



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

April 10, 2007

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

County of Lake County
State of Oregon

WORK SESSION

The Lake County Board of Commissioners met in Work Session on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at 9:40 a.m. The following members were present: Chair, Bradley J. Winters and Ken Kestner. Also present: Administrative Assistant Bob Pardee.

Agenda Review: The Board of Commissioners reviewed the agenda items scheduled for the April 18, 2007 Regular Session.

Addition: Amendment #22 to Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) # 113005 (Department of Human Services (DHS) – Mental Health)

Lake County Chamber of Commerce

Caro Johnson, Chamber of Commerce Director, updated the Board regarding Chamber activities and tourism trends in Lake County. She reviewed the activities related to Economic Development, Quality of Life and Marketing. She also reviewed the 2007 Schedule of Events.

The Chamber will have two booths at the Governor's Conference in Sun River in May of 2007.

Nine kiosks have been installed, and a celebration for the completion of the Byway project is scheduled in September 2007.

Governor Ted Kulongoski will open the Chewaucan Challenge Event that is taking place in Paisley in July 2007.

Adolescent Substance Treatment Request For Proposal (RFQ)

Eric Shpilman updated the Board regarding the scoring on the two respondents to this program. He has outlined three suggested options to these responses, which was submitted to the Board for review.

Commissioner Kestner asked about Option #3 in regards to possibly postponing a decision on the issue.

Mr. Shpilman indicated that he felt obligated to include this as an option due to the issues that have been coming up.

Commissioner Kestner indicated that there has been no decision as to the award of a contract, and that a Request For Proposal be issued for a Mental Health provider.

Commissioner Winters indicated that the Board does not engage in the emotional issues surrounding Mental Health, and suggested not using the word “controversial” for Option #3.

Commissioner Kestner had questions regarding where the funding is coming from, and Mr. Shpilman explained the funding as coming from Juvenile Crime Prevention. This is not a State of Oregon Mandated program.

Commissioner Kestner indicated that the Board needs to get feedback on this issue to Mr. Shpilman at next week’s Regular Meeting regarding the Adolescent Substance Treatment Program.

Off the topic

Mr. Shpilman asked on behalf of the Mental Health Advisory Board if there was a tape recorder available to record their meetings. Discussion followed regarding the Mental Health Advisory Board’s need to keep minutes of their meetings and of the need to record the meetings or not.

*Five minute break at 10:25 a.m.
Meeting resumed at 10:30 a.m.*

Updates

Commissioner Winters briefly updated the group regarding the Railroad Commission Meeting and on various other meetings that he has attended.

Commissioner Kestner summarized the 911/Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) discussions.

Commissioner Winters summarized lobby efforts on PL-106 and a conference call that he had yesterday with Lane County. This is still a real concern for the County.

Lutheran Community Services (LCS)

Roberta Nestaas, Kay Doolittle and Bob Pickel arrived to give updates regarding Lutheran Family Services.

Commissioner Kestner introduced himself and explained that he has taken on the Liaison role to Mental Health after Commissioner Winters stepped down due to conflict of interest. He thanked the people listed above for taking the time to come to Lakeview for dialogue regarding Mental Health issues.

Commissioner Kestner then summarized the issues that have come to light as he has been educating himself on the operations at Mental Health. These appear to him to be mostly communication issues that have a perceived impact on the services provided to patients in Lake County.

Ms. Nestaas described their role as being guidance from afar. She indicated that their role includes support for accounting, insurance, payroll, human resources, etc. They rely on local leadership to work with the community and the clients in securing funding, etc. Most of the local relationships and client interaction is done by the local management staff. She indicated that she is pleased to see that an Advisory Board has been established to provide

a link between the organization and the community. She referenced the LCS mission statement which includes the word "partner". This partnership includes the County, the community and the clients. She indicated that working to build this partnership concept will begin with the Advisory Board.

Commissioner Kestner agreed that the Advisory Board is the key to rebuilding this partnership, and stated that there are many issues and entities that need to be addressed locally to rebuild trust in the services provided by Mental Health.

Ms. Nestaas agreed with Commissioner Kestner's statement.

Commissioner Kestner indicated that he has spoken with other agencies outside of Lake County, and it appears that there are well groomed relationships in those instances. He is curious about what is unique to Lakeview that keeps things from working so well.

Ms. Nestaas indicated that that is one of the reasons they are in Lakeview today. They have not yet received the results of the recent Site Review. They have met with the staff at Mental Health this morning. They are here before the Board to get feedback from the Board as well. The staff turnover recently has caused strain at many levels, including with funding issues.

Commissioner Winters reminded the audience that several years ago there were real budget issues at a State level that have had an impact on how the operations at Mental Health function today.

Ms. Nestaas indicated that Mr. Pickel, in effect, "volunteered his time" to work as the Director for Mental Health in Lake County when the former director stepped down. That worked well for a period of time, but currently it appears that those resources have been stretched a bit too far. She suggested that if LCS were to remain in Lakeview, there needs to be a full time director who would provide services similar to those that Mr. Bob Leep provided.

Commissioner Kestner asked for clarity on Ms. Maxine Hogan's role in Lakeview.

Ms. Nestaas indicated that currently Mr. Pickel provides a certain amount of regional leadership, and that Ms. Hogan was hired primarily due to her clinical experience. There is a need for an administrative lead to be based in Lakeview.

Commissioner Kestner asked about the Chain of Command with LCS, and how this can be improved to overcome local issues.

Mr. Pickel indicated that he isn't sure why Lake County has had an ongoing problem with Mental Health staffing and services.

Mike Shults of the Mental Health Advisory Board asked if one of the problems is the geographic issue of where Lake County is located. Ms. Nestaas and Mr. Pickel agreed that the distance between Lakeview and other communities is part of the problem.

Ms. Nestaas indicated that LCS covers three states, and stated that distance is always a challenge, but with modern communication methods it has been able to be successful in other locations.

Commissioner Winters had comments regarding the chain of command of LCS regarding Mental Health in Lake County.

Commissioner Kestner summarized that flow of information appears to work well in Klamath and Crook counties, and expressed a desire that the same flow of information needs to exist in Lake County as well. This has been a real issue with the local staff and clients.

Ms. Nestaas indicated that there have been increased efforts through weekly phone conferences with Ms. Hogan, Mr. Pickel, Ms. Nestaas and others from LCS. Through their conversation with the staff at Mental Health this morning, she had only just learned that Lake County had issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) for this contract.

Commissioner Kestner indicated that it is true that the County wants to know what options are available, since the County has had a thirteen year relationship with LCS and maybe it is time to explore other options. This is not an effort to replace LCS, but rather a business decision to ensure that the County is keeping themselves informed in order to provide the best possible service for Mental Health clients.

Ms. Nestaas indicated that LCS has decided to not apply. LCS came to Lake County by invitation originally, as they have also done in other locations around the region. As a result of the controversy that exists, LCS has decided not to respond to the Request For Proposal, and they will step aside so that the County can review what options are available. She expressed that if there is a decision to pursue a different service provider; LCS will fully support and assist with any transition issues as appropriate.

Commissioner Kestner expressed that he had hoped that LCS would submit a Request For Proposal to be considered along with any others that are submitted to the County.

Commissioner Winters asked for an official status on whether LCS will respond to a Request for Qualifications or a Request for Proposal.

Ms. Nestaas confirmed that LCS will not respond or submit a Request For Proposal, and that they will assist with whatever transition is necessary in order to ensure that there is no interruption of services at Mental Health.

Commissioner Kestner asked that LCS be part of helping with any employee transition that may occur. Ms. Nestaas agreed that that would be appropriate, and thanked Commissioner Kestner for his concern for LCS employees.

Ms. Nestaas indicated that information regarding experiences from Crook and Lake Counties' associations with LCS will be available for any transition.

Mr. Shults asked if LCS decision not to respond to the Request For Proposal was based on the fact that the County had already issued a Request For Proposal.

Ms. Nestaas said yes. LCS had decided that if the County wanted to submit a Request for Proposal, that LCS should step aside and allow Lake County to do so.

Commissioner Winters spoke about an experience from five years ago when LCS employees approached the Board to ask that the Board not take the services of Mental Health back as a County function. He thanked Ms. Nestaas for the presence of LCS and for what they have brought to the community over the years.

Ms. Nestaas wishes to continue communication with the Board, and will continue to work with the group. They excused themselves to go to another meeting with the Mental Health Advisory Board.

Unfinished Business

Office Updates

Mr. Pardee reported on a letter from Governor Kulongoski's office.

Mr. Pardee summarized the status of the Gretch-Ken Industrial Park Lease. Discussion followed as to appropriate term considerations for the lease. The Board generally agreed that a one year renewable lease is appropriate at the full rate.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, the Lake County Board of Commissioners Work Session adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert R. Pardee
Administrative Assistant

Board Approval,

Bradley J. Winters
Chairman

Ken Kestner
Vice Chairman

Dan Shoun
Commissioner