

## MINUTES

### BOARDS OF BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Bi-County Board Meeting  
Friday, May 15, 2015, 1:30 p.m.  
Benton County Justice Center  
Commissioners' Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
7122 W. Okanogan Place, Bldg. A  
Kennewick, WA 99336

The Honorable Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners met via telephone conference call on May 15, 2015 in a special Bi-County Board Meeting held at the Benton County Justice Center by Benton County Commissioners and at the Franklin County Courthouse by Franklin County Commissioners.

#### Benton County

Present: Chairman Jerome Delvin  
Chairman Pro-Tem Shon Small  
Commissioner James Beaver

#### Franklin County

Present: Chairman Brad Peck  
Chairman Pro-Tem Rick Miller  
Commissioner Robert Koch

The meeting convened at 1:30 pm. Present in the audience: Benton County Administrator David Sparks; Benton County Deputy Administrator Loretta Smith Kelty; Alternate Clerk to the Board Marilu Flores; Deputy Prosecuting Attorneys Ryan Brown, Ryan Lukson and Steve Hallstrom; Personnel Manager Lexi Wingfield; Linda Ivey Human Services; Tri-City Herald Reporter Sarah Schilling; and Greater Columbia Behavioral Health staff and others.

#### Scheduled Business

##### Future of the Crisis Response Unit

Chairman Delvin opened the meeting at 1:30 pm to discuss the future of the Crisis Response Unit. Chairman Delvin indicated that Commissioner Small would lead the discussion

on the update. Clarification was made that the discussion would be an update and no action was to be taken on Crisis Response.

Commissioner Small began the update by giving a history on the future of the consolidated Crisis Response Center and how it currently was functioning with both Human Services Department and Greater Columbia Behavioral Health. Commissioner Small indicated that legislation passed proposing that the State would be moving towards a fully integrated health care system by 2020 that will integrate both mental health and chemical dependency services and that the current system puts the counties in direct opposition to Washington State's vision of health care. Commissioner Small discussed that by consolidating services, crisis response would be considered and referred to as a one stop center.

Commissioners discussed the benefits of consolidating to include smaller governments and perhaps providing additional funds for mental health services; increase efficiencies and overall mental health services; reducing risks to the counties and putting the counties in line with the current vision of the State by 2020. Commissioner Delvin discussed that perhaps a possible benefit would be that the counties would be out of the picture as far as liability because they would not be contractually obligated. Commissioner Peck questioned whether Benton County had received a legal opinion and commented on the fact that Franklin County had received concerns from constituents on risks and shared their concerns.

Commissioner Small recommended that he would propose an RFP. Commissioner Peck indicated that he would like more information and to address other issues about how this move would impact the people it served before Franklin County could make a decision on an RFP. Commissioner Delvin agreed that it looked like both boards wanted to consider an RFP before spending money. Commissioner Delvin recommended that each county have a commissioner on point to work together to get answers to legal, contract issues, RFP, impact on clients, and having public hearings to get answers. It was determined that Commissioner Koch would be the Commissioner on point for Franklin County with Commissioner Small for Benton County. It was recommended that each county have two weeks for each county to discuss among themselves and gather relevant questions.

Commissioner Small invited Ken Roughton, Director from Greater Columbia Behavior Health to answer questions pertaining to a more defined purpose of a consolidated crisis; the services to be performed and impacts to the consumers. Commissioner Beaver indicated that if

there was an opportunity to better serve the consumers and save money, an RFP would be agreeable and both boards agreed.

**Executive Session:** Executive session to review the performance of a public employee did not occur. Franklin County did not advertise and their legal counsel did not recommend an executive session. Franklin County took a vote with the majority agreeing not to have the executive session.

**There being no further business before the Boards, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.**

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman