

County Commissioners
Colm Willis, Chair
Kevin Cameron
Danielle Bethell



Chief Administrative
Officer
Jan Fritz

MARION COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION

Quarterly Updates with the Health & Human Service Executive Team Minutes

Tuesday, September 29, 2026, 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Commissioners' Boardroom
Courthouse Square, 555 Court St. NE, Suite 5231
Salem, Oregon 97301

ATTENDANCE:

Commissioners: Danielle Bethell and Kevin Cameron.

Board's Office: Matt Lawyer, Alvin Klausen, Jonathan Sanford, Toni Whitler, and Trevor Lane.

Legal Counsel: Jennifer Rogers.

Health and Human Services: Troy Gregg, Karin Perkins, Carol Heard, Debbie Wells, Alisa Zastoupil, Naomi Hudkins, Phil Blea, and Lisette Cervantes Almonte.

Commissioner Kevin Cameron called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

1. Welcome & Introductions

-Commissioner Kevin Cameron

2. Discussion

a) Housing and Residential Programs Update

b) Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

c) COA Application Update

d) Initial Board Review Discussion

e) New Partnership Opportunities with Juvenile and ATS

f) Mountain Mover Awards

-Naomi Hudkins, Carol Heard, Phil Blea, Troy Gregg and Carol Heard

Housing and Residential Programs Update

-Naomi Hudkins

Summary of Discussion:

Work to create a clearer entry process for County's housing programs. It includes transitional rental assistance for youth, adults, and families, and supportive housing. Outlined proposed initial navigation and support program intended to help applicants access services while awaiting placement in higher levels of assistance. Several supportive housing properties are being sold or marketed. New Day property, housing 12 people, was listed for approximately \$250,000.

Commissioners discussed whether County or housing authority should own the New Day property and how it could be professionally managed. Commissioners Cameron and Bethell expressed support for pursuing a purchase. Legal paperwork and Board order are needed before offer can be signed. Ownership and property-management arrangement remained to be worked out.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Prepare legal paperwork and Board order to pursue the New Day property purchase. | **Assigned To:** Legal Counsel. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Sign or submit purchase offer once required Board order is prepared. | **Assigned To:** Troy Gregg. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Continue discussions with Marion County and Salem housing authorities about potential ownership or property-management arrangements. | **Assigned To:** Naomi Hudkins. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Contact Realtors Association and property-management associations about publicizing County housing assistance and rental-support opportunities. | **Assigned To:** Naomi Hudkins. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program

-Alisa Zastoupil

Summary of Discussion:

Public Health Emergency Preparedness update. Annual Oregon Health Authority (OHA) pass-through award It has been reduced by \$3,800, from \$133,870 to approximately \$130,000. Recent exercises included a dam-drawdown exercise and a family-reunification exercise involving county and community partners. Future exercise topics may include Ebola, flooding, and other emerging risks.

Commissioners requested after-action reports to review exercises' findings. Asked to be included in invitations to future exercises. Commissioner Bethell clarified she was seeking reports for awareness and review, rather than to provide advance approval of exercise topics.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Provide dam-drawdown exercise after-action report to Board and Legal Counsel. | **Assigned To:** Alisa Zastoupil. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Provide the family-reunification exercise outcome or after-action report to the commissioners. | **Assigned To:** Alisa Zastoupil. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Include board on invitations to future public health emergency exercises. | **Assigned To:** Alisa Zastoupil. | **Deadline/Timeline:** For future exercises; dates not specified.

Certificate of Approval (COA) Application Update

-Phil Blea

Summary of Discussion:

OHA's COA process reviews behavioral health services for compliance with state requirements. This includes staffing, clinical practice, documentation, quality management, and service delivery. The next application is due in December OHA interviews expected to be scheduled for February 2nd to 3rd. Commissioner Bethell offered to participate in an interview. Discussed reviewing the stakeholder list, including possible partners from the Marion County Housing Authority.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Send proposed stakeholder and partner list to Commissioner Bethell for review. | **Assigned To:** Phil Blea. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Coordinate the requested commissioner interview for the OHA review. | **Assigned To:** Phil Blea. | **Deadline/Timeline:** February 2nd to 3rd.

Initial Board Review Discussion

-Troy Gregg

Summary of Discussion:

Contract was brought forward because revenue exceeded \$100,000. The contract terms had not changed, and the agreement did not require a maximum dollar amount. Commissioner Bethell emphasized the County must retain control over contract renewals and renewal should not be at a vendor's discretion. Approximately \$450,000 in PacificSource back-billed funds. Troy Gregg will contact the organization and look at how other counties are addressing the issue.

Approximately \$3 million in underspent CFAA funds had been redistributed to other areas. This includes housing and aid-and-assist resources. Ongoing work to determine which hospital bills for unfunded individuals the County is responsible for paying. The applicable responsibility and costs were not resolved in discussion.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Commissioner Bethell asked that the contracts team understand renewals are to remain at County's discretion. No broader Board action on contract policy was recorded.

Task: Contract language and renewal procedures preserve County's discretion over renewals. | **Assigned To:** Contracts team. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Contact PacificSource and relevant counties regarding the approximately \$450,000 billing backlog and pursue a resolution. | **Assigned To:** Troy Gregg. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Determine which hospital bills for unfunded individuals are the County's responsibility. | **Assigned To:** Not specified. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

New Partnership Opportunities with Juvenile and ATS

-Troy Gregg & Carol Heard

Summary of Discussion:

Efforts to work with the Juvenile Department on Substance-Use-Disorder (SUD) assessments for adolescents, particularly youth in detention. HHS staff capacity to conduct electronic assessments, with Juvenile Department supervisors indicating need for approximately two assessment appointments per week. The team discussed referrals to appropriate levels of care and the goal of maintaining continuity of services when youth leave detention.

Possible access for youth from Washington and Clackamas counties and difficulty of billing Medicaid for services provided in detention. No decision was made on extending services across county lines or on an alternative billing approach. HHS would explore options related to billing issue.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Explore billing or funding options for behavioral health services provided to youth in detention. | **Assigned To:** Troy Gregg. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Clarify if and how assessment or treatment services could be extended to youth from Washington and Clackamas counties, including coordination and billing arrangements. |
Assigned To: Not specified. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Mountain Mover Awards

-Troy Gregg

Summary of Discussion:

Annual staff recognition awards were being held for a second year. Staff nominations are being received. A nomination closing date of October 23rd mentioned, though the date is uncertain. Awards are expected to be presented at an all-staff meeting in December.

Direction & Follow-Up:

No Board direction or follow-up was identified.

3. Other

-All

Summary of Discussion:

How would the Board want to review the Public Health Department's other work plans. Work plans are due at different times. Commissioner Bethell requested an advanced list of work plans and a work session to review them.

The Board discussed the Rapid Engagement, Assessment & Community Health (REACH) program's funding beyond the end of the year. Commissioner Bethell said she was not prepared to make a funding decision without program data and a specific financial request. Raised the need to distinguish addiction-related calls from mental-health-related calls when assessing use of opioid settlement funds. The reporting system has a field for the primary presenting issue. The City of Salem's funding source for its portion of program was not known during the meeting.

Commissioner Bethell asked HHS to examine providing injectable medication for addiction treatment in the jail. The HHS's ability to provide medication discussed had not yet been confirmed. Commissioner Bethell will forward related email. Described ongoing discussions with a federal HHS contact about potential direct federal funding for Marion County programs.

Commissioner Bethell reported that a public health letter had been sent to Salem's city manager. It is regarding discarded hypodermic needles in public rights-of-way, including concerns related to the Village of Hope. Ask Alisa Zastoupil receive a copy and inquiries about the letter be directed to the Board's Office. Board asked about a food-service operation near Delaney. Staff said it remained out-of-compliance and awaiting a build-out.

Direction & Follow-Up:

Task: Send Board list of Public Health Department work plans in advance and schedule work session to review them. | **Assigned To:** Public Health staff. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Prepare a REACH program presentation with outcome data, a complete financial request, and information distinguishing addiction-related from mental-health-related calls. |
Assigned To: Troy Gregg. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Mid-October.

Task: Confirm how the City of Salem is funding its portion of the REACH program. |
Assigned To: Debbie Wells. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Before the REACH work session.

Task: Forward email concerning jail-based injectable medication for addiction treatment to HHS. | **Assigned To:** Danielle Bethell. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Review HHS authorization or licensing and determine how HHS could provide injectable medication services in the jail. | **Assigned To:** Health and Human Services. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Not specified.

Task: Provide Alisa Zastoupil a copy of the letter sent to Salem's city manager | **Assigned To:** Jonathan Sanford. | **Deadline/Timeline:** Before Alisa Zastoupil left the meeting.

Task: Direct inquiries about letter to the Board of Commissioners Office. | **Assigned To:** Alisa Zastoupil. | **Deadline/Timeline:** As inquiries arise.

Adjourned – time: 2:39 p.m.

Minutes by: Mary Vityukova

Reviewed by: Gary L. White