



**PUBLIC MEETING**  
September 11, 2018  
**MINUTES**

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 11, 2018, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers Room 330.

**Roll Call**

Chairman Andy Hunthausen called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Jim McCormick and Commissioner Susan Good Geise were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Aaron Douglas, Laura Erikson, Nicho Hash, Kellie McBride, Anastasia Mitchell, Brandi Vail, Chris Weiss, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

A moment of silence was observed for the victims of September 11, 2001.

**Consent Action Items**

There were no consent action items.

**Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from the Montana Department of Transportation. (Chris Weiss)**

Chris Weiss, Sergeant with Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's Office presented the grant award from the Montana Department of Transportation for the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) for funding in the amount of \$13,500 to provide reimbursement for overtime costs incurred by deputies working DUI traffic shifts. The grant program is statewide. The last two years the state has awarded the County \$9,600 but because of the number of shifts worked and the details and arrests made for DUIs the higher amount was awarded. The project shall start within 10 days of October 1, 2018, or upon execution of the contract and shall be completed no later than September 30, 2019. Staff recommends acceptance of the grant.

Commissioner Good Geise asked Sergeant Weiss if highway deaths are on the decline. Sergeant Weiss had not heard the stats, but noted the lower highway death numbers is the goal of the program and gave an overview of things that can contribute to a lower death toll.

Sergeant Weiss stated the average time to process a DUI arrest is at least one to two hours. Remote areas are almost a full shift as a required second deputy is needed for transport and travel time. Other things such as prior DUIs and refused blood draw a search warrant is applied for. Reports come to the office daily suspecting a possible DUI.

Commissioner McCormick asked if this is backup to the Montana Highway Patrol. Sergeant Weiss stated any law enforcement agency in Montana can receive the grant, it is backup for highway patrol and for public safety.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Memorandum of Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff Employees' Association. (Aaron Douglas)**

Aaron Douglas, Human Resources Generalist presented the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Sheriff Employees' Association. This is a temporary agreement to amend the terms of Article XI (G)(2) requiring four detention officers for the detention center per shift to requiring four detention officers for the weekday shift (7 am to 7 pm) only, and no fewer than three detention officers for the remaining shifts. Due to several vacancies and newer officers attending the Law Enforcement Academy, the detention center is short-staffed.

The amended language will expire on January 1, 2019 and return to the requirement of four detention officers per shift. Association representatives, the attorney representing the association, the Sheriff, and Human Resources staff have all reviewed the agreement and staff recommends approval of the MOA with the Sheriff Employees' Association.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner McCormick and seconded by Commissioner Good Geise. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Western Montana Mental Health Center. (Laura Erikson)**

Laura Erikson, Community Development Coordinator presented the contract with Western Montana Mental Health Center for the ongoing operations of Our Place Mental Health Drop In Center. Previously a grant award was received from the state in the amount of \$60,000. The contract does not have a not to exceed clause because there is a commitment to fund the operations. The facility is leased from Rocky Mountain Development Council and Western Montana Mental Health Center hires staff and runs the operation. The contract period is through June 30, 2019. Staff recommends approval of the contract.

Anastasia Mitchell, Program Manager for Our Place Drop In Center stated generally they assist those with severe mental illness and co-occurring addiction issues. But it is open to anyone age 18 and older to receive services. Ms. Mitchell gave an overview of the services provided. Ms. Mitchell gave an overview of the peer support concept and the support it gives the individuals. There are currently two peer support specialists, three including herself, to provide these services. The goal is to get the specialists through peer support specialists training with Montana Peer Network and acquiring state licenses. There are about 40 individuals on any given day that come through the Drop In Center.

Ms. Mitchell gave an overview of the connection with other agencies in the community, including the CONNECT Referral System, United Way, Good Samaritan, Helena Indian Alliance, and God's Love.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Justice Management Institute. (Kellie McBride)**

Kellie McBride, Criminal Justice Services Director presented the contract with Justice Management Institute (JMI) for the criminal justice data analysis, recommendation and plan project.

Lewis and Clark County's criminal justice data systems, collectively, are fragmented causing ineffectiveness. This includes various data systems used by the Sheriff, police departments, courts, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, as well as service providers including, but not limited to St Peters Health Center for Mental Health, Boyd Andrew, and Journey Home. Understanding which data sets should be captured and collecting data will allow the County to address aspects of the criminal justice system that might merit reform. JMI will spend about six months reviewing gaps in the system and presenting a plan to move forward. The costs are included in the Criminal Justice Service budget for FY19 with \$12,500 from Montana Healthcare Foundation and \$18,822 from the 2018 Restorative Justice and Court Services Jail Levy. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Justice Management Institute.

Ms. McBride noted the goal is to either have one system or get the various systems to communicate so statistical questions can have dependable answers.

Commissioner Good Geise asked about the challenges and having the agencies agree to share their information, while at the same time some of them having Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirements and having to address those mandates. Ms. McBride stated JMI has worked nationally on these issues, including Missoula and there is an ability for health agencies to share data.

Ms. McBride stated the overall goal is public safety and diversion, how to divert people wisely from the jail system. How well is the pretrial system working, the data will demonstrate that information.

Commissioner McCormick referenced that Lewis and Clark County is a pilot county for the pretrial services program. Ms. McBride gave an overview of how the pretrial services program works and the steps that are taken upon arrest.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

**Contract Between Lewis and Clark County and Western Montana Mental Health Center. (Kellie McBride)**

Kellie McBride, Criminal Justice Services Director presented the contract with Western Montana Mental Health Center that covers the mental health therapist and mental health case manager in the jail and the 24/7 crisis response team. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Western Montana Mental Health Center.

Ms. McBride stated at least 75% of those in the jail system have mental health issues combined with substance abuse and gave an overview of the suicide assessment that takes place at the time of booking and the importance of having the mental health therapist and case manager available to address the needs.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Good Geise and seconded by Commissioner McCormick. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

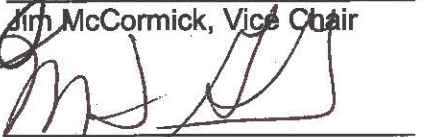
**Public comment on any public matter within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not on the agenda above.**

Anastasia Mitchell, Program Manager for Our Place Drop In Center invited everyone to the community barbecue on September 21, 2018 at 2:00 pm in observance of September being suicide awareness month. A suicide support group will start in October at the Drop In Center.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:01 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
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Andy Hunthausen, Chair  
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Jim McCormick, Vice Chair  
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Susan Good Geise, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Paulette DeHart, Clerk of the Board