

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF *Cg*

ROKOSCH

CHILCOTT *J*

DRISCOLL *KD*

IMAN *JE*

CLERK & RECORDER (Plettenberg)

Members Present.....Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff,  
Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Greg Chilcott, Commissioner Kathleen  
Driscoll and Commissioner J.R. Iman

Date.....August 4, 2009

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met for the following administrative matters:

- Employee Action Forms: The Board signed one employee action form.
- Letter for Tax Increment District: **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve a letter to the Department of Commerce in order to support the application to CDBG – ED for a Planning Grant that will examine the feasibility of a tax increment finance district near Selway Mfg. and the Town of Stevensville. Commissioner Rokosch seconded the motion and all voted ‘aye’.**
- Letter on Nez Perce and Schedule Maintenance to Forest Service: The Board read the draft letter and Commissioner Chilcott questioned the sentence containing “15 feet of easement”. He requested verifying the 15 feet prior to the issuance of the letter. Discussion followed regarding the 15 feet in question.

**Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve and send the letter as drafted. Commissioner Iman seconded the motion. Discussion:** Commissioner Driscoll expressed her concern with Road & Bridge Supervisor David Ohnstad’s comment in a previous meeting of “the Road & Bridge Department did nothing wrong”. She wants to verify the statement is on the record. Commissioner Grandstaff noted in the previous meeting, David did state the Road & Bridge Department did nothing wrong. Commissioner Rokosch concurred with

Commissioner Grandstaff. Commissioner Driscoll stated she would call David and confirm his statement. **All voted 'aye'.**

► The Board met to discuss litigation issues with Civil Counsel. Closed door was invoked pursuant to MCA 2-3-203.

► The Board met to discuss mental health crisis stabilization. Present were Marcus Daly Hospital Administrator John Bartos, Paul Meyer from Western Montana Mental Health, Hamilton Police Chief Ryan Oster, Dee Golas, Jim Olsen, Fred Huskey, Rich Gangel, Janice Hinze, Donna Hartshorn, Representative Ron Stoker, Joanne Verwolf and Civil Counsel Karen Mahar.

Commissioner Grandstaff gave an update of a personal meeting with Rich Gangel yesterday to discuss where to house people in police custody for crisis stabilization. There were two identified possible solutions. One is to utilize the West House although it is not a secure facility. She stated they will inquire about the one bed that can be secured. The second option is to accept Jim Olsen's proposal to build a facility that would have four beds, two beds dedicated to detox and two beds for crisis stabilization. She stated the problem is Western Mental Health would run it however the County would have to pay for it. She discussed the option of having one of those beds dedicated to the State and contracting out the other three beds for revenue. Paul Meyer noted if there are five beds or more it brings in the "jail standards" issue for a secured facility.

Jim Olsen stated he did look up the facility rates as well as the requirements to organize a mental health facility. The County sent 28 people to Warm Springs last year and 119 people in 2007. A peak month is about 19 people. One bed will not handle 28 people, based on the data four beds are needed.

Paul Meyer cautioned the Board about people who don't stabilize quickly and need 30 to 60 days to recover utilizing those beds. He stated they should be transferred to Warm Springs in the cases that need more time. Civil Counsel Karen Mahar stated she is the one who provided the statistics based on the number of people detained. The new facility would not require going through the ER unless they are pre-screened. John Bartos stated Fred Huskey is needed more on the weekends than the weekdays due to the past weekend having six people in need for crisis stabilization. The use has increased significantly. He does not believe the number will stay at 119 but increase steadily.

Representative Ron Stoker stated HB 131 was based on a 72 hour concept on co-dependency and would be co-paid by the State for three secure beds and HB 132 is for more secure beds for voluntary commitment. There is a valid way to say six beds are up for discussion, 3 beds for 72 hour and 3 beds for 14 day voluntary commitment. MACo needs to get on board for all 56 counties for an insurance model for the expenses to the counties.

Paul Meyer stated there should be more than one bed from the State. Representative Stoker stated they are willing to give a review of mental disorders to their committee.

They are pushing to move ahead. He suggested an MOU with other counties and there is a possibility to set the model right here. Rich Gangel stated with the State funding the facility, there will be significant lag time.

Karen Mahar discussed the detox picture. She stated St. Patrick's Hospital bought one bed in Missoula and it did not go well for them. She asked how the facilities would be used. She stated another option would be to purchase a bed from Marcus Daly Hospital. Joanne Verwolf stated other State agencies such as police utilize these facilities more than others and the State should be asked to pay for more than one bed. They will have the cost savings by having more than one bed.

Jim Olsen stated the facility/operation cost is \$600,000 annually. Having available beds will result in reduced hospital crisis stabilization. Commissioner Driscoll asked about the cost of the West Side House. Rich stated the ability to approve qualified staff is a factor in the cost.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated the purpose of this meeting is to decide what the proposal is going to be. Karen Mahar stated there can be a letter of intent drafted now with a statement from each partner of what they can contribute. There is a lawsuit at the moment and the State has taken interest. She recommended that she draft the letter of intent herself. It was suggested to contact Missoula County, Ravalli County Sheriff's Office and Western Addiction Services for their input.

Representative Stoker stated there needs to be a county strategic plan and notification to Lou Thompson of the intent. Commissioner Chilcott requested other counties be included as well. Commissioner Grandstaff suggested possibly contracting Skip Rosenthal to develop a strategic plan. Representative Stoker suggested contracting with Jim Olsen for the plan and having John Bartos oversee it.

Commissioner Chilcott asked about the 3 beds regionally and how to access the money. Representative Stoker replied it does not have to be a regional effort and the money must be applied for by grant. Commissioner Chilcott then asked about staffing the facility. Paul Meyer stated staff can be hired however finding a psychiatrist is difficult. Dee Golas stated the facility in Butte is run by a staff of LPNs and stated a new facility can be run the same way.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated the first step is to draft a RFP and then the letter of intent. Discussion followed regarding setting precedence with these actions.

**Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to draft a letter of intent to Lou Thompson at DPHHS. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion and all voted 'aye'.**

Commissioner Grandstaff discussed drafting a RFP. Representative Stoker stated it must state this is the County's strategic plan in order to comply with HB 130. Joanne Verwolf suggested using RC&D for grant writing. Commissioner Rokosch discussed the regional concept of soliciting other counties by letting them sign on to the letter of intent. Karen

stated the County does not have months to do that and this is a time sensitive matter. Paul Meyer suggested bringing this topic up at the next MACo convention in September and expressed his wish to have MACo on board. The Board concurred with contacting MACo.

SIGN IN SHEET – COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM

**\*\*PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME LEGIBLY\*\***

THANK YOU!

DATE: 8/4/09

MEETING: Crisis Stabilization

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