



## BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Regular Meeting

Work Session

Monday, July 3, 2023, at 9:00 am

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

7/3/2023 - Minutes

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESENT: Chair LaDon Linde, Commissioner Amanda McKinney, Commissioner Kyle Curtis, Legal Counsel Don Anderson, Legal Counsel Stefanie Weigand, Legal Counsel Josie Mesa, Deputy Clerk of the Board Erin Franklin, Whitney Gregory (Comprehensive Healthcare), Department of Corrections Director Jeremy Welch, Kathy Kramer (Central Washington State Fair President/CEO), Courtney Hesla (Comprehensive Healthcare), Jodi Daly (Comprehensive Healthcare), Human Services Director Esther Magasis, Financial Services Director Craig Warner, and guests.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment Received.

### 3. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM AT YAKIMA COUNTY DOC (30 Minutes)

Whitney Gregory and Jeremy Welch explained the goals of Yakima County Corrections Behavioral Health, and detailed the various roles of the team of providers. They proceeded to describe the intersection of programs, including the law enforcement DCR program, Intensive Community Support (ICS), Specialty Court Liaison (Mental Health and Drug Court), and community partners such as Camp Hope, Union Gospel Mission, Triumph, and Merit. Both they and the Commissioners discussed the challenges posed by the waitlist for inmates in need of competency restoration services. Commissioner McKinney noted that the State Legislature has recently realized the need to expand these services instead of condensing them. Whitney went on to describe the services provided by YCC Behavioral Health, including screenings at booking, case management, brief therapy, reentry services, substance use assessments, groups, Peer Pathfinder, medication management, and crisis intervention. Inmates can access care on their own, or be referred by jail staff, DCR's, law enforcement, community behavioral health providers, friends, or family. Response times and frequency of visits are based on urgency and need.

Whitney highlighted two program improvements, including a new therapeutic unit and a new group therapy model called "Changing Lives, Changing Outcomes". Yakima County is one of three jails in the nation piloting a shortened version of this program, which is usually only seen in longer-term facilities. She also spoke about the five stages of change, noting that it is possible for all of us to progress and regress through these stages at any time. Even the best reentry plan can fall apart out of nowhere, and it is important to celebrate even the simplest improvements and milestones. She and Jeremy spoke to the various levels of success, from small steps forward (e.g. more prosocial behavior while incarcerated, or being reincarcerated less often) to ultimately winning the race (becoming a productive member of society and not going back to jail at all). They have seen smaller successes through these programs, but it is too soon to tell what success will look like long-term. Commissioner McKinney and Stefanie Weigand praised the efforts being made through these programs, and the hard work and ingenuity of leadership and staff in implementing them.

### 4. STATE FAIR PARK (30 Minutes) - Kathy Kramer

Review SIED Application for Phase 2 of RV Event Center– Due July 6th – Presentation to SIED Board July 20th: Kathy Kramer explained how Phase 2 of expansion work on the RV Event Center could continue to add capacity and allow for greater hosting opportunities at the fairground (e.g. RV rallies), thus boosting local tourism and businesses. The Central Washington Fair Association has contracted HLA Engineering to develop plans for Phase 2; they have already been contracted by Yakima County for the Phase 1 renovation work. Kathy noted that the funding set aside for Phase 1 will meet the match requirements for the SIED funding application for Phase 2. The fair board is requesting \$2 million from SIED, and if successful, will work with Senator King to raise the remaining \$1.7 million during the 2024 legislative session. At that time, they would also request a letter of endorsement from the BOCC.

Economic Impact Study for RV Center – from Crossroad Consulting – That Will Be Part of SIED Application: Kathy outlined the economic impact study, noting that if the work could be completed by late 2024, the stabilization year will likely be 2027, as many larger RV conventions are planned roughly three years in advance. The fair board will begin reaching out and reengaging with potential visitors as soon as possible to help promote interest.

Revenue Projects for RV Event Center – American Sprint Boat Racing Opportunity for SFP: Kathy explained this is a group out of Port Angeles that is looking to expand to a 4-track series: Port Angeles, WA; Yakima, WA; Ontario, Oregon; and a yet to be determined location in eastern Idaho. The additional work being done to the RV Event Center would help accommodate for this opportunity, but is not a prerequisite. American Sprint Boat Racing would pay for half the track, and the fair board would have to find a way to cover the other half – about \$300,000-\$500,000. Dirt would need to be moved for the track, hydroseed added, and a terraced seating area created; this area could also be used to expand existing grandstand capacity for other events. Commissioner McKinney asked Kathy to follow up with the Board with individual race statistics by their revenues. Kathy added that the County would have full ownership of the track, and American Sprint Boat Racing would have a small revenue share. Don Anderson noted that all construction must go through the procurement process and be done according to prevailing wage and the other usual requirements. The Board and Kathy concurred that any work done on the fairgrounds to create this track would be considered a capital project, involving the Board's oversight.

Brian Griff explained that he and Kathy needed the Board's authorization to sign the SIED application.

Commissioner Curtis clarified for Commissioner McKinney that this would not mean the Board is necessarily prioritizing this project over other applications. Commissioner McKinney requested a joint meeting with the SIED Board to get an update on how much funding is actually available and how they're looking at allocating it over the next few years. Commissioner Curtis responded that it's just under \$7 million or so, and applications must be received by July 6th. Kathy confirmed that she, her long-rang planning committee, and HLA would be presenting to the SIED Board on July 20th.

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Authorize Brian Griff to Sign the SIED Application

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes Unanimously.

## 5. HUMAN SERVICES (60 Minutes)

DCR Discussion: Courtney Hesla shared a proposed schedule for DCR Program Option 2, involving two Upper Valley teams and one Lower Valley team each day, with one DCR available to oversee and aid these three teams, and a weekend DCR to help co-respond/cover. This option allows for 10 staff total. Commissioner McKinney suggested reaching out to the Yakama Nation about potentially signing an MOA/MOU to fund a second Lower Valley team, due to the ratio of calls involving a tribal member or someone on tribal land. Commissioner Linde stated that he was open to having that conversation, and noted that it might be possible to bring it up at a different meeting he has scheduled with the Tribe this Friday. Commissioner Curtis concurred.

Courtney then shared a proposed schedule for DCR Program Option 3, involving two Upper Valley teams and two Lower Valley teams each day, with one DCR available for Upper Valley and another available for Lower Valley, and additional weekend DCR's to help co-respond/cover. This option allows for 16 staff total.

Courtney noted that in both Options 2 and 3, a Program Manager stationed at Dispatch could also serve as backup to the DCR's. The cost for Option 2 with 1 year of Healthcare Authority Trueblood Contributions would be \$770,465 (or \$1,173,577 otherwise), and Option 3 would be \$1,222,519 (or \$1,747,988 otherwise). Because the HCA contract will fund more DCR's than are accounted for in the two proposed schedules, the extra DCR's could replace some of the case manager positions in the staffing plan and further reduce the cost to the County, or could be designated to ride along with law enforcement. Esther Magasis noted that this could be a problem if the HCA funding ever changes, and the County is left with excess staff with higher qualifications and pay than necessary.

In response to Commissioner McKinney's question of how the County can work to train up its own DCR's, Courtney noted some different partnerships currently available. Commissioner McKinney stated that while the extra HCA funding is available, she is in favor of Option 3, but noted that the County may have to monitor and adapt this plan if/when this funding runs out, and could potentially use Mental Health Sales Tax revenue instead. Commissioner Linde concurred that he would prefer equal coverage in the Upper Valley and the Lower Valley. The Board agreed to have Commissioner Linde at least reach out to the Tribe about a potential MOA/MOU before signing any contracts, but noted that if the Tribe is unready or unable to move forward right away, the BOCC could still adopt a plan and then amend/enhance it later. Esther noted that she has been trying to include the Tribe throughout this process, but hasn't heard back. Commissioner Linde offered to invite her to Friday's meeting to help make the appropriate connections.

The Board briefly discussed how a new program plan will benefit cities outside of Yakima that are wanting access to services or an expansion of services. Don Anderson chimed in to confirm the Board's understanding of "supplanting" funds for Mental Health Sales Tax revenue: Mental Health Sales Tax revenue could only be utilized if Trueblood funding is scaled back or cut entirely. The Board also discussed the difficulties and inefficiencies of shuffling DCR's around between law enforcement officers. Esther and Courtney then discussed mileage and maintenance cost projections if vehicles can be provided for DCR use. Don and Commissioner McKinney suggested that ER&R might be able to provide additional information. Finally, the Board discussed the program costs overall and agreed to revisit the discussion after hearing back from Courtney about vehicle costs and the Tribe about an MOA/MOU. Commissioner Curtis also requested additional information from Courtney about the frequency of DCR responses. Erin Franklin was directed to schedule a follow-up DCR discussion for the Work Session on Monday, July 10th.

Mental Health Sales Tax RFP: Esther shared her updates to the RFP based on the Board's feedback. The Board confirmed that they would like to remove the "Special Interest Areas" and "Funding" sections. They made additional edits under "Results Based Accountability", and agreed they were in favor of the rest of the edits as outlined. Esther confirmed that she would make the final changes and also speak with Corporate Counsel to clarify which types of entities are legally able to apply for funding, per Commissioner Curtis' question.

#### 6. COMMISSIONER UPDATES/ GENERAL DISCUSSION

The Commissioners gave updates on individual committee/board assignments for the week of June 26, 2023-June 30, 2023.

#### 7. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Linde noted that the Board had recently been made aware of another special purpose district (specifically, Drainage District 16A) that has been struggling to maintain a board. Although the BOCC isn't involved in the day-to-day operations of these districts and their boards, the Commissioners are called upon if the district boards are suddenly unable to function due to lack of a quorum. Corporate Counsel was directed to work with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the BOCC to obtain a list of these special purpose districts so that the Commissioners can stay more informed of any potential issues. Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) of Washington, the County Treasurer, and the County Auditor were suggested as possible resources.

Commissioner McKinney wished everyone a happy Independence Day and expressed thankfulness for the freedoms we enjoy in this country. Commissioner Linde concurred, noting that freedom isn't free, and observing that while our country does make mistakes, we have the freedom to be able to learn from them and make the necessary changes.

#### 8. ADJOURN

Commissioner Curtis MOTION: To Adjourn

Commissioner McKinney SECOND

Motion Passes to Adjourn. Meeting Adjourned at 11:49 a.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

AUG 01 2023

BOARD OF YAKIMA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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LaDon Linde, Chair

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Amanda McKinney, Commissioner

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