



# Tri-County Mental Health Board

## Special Session

### **APPROVED** Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the **Tri-County Mental Health Board ("Board")** was held at 8:00 A.M. Pacific Time on **September 10TH, 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  
Keith Howes, Human Resources Director  
Desirae Tarrance, Executive Assistant

#### **Guests:**

Commissioner Bird  
Dennis Zeimer, AFSCME  
Wendy, Community Member  
Kristen Campbell, Campbell-Phillips Law

*Commissioner Scott Hege called the meeting to order at 8:05am.*

#### **3) - PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment.

#### **4) - REVIEW LABOR ATTORNEY CONTRACT:**

Dr. Gower stated there was no supporting documents during today's meeting due to the contract MCCFL had with Bullard Law firm out of Portland, Oregon. It was discovered that there was no written contract signed but was a verbal understanding of representation with Akin Blitz. Bullard Law announced that they were no longer going to be representing MCCFL at the ERB. Dr. Gower asked for a brief extension from ERB and AFSCME to obtain new legal counsel, which was agreed upon pending speediness of obtaining new counsel. Dr. Gower asked for recommendations from Keith Howes, Human Resources Director which he recommended Littler-Middleton Law firm due to his historical working relationship with this firm. Mr. Howes spoke regarding Littler Mendelson, P.C. being the largest employment law firm in the world, ranking consecutively for years as being the best law firm. Mr. Howes stated he historically has worked with this firm, and Littler-Mendelson Firm has given MCCFL a reduction in their local rates due to this relationship. Dr. Gower spoke to receiving a ULP from ERB due to AFSCME stating MCCFL has labor violations. Bullard Law was not addressing AFSCME or MCCFL's needs in a timely manner and had requested additional counsel to assist with MCCFL's case without MCCFL's approval.

Dr. Gower asked for the Board's approval, since MCCFL is currently unrepresented to move forward with entering contract with Littler-Middleton, P.C. Commissioner Scott Hege inquired if Dr. Gower had a contract with Littler-Mendelson she was considering signing. Dr. Gower stated that she did have a contract but wanted to gain Board approval before signing, and stated with the urgency in seeking new legal counsel, time was of the essence and that was why the Board did not receive a copy of the contract as supporting documentation. Commissioner Hege requested feedback from Kristen Campbell, which Kristen Campbell stated to

proceed with authorizing the contract pending review from Campbell-Phillips. Dr. Gower asked for further guidance from Campbell-Phillips in reviewing the contract with Littler Mendelson, P.C., and will bring the signed contract to the next Tri-County Board Meeting.

*Motion to approve the proposed labor attorney contract, contingent upon legal counsel review and approval:*

*Motion: Commissioner Karen Joplin*

*Second: Commissioner Tom McCoy*

*Approve: Unanimous*

**5) FINANCE UPDATE/CORRECTION:**

Dr. Gower spoke to updated finance information (corrected) from the TCB meeting on 9/8/2020 has been completed. The Board packet financials for September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting reflects incorrect financial information. She requested assistance from Kristen Campbell on how to appropriately send corrected financials, which Ms. Campbell agreed would need to be sent to the Board members and be included as “corrected” in the October Tri-County Board meeting minutes.

***Wasco County Commissioner Scott Hege adjourned the meeting at 8:19am.***