



**BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Friday, October 21, 2022, at 9:00 am

BOCC Conference Room, Room 232, 128 N 2nd Street, Yakima, WA 98901 or Zoom

Yakima County Welcomes You to Join Our Open Public Meeting In-Person or Virtually.

**Meeting Link:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84767080878?pwd=MjBKcjFsRmpWYik1NW9qU1V4VnVFdz09>

**Meeting ID:**

847 6708 0878

**Meeting Passcode:**

352892

**Meeting Phone Number:**

1-206-337-9723 (ID & Passcode Above)

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

If you would like to speak during Public Comment, please raise your hand or if on Zoom type your name in the chat box and the Commissioner will call on you in order.

3. SUPERIOR COURT DIRECTOR UPDATE (10 Minutes)

- o Use of Commissioner Basement Conference Room #1

4. HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE (10 Minutes)

5. BROADBAND DISCUSSION (15 Minutes)

6. GREATER COLUMBIA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASO RATE REDUCTION LETTER

- o Commissioner Linde to discuss request from Greater Columbia Behavioral Health.

Documents:

[10.21.22 GCBHASO RATE REDUCTION LETTER.DOCX](#)

7. JOINT LETTER TO OFM SUPPORTING STADIUM CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

- o Request to add Yakima County name and Logo to letter.

Documents:

[STADIUM CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST.DOCX](#)

8. AGENDA ITEM REVIEW (15 Minutes)  
Review of all Agenda items Submitted for Tuesday's Regular Agenda Meeting.
9. ARPA DISCUSSION
10. CLOSED SESSION
  - The Board will meet in closed session as allowed by RCW 42.30.140(4)(a).
11. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION
12. NEW BUSINESS
13. ADJOURN

All work sessions are recorded and will be available to view on the BOCC website at <https://www.yakimacounty.us/AgendaCenter/Board-of-Commissioners-2>



# BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Amanda McKinney**  
District 1

**Ron Anderson**  
District 2

**LaDon Linde**  
District 3

October 21, 2022

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Sue Birch, Health Care Authority Director  
Charissa Fotinos, MD, State Medicaid Director

Regarding: Medicaid Rate Increase for Community Behavioral Health Partners

Dear State Officials,

As you are no doubt aware, two weeks ago the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the actuarial firm Milliman held a meeting with behavioral health providers, Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organizations (BH-ASOs) and the Apple Health Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) to present the most recent rate setting information that will be submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and used to set the 2023 rates going into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. The presentation proposed a rate cut of up to nearly 8% from the rates currently in place today. The explanation given was that they had to use data from the previous year (2021), which shows a decrease in utilization, or the amount of services provided, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, they stated the behavioral health system does not have enough workforce to meet the ever-increasing demand for behavioral health services, so they expect fewer services will be provided in 2023, thus a lower reimbursement rate to providers per member per month.

This news was very disturbing, and groups, like ours, voiced strong concerns during the meetings. Many providers here in the Greater Columbia Region as well as across the state have already committed to increasing staff salaries given the legislature's investment and commitment to increasing rates by 7%. This proposed reduction in rates for 2023 puts these providers in the very unfortunate position of having to walk back those commitments. Frankly, some providers will simply not be able to continue to operate if they must absorb an 8% rate cut, thus exacerbating the workforce crisis and continuing to drive down utilization.

Decreasing rates, a declining workforce, and increased cost per client puts the entire community behavioral health system in a "deaths spiral".

In our capacity as elected county officials as well as board members serving the Greater Columbia BH-ASO, we ask that you do everything in your power to prevent this rate reduction from happening. Moreover, we request that you reevaluate the current rate setting process and consider using a model that does not so heavily focus on utilization as the primary rate setting indicator.

If we are going to successfully build a community behavioral health system of the future, we cannot continue to underpin its funding by looking to the past.



# BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Amanda McKinney**  
District 1

**Ron Anderson**  
District 2

**LaDon Linde**  
District 3

Thank you for your hard work and for your consideration and we stand ready to help in any way we can.

Sincerely,

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Amanda McKinney  
Chair of the Board  
Commissioner, District 1

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LaDon Linde  
Commissioner, District 3

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Ron Anderson  
Commissioner, District 2

**DRAFT**

David Schumacher  
Director, Office of Financial Management  
PO Box 43113  
Olympia, WA. 98504-3113

October 11, 2022

Director Schumacher,

We are writing to ask for your consideration for funding improvements to eleven publicly owned facilities that serve as venues for Minor League and West Coast League baseball stadiums. The eleven communities with publicly owned Minor League and West Coast League Baseball stadiums are requesting the creation of a one-time "Minor League Baseball Publicly Owned Stadium Improvement Fund". Our stadiums are community gathering places that provide our residents with fun, affordable, family entertainment.

While the minor league baseball teams are the anchor tenant, each of these stadiums provide venue space for community events year-round. They can accommodate youth sporting events, graduations, concerts, wedding ceremonies, non-profit fundraisers, and business meeting space. Additionally, our stadiums have been on the front line for public health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Stadiums we're used for public testing and vaccination sites the last two years. They we're some of the first to offer vaccinated seating sections and offer free vaccinations during games.

State funding of publicly owned minor league baseball stadiums is a frequent occurrence throughout the country. For example, in 2006, the Washington Legislature provided \$18 million for improvements at the state's minor league stadiums. More recently, Oregon provided funding for a new minor league baseball stadium in Eugene.

The funding would be distributed based on the stadium improvement needs in each community. The State funds would be combined with local and team funds to complete the needed improvements. This funding will help to address infrastructure improvements help keep our stadiums functional for many years to come so we can continue to service the community by generating economic prosperity and improved quality of life. The stadiums and their events help make

Washington a great place to live, work, and visit. They are community gathering places and venues for affordable, family entertainment.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

\*\*Insert Signatures\*\*

DRAFT