negotiations early to understand OHA's expectations and prepare for potential challenges.
- Includes required attachments:
  - Comprehensive budget spreadsheet.
  - Organizational chart.
  - Key contacts.
  - List of subcontracts.
- Decide if to state not all OHA priorities can be funded due to limited resources:
  - Concern such language could allow OHA to dictate funding priorities.
- Consider qualifying language to clarify the plan is subject to available funding:
  - Without inviting OHA to reprioritize services.
- Challenges of meeting community needs with limited funding:
  - Especially high-cost programs like ACT (Assertive Community Treatment).
- Review of recent audit:
  - Misunderstandings by auditors about local services.
  - Need better communication about the complexity of community needs.
- Highlight the unique challenges and needs of the local population compared to other counties.

**Other**

- Effectiveness and limits of Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) in supporting coordinated efforts among counties.
- Concerns about lack of direction from AOC's Health and Human Services Subcommittee:
  - Varying levels of engagement from other counties.
  - Some are actively involved.
  - Some content to follow Marion County's lead.
- Political dynamics within partner counties:
  - Washington County.
  - Potential factor affecting collaboration.
- Need clear communication and coordination among county representatives:
  - Subcommittee co-chairs.

**Next Steps**

- Commissioners to review the local plan document:
  - Provide any edits or suggestions.
- Electronic budget document will be sent to the group for review.
- Coordination with key partners:
  - Commissioner Bethell.
  - Commissioner Nafisa Fai, AOC Health and Human Services Subcommittee.
- Discuss with AOC a more coordinated plan of involvement.
- Submit the plan to OHA by the end of next week.
- Monitor feedback from OHA:
  - Prepare to address major concerns during contract negotiations.
- Ongoing communication and updates throughout the process.

**Adjourned** – time: 1:58 p.m.

**Minutes by:** Mary Vityukova

**Reviewed by:** Gary L. White