The Lake County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 3:09 a.m. The following members were present: Vice Chair Bradley J. Winters and Commissioner Ken Kestner. Chair Dan Shoun was absent from these proceedings. Also present: Administrative Assistant Denise Thorsted and Mental Health Director Jack Breazeal.

3:00 p.m. – Update from the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC)

Human Services Policy Manager Mark Nystrom came before the Board to provide information regarding legislative changes to Human Services funding around the State of Oregon.

Mr. Nystrom began the discussion providing information on his training and related job history.

Mr. Nystrom stated that the legislative body had not yet made final decisions regarding the State budget. There appeared to be one issue still being worked through that had to do with the Corrections budget. This was expected to be resolved on June 30, 2011.

Mr. Nystrom confirmed that Lake County was the fourth County that he had visited in just three days to provide information regarding Human Services, to make a plug for the AOC Human Services Committee and to answer any questions the Board had.

Commissioner Winters and Commissioner Kestner provided a brief summary of the management of Lake County Mental Health. Mr. Nystrom was informed that an interim Director had been appointed and a decision had been made to go out for a second Request for Proposal (RFP) for Lake County Mental Health. Mr. Nystrom agreed to aid in the distribution of this RFP.

Mr. Nystrom informed the Board of what was occurring at the State level in regards to counties. Governor Kitzhaber had come into office wanting to make a real impact to Human Services. Health System Transformation (House Bill 3650) and the Early Learning Counsel were the two anticipated changes expected to have the largest impact to Lake County.
The Early Learning Counsel, Mr. Nystrom stated, was expected to effect the Commission on Children and Families (CC&F). CC&F was to be transferred to fall under the Early Learning Counsel.

House Bill 3650 was designed to take all Medicaid patients and Oregon Health Plan participants and have them managed by Community Care Organizations (CCO). These CCOs were to include hospitals, primary care, mental health care and dental care. Discussion followed on the design of the CCOs.

Mr. Nystrom stated that there had been interest from Greater Oregon Behavioral Health (GOHBI) to become the CCO. Concern was expressed by Commissioner Kestner that if an organization working was to work as a CCO and was located in a metropolitan area most likely would not work for smaller counties. Mr. Nystrom stated that this was also a concern of AOC and felt that GOHBI would be a good fit in that manner. Discussion followed on other concerns expressed by other counties.

Commissioner Winters stated that as Lake County was currently a GOHBI county, this would be a “pretty simple fit”. He confirmed that in order for GOHBI to become the CCO of Lake County, they would need to be part of the upcoming RFP process. Discussion followed on the transition to the CCO program and State budget cuts.

Mr. Nystrom addressed the relationships and communication that needed to occur between county department such as the Sheriff’s Department and Mental Health. He expressed the importance of Mental Health being contacted when situations were to arise where an individual was in need of mental health attention either instead of or in coordination of medical care.

Mr. Braezeal asked for clarification as to whether the CCOs being developed would not only be responsible for services for Medicaid patients but for other services as well such as crisis services and other services provided by Mental Health not related to Oregon Health Plan.

Mr. Nystrom answered stating that “theatrically”, the County would be able to contract indigent care as well. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Winters stated that it appeared as though the payment per client for Medicaid was to be less. Mr. Nystrom stated that lower payments were “inevitable”. Commissioner Winters expressed his concern that the payment would be less and that there would be an added administrative fee for the CCO. This would mean less funding for making needed services available.

Mr. Nystrom confirmed that the County was to still be the Mental Health authority and that the goal was to send funding to the counties.
Commissioner Winters informed Mr. Nystrom of the difficulty in the past of being able to draw qualified professionals in our area. Discussion continued on the CCO organization and hiring opportunities.

Commissioner Kestner asked how private dental and medical providers were going to be dictated to in regards to becoming part of the CCO. Mr. Nystrom explained that they would have the choice of participating or not, but in order to administer Medicaid and receive those funds they would need to be contracted at a per capita rate with the CCO. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Winters addressed the rumor involving the quality of care received from a provider depending on the type and amount of coverage a patient had. No specific conversation had taken place on this matter per Mr. Nystrom.

House Bill 3100 was discussed by Mr. Nystrom. This bill would make it necessary for a Certified Evaluator to conduct the Guilty Except for Insanity Evaluation. The goal was to put fewer people into the State Hospital. The cost for someone in the State Hospital was $270,000 per year. There had been occasions where individuals committing a misdemeanor had been housed at the State Hospital. This Bill was to aid in avoiding those instances. Community solutions were discussed.

House Bill 3536 would suspend rather than terminating Oregon Health Plan coverage for individuals incarcerated.

Discussion continued on other House Bills and budget issues before the State Legislature. Funding for the Developmental Disability Program, CC&F, CASA and County Veterans Services were discussed as well.

The Board thanked Mr. Nystrom for coming and providing this information.

There being nothing further to come before the Board, the Lake County Board of Commissioners Special Session adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Thorsen
Administrative Assistant

Board Approval,

Dan Shoun
Chairman

Bradley J. Winters
Vice Chairman

Ken Kestner
Commissioner

June 29, 2011 – Board of Commissioners Special Session Minutes Page 3 of 3