



BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, December 8, 2025, at 9:00 am

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

12/8/2025 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Kyle Curtis, Commissioner LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Legal Counsel Dan Clark, Legal Counsel Stefanie Weigand, Clerk of the Board Julie Lawrence, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Human Resources Director Judy Kendall, Human Resources Senior Manager Mayling Chin, Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Human Services Program Coordinator Melissa Holm, Superior Court Administrator Jessica Humphreys, Department of Corrections Director Jeremy Welch, Human Services Data & Finance Specialist Lance Larsen, and guests.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

(The Board reopened public comment during the Human Services discussion to allow for this comment.) Chon Marquez of Rod's House spoke regarding the Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder RFP. Staff had missed the deadline to apply, and he shared his concerns about the potential impacts on youth and young adults. *(The Board closed public comment again.)*

(After the Human Services discussion, the Commissioners addressed the comment from Rod's House.)

Commissioner McKinney explained that Corporate Counsel has advised that Yakima County not make exceptions to RFP deadlines, because if the County does not abide by the law, the grants it passes along could be put in jeopardy. While it is terrible that Rod's House's program could be at risk, other programs could be put at risk if Yakima County does not follow proper procedure. Esther noted that other entities have missed the deadline in the past and have endeavored not to do so in the future, as an exception was not made for them, either.

Commissioners Linde and Curtis expressed their sympathy but concurred that it is important for the County to stay consistent and remain fair and equitable.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION #1 (30 Minutes)

The Board met in executive session for 15 minutes from 9:01 a.m. to 9:16 a.m. to discuss litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(iii). The Board returned at 9:16 a.m. and no further action was taken.

4. HUMAN RESROUCES (60 Minutes)

Action Memos: Judy Kendall stated that HR had no new action memos to present.

Yakima County Salary Task Force Recommendations to Board of Yakima County Commissioners for 2026 Salary Survey and Policy Update: Judy Kendall explained how the salary task force identified which comparable agencies to select and what benchmarks to use for the survey. Their recommendation of comparable agencies to the Board includes Benton County, Union Gap, the City of Yakima, Skagit County, the State of Washington, and Benton County PUD. Judy shared an extensive list of job types to be included in the survey, spanning various job

families/profiles, classifications, and paygrades. A full survey will be conducted every four years, with an annual soft touch of comparable counties.

Draft Changes to Classification and Compensation Policy: Judy gave the Board an overview of proposed updates to this policy, explaining that some of the information from the 2026 Salary Survey and Policy has been included. An older version of the Classification and Compensation Policy had previously been left attached as an appendix during the last update, for reference and to help build trust. That older version is no longer included in the new version being proposed. Judy, the Board, and Stefanie Weigand briefly discussed the reclassification process outlined in the policy, and the difficulty of trying to find the right balance between rigidity and nimbleness. The Board directed Judy to move forward on these policy updates and the salary survey.

5. HUMAN SERVICES (2 Hours)

2025 Yakima County DOC, Probation, and Drug Court Services Request for Proposal Award Consideration and Determination: Jeremy Welch briefly spoke on the DOC Medication Assisted Treatment Services offered in partnership with Comprehensive Healthcare, sharing data on recidivism rates. The Board agreed they would like to move forward with this program. Jessica Humphreys briefly spoke on the Drug Court Behavior Health Treatment and Coordination Services, sharing data on recidivism rates. Comprehensive Healthcare and Valley Health and Counseling each applied to the RFP, and the Commissioners requested budget breakdowns and project summaries from Jessica for each application. District Court Administrator Lorena Delviento was not present to speak on the Probation Behavioral Health Treatment Services, and once again, both Comprehensive Healthcare and Valley Health and Counseling applied to the RFP. Esther confirmed that she will follow up with District Court to button up the Board's final questions. The Board directed Julie Lawrence to add a follow-up discussion on this topic to next Monday's Work Session.

2025 Behavioral Health and Substance Use Disorder Request for Proposal Award Consideration and Determination: Esther Magasis and Melissa Holm explained that this RFP utilizes funding from Mental Health Sales Tax and Opioid Settlement Funds, and providers could apply accordingly. The Board observed many new applicants for this RFP and asked Melissa to highlight which programs are new, expanded, or continued. Melissa reviewed the scoring committee members and scoring rubric before giving a brief overview of each application, beginning with the MHST programs and then the OSF programs. The Board discussed each application and asked clarifying questions. Esther and Melissa confirmed that they will follow up on the Board's questions at next Monday's Work Session.

6. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED BOCC LETTER TO STATE/LEGISLATURE/COMMERCE BE INCLUDED IN 5-YEAR HOMELESS HOUSING STRATEGIC PLAN (5 Minutes) - Commissioner Curtis

Commissioner Curtis suggested sending an open letter to the state along with the 5-Year Homeless Housing Strategic Plan. His goal is to help the state understand the limits of the plan due to the negative effects of state policies. The Commissioners concurred with the purpose, message, and tone of the draft letter and agreed to sign and send it in conjunction with the 5-Year Homeless Housing Strategic Plan. Commissioner Linde shared some additional comments to be included, and the Board briefly discussed state policies that result in making housing less affordable.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION #2 (30 Minutes)

The Board met in executive session for 31 minutes from 11:49 a.m. to 12:20 p.m. to review the performance of a public employee as allowed by RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The Board returned at 12:20 p.m. and no further action was taken.

8. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

Due to time constraints, the Commissioners did not discuss any updates.

9. NEW BUSINESS

No New Business.

10. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

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>.

APPROVED DATE

DATE/Minutes

JAN 06 2026

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

LaDon Linde, Chair

Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

Kyle Curtis, Commissioner
*Constituting the Board of County Commissioners
for Yakima County, Washington*

Attest:

Julie Lawrence, Clerk of the Board *or*
Erin Franklin, Deputy Clerk of the Board