



Tri-County Mental Health Board

APPROVED Meeting Minutes

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

Board Members Present:

Wasco County Commissioner Scott Hege
Hood River County Commissioner Karen Joplin
Sherman County Commissioner Tom McCoy

MCCFL Staff Present:

June Gower, Executive Director
Al Barton, Deputy Director
Desirae Tarrance, Executive Assistant
Laura Correia, Billing Analyst
Keith Howes, HR Director

Guests:

Akin Blitz, Bullard Law Attorney
Diana McDougale, Campbell-Pillips PC
Joe Carroll- IDD Parent
Thomas Johson- IDD Group Home Provider/SEIU
Dennis Zeimer, AFSCME
Eddie from AFSCME
Judge Joe Dabulskis- Sherman County
Commissioner Joan Bird – Sherman County
Dennis Dawes, Peer Case Management
Laura Noppenburger, EOSSB Director
Anna from AFSCME

Commissioner Scott Hege called the meeting to order 11:07am.

1) - COMMUNITY MEETING:

Dispensed during this virtual meeting.

2) - APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES JULY 14th, 2020)

County Commissioners made the motion to approve the July 14th, 2020 Meeting Minutes and presented:

Motion: Commissioner Karen Joplin

Second: Commissioner Tom McCoy

Approve: Unanimous

3) - PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joe Carroll, parent of a 46-year-old adult who is an Intellectual and Development Disabilities (IDD) services participant, expressed appreciation for the IDD program at MCCFL and concern for all participants of the IDD program, with the program being transitioned back to the Department Of Health Services (DHS). Mr. Carroll stated the following:

- Concern around programmatic transitions of IDD services through Mid-Columbia Center for Living.
- The Executive Director replied that DHS and MCCFL are in direct contact weekly and will work hard to ensure no service disruptions occur for clients.

Thomas Johnson, Owner of Adult Foster Care home in Cascade Locks spoke concerning funding of the IDD program at Mid-Columbia Center for Living and questioned how funding was used.

- Mr. Johnson spoke to an increase of funding through the State, which Dr. Gower replied that Mid-Columbia Center for Living is a government employer and the benefits package costs the agency more in funds.
- Commissioner Hege included that certain programs at Mid-Columbia Center for Living have historically run “in the red”, including the IDD program for the last 7 years.
- Commissioner Joplin included that Mid-Columbia Center for Living is a G190 and operates differently than private entities, and the cost of delivering models depends on the agency.
- Mr. Johnson questioned if MCCFL had contacted other programs, more specifically in Ontario, Oregon to see how they have managed their IDD programs.

Commissioner Hege recommended having an outside conversation with the above parties to further the discussion on the IDD transition back to the State. He included having “interested” parties invited on this meeting, also to include Mr. Johnson and Mr. Carrol. Commissioner Joplin recommended having the State invited to the meeting.

Dennis Zeimer, AFSCME Representative:

Expressed concern around the “loss” of approximately 11+ jobs with the return of the IDD program back to the Department of Human Services. He also expressed concern around having “no plan in place” and no authorization regarding this transition from the Tri-County Board members, the impact on the community, and the status que change.

- Mr. Zeimer included that AFSCME has filed an “unfair labor practice” and that such changes, listed above, appear to be a retaliatory action on behalf of Mid-Columbia Center for Living. Mr. Zeimer also included that this inter-lateral decision should have been approved by the Board members and was not opened to the public for public comment.
- Mr. Zeimer addressed the question to the Board regarding decision making or non-decision making and the authorizing this change in programs. Commissioner Hege included that Dr. Gower, Executive Director has the authority at this time to make these changes as she strives to improve MCCFLs financial struggles.

Commissioner Hege included that MCCFL has labor attorney staff who are ready to meet with Mr. Zeimer regarding his concerns and that he should be addressing these concerns with them.

Attorney Blitz addressed Mr. Zeimer and explained the short falls and lack of funding from the state. He suggested that AFSCME, and other interested parties should take their concerns to Department of Human Services or to the advisor in Governor Brown’s office to request additional funding for these services.

Laura Noppenburger: Executive Director of Eastern Oregon Support Services Brokerage:

Expressed concern around MCCFL giving notice on contract for IDD services, as well as MCCFL having several individuals who qualify for services.

- Included individuals currently accessing “in home” services qualify for choice advising.

Deborah Fletcher: Foster Care provider in Cascade Locks, Oregon.

- Expressed appreciation for 60 days-notice
- Expressed concern around the transition of the IDD program and the lack of support for group homes, and the “what if” nobody takes the IDD program. Dr. Gower included that the State of Oregon has promised that if they have no providers within 60 days, the state will own the program.

Commissioner Hege requested that any other interested parties should reach out to Mid-Columbia Center for Living and request to be included on the future discussion surrounding the transition of the IDD services back to the State.

4) - **INTRODUCTION- KEITH HOWES, HR DIRECTOR:**

Introduction to the new Mid-Columbia Center for Living's Human Resources Director, Keith Howes. Mr. Howes has been with MCCFL for approximately x2 weeks. Brief update from Mr. Howes included that next month will start the negotiation process with the Union.

5) - **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

ENCOUNTERS:

Deputy Director, Al Barton spoke to (Pg. 7) of the MCCFL encounters.

- Light blue line on graph is Capitated Claims (which reflects the May encounters), while the dark blue line reflects high value encounters, which are mostly "outpatient" services such as Drug and Alcohol.
- MCCFL still struggles with Face to Face client sessions. The month of July reflects the targeted goals.
- The Graph on page 8 of the packet reflects the high value encounters, paralleling with the revenue MCCFL received. Al Barton gave kudos to MCCFL staff for hands on care with clients and for the billing department "chasing" after and recovering billable encounters.
- Commissioner Joplin asked clarification around the relationship with capitated and high value encounters, to which the Deputy Director spoke to downturns such as holidays and the change in capacity, the change of COVID phases,
- Executive Director stated MCCFL is trending in "the right direction" as this second week of revenue has been at its best since COVID-19 pandemic.

REVENUE AND EXPENSES:

The Executive Director gave the update on finances.

- Finances for the month of June reflect a small dip in OHP revenue, at the amount of \$270,760.000.
- State revenue has increased. Outstanding revenue of \$148,000.00, which has not been reimbursed to MCCFL is still outstanding.
- Wages and Salaries have decreased, as MCCFL continues to receive additional resignations. MCCFL is looking strategically at all programs.
- The total amount of savings is at \$694,000.
- Facilities and equipment had a significant uptick: Janitorial and landscaping had slight increase due to new contractors who started on July 1st and the old contractors submitting their last invoices.
- Client Write offs (Pg. 9) has decreased. MCCFL is not doing as many slides and will not be providing free services effective July 1, 2020.
- Commissioner Hege asked a clarification question around the increase in contracted services, which Dr. Gower explained was due to contracting for the HR consultant (who was covering the vacancy in HR until Mr. Howes was hired) and the increase in legal fees after MCCFL learned employees were unionizing.
- Commissioner Joplin asked clarification around decreased in revenue, which Laura Correia explained was an unaccounted \$168,000.00. Which is not reflected on the ledgers to the Board. Pg. 10 of the graph was explained and discussed. Commissioner Joplin included that savings from the personnel section, should not be counted towards operations for the month.
- Billing error was identified during submission and was due from duplication of billed services. OHP increased from \$21,000 to \$26,000.00. Dr Gower spoke to unemployment doubling and having more clients at the door who were unemployed and not had gotten state insurance (reflected under private pay and slide).
- The Finance Department will be handling the client discount slides, effective July 1 2020. Billed services were at \$625,000 and regained.
- DMAP has improved, and in the first time in a year has made a substantial financial return.
- Actual Vs. Budget, which variance is at \$42,000.00 with some outstanding monies pending.

- Review of the information on Pg. 11 of the packet, Dr. Gower spoke to the LGI Pool is at \$128,000,000.0 and have remained unchanged this month.
- Commissioner McCoy spoke to “free” reserves MCCFL could operate on if needed, which is the \$4,872,000.00 and asked if MCCFL could start including the “free” reserves in future Board packets. Commissioner Joplin expressed not using the reserves since MCCFL has had a decline in staffing expenses. Commissioner Hege included the decrease in spending on the reserves at a faster rate than last year.

Dr. Gower included an addition, the Cerner rebuild for MCCFL CBH program. This decision was made due to restructuring of staff, lack of staff to train as “Super Users”, and lack of funding for the rebuild of the Cerner program. Dr. Gower clarified that this expense for the rebuild will be held until February 2021. Commissioner Joplin asked clarification around if MCCFL will continue to move forward with Cerner EHR or will a decide to transfer to another system to come in the future. Dr. Gower stated the desire would be to move to another electronic health records (EHR), depending on cost of other EHR systems such as Epic. Anticipating savings of deferring costs will be approximately \$85,000.00.

5) - FOLLOW UP FROM LAST TCB MEETING:

LINCOLN BUILDING UPDATE/COMMUNITY FEEDBACK:

Dr. Gower spoke to the Community Wellness Center feedback discussion, that Commissioner Hege attended last Thursday, August 6th gathering feedback from community partners regarding the community use of the Lincoln Building. A second meeting will be scheduled in approximately 2 weeks. Dr. Gower’s desire would be to use the Lincoln Building as a revenue generating building.

Reserve Funding Resolution:

Diana McDougle, from Campbell-Phillips represented Kristen Campbell and requested feedback from the Board regarding this resolution. It was requested to remove the term “general” funds around the 10% of the general cost in operating reserves. Commissioner Joplin asked that the term “unobligated funds” be replaced in the document. Commissioner Joplin explained the desire around the resolution, and the various portions included in the reserve resolution. Commissioner Joplin expressed the desire to include accumulating reserves within the next year. Commissioner McCoy spoke to the concern around continue use of using the reserves to cover operating costs. Commissioner Hege asked clarification around the term “total budget”, and if this would be around total year budget to which Commissioner Joplin stated desire to rebuild some of the loss from previous years. Dr. Gower stated concern with COVID, encounters and financial losses and the anticipation of staying in Phase 2 and how this may be a challenge to rebuild the budget during COVID. Motion to approve resolution regarding a sustainable financial plan for Mid-Columbia Center for Living:

Motion: Commissioner Karen Joplin

Second: Commissioner Tom McCoy

Approve: Unanimous

6) - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE:

WASHINGTON APPLE UPDATE:

Mid-Columbia Center for Living received declination in Washington Apple Licensing, and will be unable to provide these services to Washington Residents. MCCFL was declined as Behavioral Health Provider.

MCCFL WEBSITE UPDATE/INTERESTED PARTIES:

Our website is currently undergoing an update to include an “interested parties” section. This will be an option to provide Community members to “opt” in and receive Board packets. This will be live within the next few weeks. MCCFL is including other avenues to make the website easier to access for Community members.

GRANTS:

MCCFL has applied for 16 grants and have been awarded 2. MCCFL will continue to find grants and apply for them. Letters have been sent to several senators requesting letters of support. MCCFL has also included help from a member of the community to help write grants.

FINANCE DIRECTOR UPDATE:

Finance Director Candidate fell through and MCCFL will continue in their search, this position as been reposted to the public.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

On July 29th, Dr. Gower sent an email to the Board regarding finding budget committee members. Dr. Gower has been working with Kristen Campbell regarding finding members of the budget committee. The budget Committee will start in December 2020, with anticipation of the first formal meeting in March 2021. The Chair of the Budget Committee will be MCCFL’s new Finance Director once this position is filled. A letter will go out to Hood River community members requesting participation on joining MCCFL budget committee, which will be a 2- year commitment. Dr. Gower asked if the Board would like a copy of the letter, to which the Commissioner McCoy asked that he be sent to him.

DAVID ROMPREY OREGON WARMLINE:

This information will be included on MCCFL’s website, located next to the Crisis Line information. Flyers have also been sent out to all community partners, given to clients and as well as have asked that all partner counties help spread the message. Deputy Director, Al Barton spoke to additional services this well-established warm line brings to the community. Commissioner Hege asked clarification regarding how the funding of the warm line, which the Deputy Director stated started with grant funding by Oregon State. Mid-Columbia Center for Living will be working with this Warm Line and will be promoting within the communities. Commissioner McCoy asked clarification around how often this warm line is utilized, which statistics MCCFL staff did not have during this meeting but will obtain and send to Commissioner McCoy.

FINANCIAL AUDIT:

MCCFL received on a letter on July 10th that the July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 audit, which had previously received a notice of violation, has been resolved and the last years audit was found to be “Compliant”.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:

Commissioner McCoy’s last Tri-County Board meeting will be September 9th, as he will be retiring. Judge Joe Dabulskis and Commissioner Bird joined during the Tri-County Board Meeting. Commissioner McCoy stated that either of these gentlemen will be replacing Commissioner McCoy’s position as the Sherman County Tri-County Board Commissioner.

Commissioner Joplin asked Mr. Howes, HR Director regarding Bargaining and when the anticipation of the Union Bargaining be completed. Mr. Howes stated the MCCFL are waiting on proposals from AFSCME, the desire is to start union bargaining in September. Akin Blitz included that each one of the Board members will receive a letter drafted to AFSCME, attempting to set the tone for what is going forward. Attorney Blitz addressed the behavior of Union representatives, the unfair labor practice threat, and setting the collaborative tone for bargaining.

Wasco County Commissioner Scott Hege adjourned the meeting at 1:22PM