

MID-COLUMBIA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 25, 2014, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Board Room, 1113 Kelly Avenue, The Dalles, Oregon

2014 Board of Directors:

Gilliam County: *Mike Weimer, Steve Shaffer, Denise Ball
Hood River County: *Maui Meyer, Les Perkins.
Sherman County: *Michael Smith, Cliff Jett, Tom McCoy
Wasco County: *Rod Runyon, Steve Kramer, Carolyn Wood
Wheeler County: *Anne Mitchell, Chris Perry, Jack Lorts
(*denotes Executive Committee Members)

I. CALL TO ORDER

A Roll Call and Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Rod Runyon, Acting Chair. Denise Ball, City of Arlington, was introduced. Ball is a new board member, representing Gilliam County.

Present: Maui Meyer, Denise Ball, Cliff Jett, Tom McCoy, Carolyn Wood, Scott Hege, and Rod Runyon. Present via teleconference, Anne Mitchell, Chris Perry, and Steve Shaffer (Note, Shaffer called in after Roll Call at 1:06 p.m.).

Absent: Michael Smith, Ed Weather, Les Perkins, Mike Weimar, and Jack Lorts.

Staff: John Arens, Executive Director; Sarah Braumbaugh, Fiscal Director; Dan Schwanz, Transportation Director; Tine Meriwether, Executive Assistant.

Guests: Wayne Lease, public; Kevin Campbell, EOCCO/GOBHI; Todd Jacobson, GOBHI; and Josh Bishop, PacificSource (Bishop arrived after Roll-Call).

B. Approval of January 28, 2014 Minutes

Scott Hege called for clarification and additional comments entered for the record on page 4 of the minutes. The discussion regarding Transportation's facility costs should be clarified to read that because Transportation is moving, their current facility costs of \$25,000 will be spread out between the remaining programs. Hege stated he also wanted his questions posed to John Arens regarding capital and operational funding and whether or not there was a business plan for the new Transit Center, be added for the record.

Following comments Tom McCoy moved, seconded by Cliff Jett, to approve the January 28, 2014 minutes as amended. The motion was approved unanimously.

AYES: Meyer, Shaffer, Jett, McCoy, Wood, Runyon, Hege, Mitchell, Perry, Ball (10)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Perkins, Weathers, Weimar, Smith, Lorts, (5)

OPEN AGENDA

Wayne Lease, 41 Private Lake Road, White Salmon, WA

Mr. Lease stated he wanted to clarify the demographics presented in the recent PowerPoint presentation were for two compliance programs. He asked what the "grant split" was in terms of what MCCOG has contributed to the Transit Center and what has ODOT grants provided. John Arens responded that out of the \$3.2 mil cost of the facility, MCCOG is providing \$100K. There are three different grants from ODOT; to date we have received \$1.2 million. Getting back to the PowerPoint demographics, Mr. Lease stated MCCOG's square miles and census figures differ from what the US Census figures indicate. He also spoke about his conversation with the Director of Deschutes County Building Codes, who stated their building codes department only serves Deschutes County.

Mr. Lease discussed GASB 54 accounting. He stated he spoke with an independent company in South Carolina that does consulting for public entities and also the head of County Services with the State of Oregon, Rod Hamilton. Mr. Hamilton stated you cannot "comingle restricted money." Lease stated he also spoke with someone at the national board named "Sherman" who stated he "wrote the operative" and he said "you can't do that." Lease went on to say that everything he has read about GASB 54 states you have to "answer to a higher power."

Arens stated he had responded to Mr. Lease in email about the comparison charts on square miles and population. Both represent the square miles and populations served in the jurisdictions that were being compared, and that is why they are not the same as the US Census figures.

Steve Shaffer stated for the record that he entered the meeting (via teleconference) during Scott Hege's comments about the minutes, approximately 1:06 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Chair Runyon called for discussion on Resolution No. 12-30 to come before Resolution No. 12-29, as the representatives from PacificSource were not yet present.

A. Consideration of Resolution No. 12-30 Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI)
John Arens addressed the Board. He stated representatives were present to meet the Board and answer any questions about what was being proposed. He stated MCCOG's non-emergent program serves seven counties, our five counties of Wasco, Hood River, Sherman, Gilliam, and Wheeler plus Morrow and Umatilla. As of July 1, the service area will be changing to a 12 county area. This is a significant change to our program and needs Board discussion.

Kevin Campbell addressed the Board. He stated he represents the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care (EOCC) as well as Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI). He stated GOBHI owns 29% of the organization. The transportation needed is non-emergency and provided only to Oregon Health Plan members. He stated the goal is to get a single transportation provider for all 12 counties served as opposed to dealing with multiple organizations. GOBHI has a managed care arrangement with the CCO for behavioral health services and GOBHI anticipates the same type of service with transportation. He said there are opportunities to think about how to provide services and transportation is a part of the

supportive services. Transportation offers individuals the opportunity to get to necessary care and other support services. He stated GOBHI is anxious to work with MCCOG.

As of July 1, Campbell hopes contracts will be in place and the CCO's can begin looking at other revenue sources to enhance transportation and move away from a fee-for-service system. He stated he recognized this would be a change to the region currently being served. He went on to say that the goal is to get away from a "ride by ride by ride, type system" and move toward determining client needs and then figure out their transportation. In terms of who makes the medical ride decision, Campbell stated 100% of the clients will be enrolled in a "primary care home" or "medical home" which will determine the transportation needs of the client.

With regards to transporting clients to multiple services, Dan Schwanz stated the bulk of the transportation providers in the current service area are either public or private non-profit entities. There are opportunities to work with those providers to assist with multiple services.

Campbell stated we need to get providers (medical facilities) to buy in and take ownership in getting clients to services instead of the current system of clients arranging their own transportation to wherever they need to go.

A discussion ensued regarding the wording of the resolution before the Board. Campbell stated he believed the resolution gives MCCOG staff ability to negotiate a contract for services and expanding the services beyond the current service area.

Scott Hege stated staff should bring back the final agreement to the Board for evaluation and approval. He stated he is not comfortable with the wording in the resolution. He stated this ties in with his concern about the Transportation Center as this is more revenue that will go toward it and he believes the Board should make those decisions; to evaluate and make determinations. He stated the wording in both resolutions should be changed. Tom McCoy also stated his concern that there was nothing before the Board to evaluate. Rod Runyon stated he was also concerned that there was no detail and an agreement should come back to the Board for approval.

Maui Meyer questioned why the Board needs to review the contract. He stated Transportation is a service provider and GOBHI will provide revenue and wants to work with MCCOG.

Hege stated he wanted to see the analysis that the concept makes sense and is cost effective. He stated he believed conceptually, it makes sense.

Arens responded that MCCOG has been providing this same service in a 7 county area for several years. MCCOG will be contracting with two different entities instead of the state and going into a different geographic area. The focus is cost savings as well as increasing the service level for clients. MCCOG will not be making client transportation decisions, they'll come from the CCO's and their case workers. MCCOG will not have any more authority to do anything July 1 then it does today. Arens noted that eventually there will be a different funding model. He stated after reading through the draft contracts, he is not seeing any risk because the funding mechanism will be reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure revenue received correlates to the level of service provided. MCCOG is a small piece of the solution the CCO's are facing around serving clients.

Hege stated he understood the situation but reiterated any contract needs to be approved by the Board.

Schwanz commented that there will be three different contracts; PacificSource covering Hood River and Wasco County CCO members; GOBHI for Eastern Oregon CCO members; and our existing contract with the State for a fee-for-service program for non-CCO members. He stated the contracts will be similar. However, the challenge will be to manage the different rules for each contract.

With regards to the Affordable Care Act, Schwanz stated that initially it was reported that ridership would increase about 10% and has actually gone up 30% since the first of the year. It is unknown at this time if the numbers will increase. Campbell stated GOBHI added 30,000 new members on December 31st and 7,619 new members on February 15th. He stated there are still 29,000 people on fee-for-service that may be assigned to CCO's by the end of 2015.

Runyon asked staff to provide a written summary to accompany the material in Board packets. That would help the Board know in advance what "it is we are doing." Hege stated he wants staff to negotiate the agreement and come back and explain it.

Arens stated staff intends to bring back contracts for Board approval by the next meeting. He further stated that because MCCOG will be serving a larger geographic region by July 1st, we need to hire a new employee (Field Manager) in April to assist Dan Schwanz in working with all the new vendors and get them ready for the July 1 start date. He stated that if the Board is okay with moving forward, then that is what he intends to do.

McCoy stated his belief that there is a general consensus amongst the Board to move forward.

Hege stated that hiring new staff is the kind of thing he wants the Board to be aware of so they can be assured it makes financial sense and there's money to pay for the person.

Meyer stated it was worth noting that if MCCOG does not provide the transportation, it will most likely not happen. Schwanz stated that in conversations with PacificSource and GOBHI it is understood that this is a large geographic area with lots of small communities. He cannot do this work alone and hiring additional staff will be necessary. He stated the CCO's understand that. Schwanz stated he is protective of his program and wants it to succeed for MCCOG.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was to amend the last paragraph of the resolution by replacing "shall enter" with "desires to." And, replacing "execute" with "negotiate." Hege moved, seconded by Chris Perry, to approve Resolution No. 12-30 as amended.

There was further discussion regarding contract negotiations to-date. Schwanz noted that staff has progressed or fast-tracked with PacificSource because there has been a proposed start date of April 1st, whereas, GOHBI is set to start July 1. Josh Bishop, Pacific Source, stated the goal in year-one is to explore opportunities to partner and make a more efficient system.

Following comments, the question was called and the motion to approve Resolution No. 12-30 as amended pass unanimously.

AYES: Meyer, Shaffer, Jett, McCoy, Wood, Runyon, Hege, Mitchell, Perry, Ball (10)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Perkins, Weathers, Weimar, Smith, Lorts, (5)

B. Consideration of Resolution No. 12-29 PacificSource
Josh Bishop, PacificSource. Mr. Bishop stated contract implementation has been delayed until July 1 because of new information regarding concern with the State in providing Protected Health Information to brokerages. The delay is due to the need to clarify medical confidentiality in the brokerage and assure HIPAA compliance.

Chair Runyon clarified the Board's intent that Resolution No 12-30 wording be changed in the last paragraph as the same as Resolution No 12-30.

There being no further comments, McCoy moved, seconded by Hege, to approve Resolution No. 12-29 as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

AYES: Meyer, Shaffer, Jett, McCoy, Wood, Runyon, Hege, Mitchell, Perry, Ball (10)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Perkins, Weathers, Weimar, Smith, Lorts, (5)

A discussion regarding the funding of the Transit Center ensued. Arens stated there will be no debt service for the new center (with the exception of the \$100K loan from Building Codes which MCCOG is currently making payments on), just operation and maintenance of the facility. If we successfully negotiate the new contracts (PacificSource & GOBHI), we will need to increase staff to include two new call takers (Intake Specialists) and the Field Manager. The Transportation services will be covered under the Per Member, Per Month (PMPM) rate of reimbursement instead of the current method of getting reimbursed for each ride. The payment system from both PacificSource and GOBHI needs to cover the overhead.

Arens further reported it is anticipated that the new Transit Center will be open July 2015, assuming there are no delays.

Hege stated he questioned how MCCOG will pay for the new Transit Center and its operation. He wants to see a plan on cost and operation as he does not have all the details. Schwanz responded that the building will be constructed in phases and with the receipt of the last anticipated grant (Connect Oregon), the building project will be fully funded. Arens stated MCCOG's budget process (next month) will help the Board to further understand the commitments.

McCoy discussed the payment methodology. The system is proposed to go to a "capitated" payment system. He stated that model is uncertain and MCCOG is taking a risk. He asked that staff keep the board informed during contract negotiations about that and what the risks are financially. Schwanz responded that currently the State's agreement with MCCOG is that they pay for the service we provide.

We have an accounting at the end of each year and if it costs more they reimburse us; less we reimburse them. The proposed CCO's medical model provides a price per eligible individual. Schwanz commented that the CCO's will be controlling the costs. There will be a period of working under their model until we understand what our costs will actually be.

Following discussion, Arens called for an additional agenda item to be included. It is regarding granting computers to Wheeler County.

C. Computers for Wheeler County

Arens stated Wheeler County is in need of 15 computers and MCCOG would like to offer them to the County. This is an exception to the normal loan of computers only to schools. They will come from the StRUT program and we have them available. MCCOG is proposing to loan the computers to Wheeler County with the caveat that they be returned to StRUT for recycling at the end of life.

McCoy moved, seconded by Wood, to provide 15 computers to Wheeler County.

Chis Perry expressed his appreciation for the loan and that it will assist Wheeler County in moving forward.

Arens stated staff will put together a simple agreement with Wheeler County. It was noted that the computers do not include software.

The question was called and the motion was approved unanimously.

AYES: Meyer, Shaffer, Jett, McCoy, Wood, Runyon, Hege, Mitchell, Perry, Ball (10)

NAYS: None (0)

ABSENT: Perkins, Weathers, Weimar, Smith, Lorts, (5)

REPORTS/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Senior Advisory Council, Committee Chair Report

No report available.

B. Quarterly Financial Report, July – December.

Sarah Brumbaugh reviewed the quarterly report as provided to the Board in their packets. She reviewed each fund as outlined in the report. Jobs Club program will be expanded. Money Management is receiving a new grant. She noted that the \$50K interfund transfer to AAA program will likely not be funded as the AAA Director has found other revenue sources. Also noted was a \$8K in General Fund to be used toward the purchase of a forklift for the StRUT program. The money will be carried forward to next year's budget in order to make that purchase. With regards to the Transportation fund, Brumbaugh clarified that the budget reflects capital outlay of grants anticipated, but not received yet.

C. WIA Report, Vocational Rehabilitation Job Club

A written WIA Report was provided in the Board's packets. No comments were made.

D. Six Rivers Community Mediation

Arens reported that Six Rivers is in the process of moving out of MCCOG. The transition has gone smoothly. He stated their new location will be in Hood River.

Board Discussion.

Jett asked if the Board will continue to hear complaints about the Building Code program. Runyon responded that because MCCOG is a public agency we should continue to allow the public comment and they should have the right to say what they want to say. He stated that if comments become repetitious then it is up to the Chair to resolve.

Jett stated he would like to have Mr. Lease's comments come to an end. He stated he understands there is a need for public comment, but this issue has been researched and there is nothing new.

Meyer expressed his concern with how to appease the complaints brought forward by Mr. Lease and that he will continue to bring forth another "expert" in the field, for example now the GASB 54 issue.

Arens stated he believes MCCOG staff has spent a great deal of time and has answered Mr. Lease's questioned to the best of their ability. He does not feel MCCOG can expend any more revenue refuting allegations. However, if the Board feels this agency should hire professionals to refute new allegations, then we can do that.

Hege stated these issues can be resolved through a higher level of transparency by MCCOG and questions raised have not been answered as transparently as they could be and we need to spend more time with him to satisfy him. Hege stated he believes it is the public's right to complain and bring forward their issues and that you cannot tell people that they cannot come to our meetings and speak.

Discussions ensued regarding what Mr. Lease's current complaint is. The current allegation seems to be that MCCOG is using Building Codes restricted funds (the Electrical Fund) for other purposes.

Runyon stated it would help to get Board packets uploaded on the MCCOG website. He stated a lot of the information Mr. Lease is asking for has been in the packets and he could have accessed it there.

McCoy suggested expanding the Building Codes web page and upload all the relevant material presented in the Board packets on that page. It will be easier for the public to find.

Note: Staff is in process of getting board packets on the website, back to 2013. Comments on how the website can be improved or how it could be a better tool, are welcome.

AAA Area Plan

Arens reported that the AAA Area Plan has been submitted to the state.


Board contact information

Staff will update and email the new roster to board members. Personal addresses will be removed.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the MCCOG Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Tine Meriwether, Executive Assistant

ATTEST:



MCCOG Board Chair