A meeting of the Tri-County Mental Health Board ("Board") was held at 11:00 A.M. Pacific Time on April 14th, 2020 at Mid-Columbia Center for Living (via Virtually), 1060 Webber Street, The Dalles, OR 97058.

**Board Members Present:**
Wasco County Commissioner Scott Hege, Board Chair  
Hood River County Commissioner Karen Joplin  
Sherman County Commissioner Tom McCoy

**MCCFL Staff Present:**
Dr. June Gower, Ph. D. Executive Director  
Al Barton, Deputy Director  
Mel Heuberger, Accounting Manager  
Desirae Tarrance, Executive Assistant

**Guests:**
Peter McGarry, Pacific Source  
Carrie Rasmussen, Hood River Co. DA

*Commissioner called the meeting to order at 11:03am*

1) - **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (March 10th, 2020)**
Sherman County Commissioner made the motion to approve the March 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes and presented:

*Motion:* Commissioner Tom McCoy  
*Second:* Commissioner Karen Joplin  
*Approve:* Unanimous

2) - **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
Carrie Rasmussen- Deputy District Attorney  
Brought NORCOR Mental Health concerns before the Board. And spoke to Mental Health Diversion with district attorneys that are meeting quarterly. Secure Setting missing in Hood River country for Aid and Assist participants. Columbia Gorge Children’s Advocacy (CGAC) Center signed contract with Mental Health clients that are in need.
3) PETER MCGARRY/PACIFIC SOURCE:
Discussing reimbursement structure from Pacific Source Community Solutions and Mid-Columbia Center for Living. Capitation, fee for service hybrid history explained. Challenges with payment discussed.

4) - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHECK IN/UPDATE:

COVID-19 OPERATIONAL UPDATE:
Recognition for administrative team during the challenging changes due to Covid-19 were discussed. Update was sent to Board about changes to MCCFL operations with COVID-19. Mandatory trainings have been performed with MCCFL staff.

PROGRAMMATIC IMPACT:
Challenges with Clinicians, billing, and client care explained during meeting by Al Barton, Deputy Director. MCCFL is open from 8:30am to 3:30pm daily. New policies have been released in the agency around sick leave and COVID-19 employment impact. Financial impact with be reviewed

LEGAL COUNSEL:
MCCFL has hired x3 attorneys to provide specialized service elements in addition to MCCFL’s current legal counsel.

PSYCHIATRY CONTRACTS:
X2 Psychiatrist were hired recently at MCCFL. Billing and days of operations have been identified as an area of concern to which the Executive Director is currently working on resolving.

PACIFIC SOURCE RELIEF FUNDS:
Executive Director desires closing out the glide path. Dr. Gower and the finance director will be constructing a Memorandum of understanding to Pacific Source regarding relief funds due to COVID-19.

GLIDE PATH PAYMENT RECCOMENDATIONS:
Mr. McGarry will be providing information regarding payouts in June 2020 to Mel Heuberger, Finance Manager and the ED. Revisions on Choice Model contract are currently underway from the ED and will submitted once completed.

5) - FOLLOW UP FROM MARCH 10TH MEETING:

SALE OF THE LINCOLN BUILDING:
No new information on current sale on the Lincoln Building. Commissioner Hege will be reaching out to property Broker.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT:
Sherman Co., Hood River County have both approved agreement. Awaiting on Wasco County approval on agreement. This document will be signed at the Tri-County Board meeting.
6) - **FINANCIAL REVIEW:**
Mel Heuberger, Finance Manager gave update on MCCFL financial status. Items discussed at this Tri-County Board meeting was OHP revenue, expenses, wages and earnings. Change in reserve status explained. Glide Path calculations visited and discussed.

**COVID-19 FINANCIAL IMPACT:**
Encounters were reviewed during this meeting which reflect changes impacting the organization due to Covid-19.

7) **Additional Updates:**
1) MCCFL has sent in application for Medicare/Medicaid contracts in Washington State.
2) MCCFL will be exploring emergency funds from FEMA.
3) Notification from SAMSHA grant was rejected. The Executive Director will be working on asking for a reconsideration.
4) MCCFL has joined the emergency response committees for x2 counties.
5) Community Support requests from MCCFL.
   -Created Warm Lines for adult and children’s
   -Health vignettes on stress (when to seek out mental health provider)

7) - **PERSONNEL REQUISITIONS:**
Executive Director presented x4 (four) Personnel Requisitions to the Board:

   1) Business Services Supervisor
   2) Facilities Manager
   3) Finance Director
   4) Human Resources Manager

   **Motion:** Commissioner Karen Joplin
   **Second:** Commissioner Tom McCoy
   **Approve:** Unanimous

8) Executive Director discussed challenges with current status of employment at MCCFL and concerns around future of the agency.

   **Commissioner Hege adjourned the meeting at 2:24pm.**
Legal Affairs
States Try Out Courts Tailored for Mentally Ill
by Ari Shapiro

Web Resources
Dept. of Justice Program
Bureau of Justice Assistance Mental Health Courts Program
Mental Health Courts at NCSC
Natl. Mental Health Assoc.
Natl. Alliance on Mental Illness

All Things Considered, August 21, 2006 • In an effort to stop the repeated cycling of mentally ill people through courts and prisons, some states are setting up special courts for the mentally ill. The goal of judges, prosecutors and attorneys is to get treatment, housing and other kinds of support for the defendants.

Proponents say the new approach is more effective — and cheaper — than other options.

There are no national standards for mental health court policies. But there is an emerging consensus in favor of them. At a conference of state chief justices last January, representatives from all 50 states adopted a resolution endorsing the concept of mental health courts. And the Justice Department has allocated money to create more of them.

There are more than 120 mental health courts across the United States. They aren’t distributed evenly. Ohio has 30, for example, while other states have none.

One argument in favor of the courts has to do with money.

While critics question that a program that incorporates housing, counseling, medication, and employment assistance can be cheaper than standard prisons, Ohio Supreme Court Justice Evelyn Stratton has an answer. Stratton, who led the drive for mental health courts in her state, says the statistics are actually very dramatic.

In Ohio, keeping someone in the mental health program costs taxpayers $30 a day, all-inclusive. But, "If you put them in prison, it’s $60," Stratton says. "If you put them in a mental hospital, it’s $451 a day. And if you put them in a general hospital it’s $1,500 a day."

Supporters of mental health courts don’t fit any one political or ideological profile. In Cincinnati, Judge Michael Sage is a former prosecutor. He calls himself a bedrock conservative, and he says nobody has ever argued that he’s soft on crime.

"I make the argument when I have opposition, what is the right thing to do?" Sage says.

"And the right thing to do is to put them in this program and treat them. And to hopefully make sure they don’t end up back on the streets committing crimes and doing the same things they were doing before."

One of the men being treated in Sage’s program keeps a list of things he’s grateful for each day as part of his therapy. When he showed up in court for his check-in, his case manager asked what was on his list that day. The client replied: Having a judge who understands mental illness.

Related NPR Stories

Home >

**NEW** Third National Survey of Mental Health Courts

Share your expertise with others by participating in a national initiative to survey all existing mental health courts.

As a representative of a mental health court, you are in a unique position to help other communities plan or implement their own court-based programs that target people with mental illness.

**Click here to complete the survey.**

Read more about CSG's efforts to survey mental health courts.

**Mental Health Court Learning Sites**

The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has identified five mental health court learning sites to provide a peer support network for local and state officials interested in planning a new—or improving upon an existing—mental health court.

**Click here** to learn about the technical assistance available through the learning sites, read overviews of each site, find available site visit dates, request technical assistance, and more.

**Funding & Training**

**Mental Health Court Learning Sites Materials**

- National Judicial College co-occurring disorder curriculum
- Press release on the development of a model curriculum for judges on co-occurring disorders.

**Technical assistance request form**

CSG is providing technical assistance to Mental Health Court Program grantees and other jurisdictions interested in planning, implementing, or refining mental health courts. See the form for more details.

**Read more...**
The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has identified five mental health court learning sites to provide a peer support for officials interested in planning a new—or improving upon an existing—mental health court.

Click to download the following materials:

- **Project Overview**
- **Instructions for requesting learning site technical assistance**
- **Calendar of available site visit dates**
- **Technical Assistance Request Form**

**Program Overviews:**

- Akron (OH) Program Overview
- Bonneville County (ID) Program overview
- Bronx County (NY) Program overview
- Washoe County (NV) Program overview
- Dougherty (GA) Program Overview

**Site Visit Observation Tool**

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http://consensusproject.org/mhcp/info/fundtrain/LS-materials

8/23/2006
MCCFL

History of Reimbursement from PacificSource Community Solutions
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