



PUBLIC MEETING

September 21, 2021
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

Roll Call

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

Commissioner Tom Rolfe was present. Commissioner Jim McCormick was out of the office. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, A.C. Rothenbuecher, Mat Walter, Jolene Jennings, Ann McCauley, Jillian Danesi, Sarah Sandau, Autumn Frey, Jess Hegstrom, Brian Coplin, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone recited the pledge.

Consent Action Items

There were no consent action items.

Agreement Between Lewis and Clark County and Montana State University Extension. (Mat Walter)

Mat Walter, Agricultural Extension Agent, presented the annual agreement with Montana State University Extension for Fiscal Year 2022 extension services. The agreement signifies the committed portion of the annual salaries by the County. Extension provides four areas of concentration; they are agricultural, youth development/4-H, community development and family/consumer sciences. He gave an overview of each area. He is currently the only agent in the office; they have two openings to help cover the areas. The agreement period is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the agreement with Montana State University.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the grant award from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health

Services Administration (SAMHSA) for a five-year grant to implement the Lewis and Clark Public Health Suicide Prevention Project. The project aims to reduce suicide and bolster mental health literacy in Lewis and Clark County with the new addition of Broadwater and Jefferson Counties for this five-year grant. She reviewed the project and training. The grant period is September 30, 2021 through September 29, 2026. The funding is \$125,000 per year for a total of \$625,000. Staff recommends acceptance of the grant award from the Montana Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Rothenbuecher gave an overview of the people that work on the project, one staff member an Americorps VISTA and a lot of collaboration. The main purpose of the project is training and capacity building. With the previous three-year grant, more than 3,000 first responders, medical and mental health providers, educators, youth, and community members have received education to support people in crisis and in high-risk groups. The types of groups include adolescents, middle-aged white men, a large population of services members, veterans and their families. The SAMHSA funding has also been integrated with other efforts and funding to prevent suicide. They have a goal to train 50% of law enforcement and first responders in mental health and suicide prevention models. She reviewed various other trainings that they want to conduct.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Grant Award to Lewis and Clark County from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the grant award from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) for \$617,763.16. The funds will support crisis intervention and jail diversion efforts that prevent unnecessary restrictive placements such as detention, hospitalization or commitments to the Montana State Hospital. This is a collaboration between Lewis and Clark County Detention Center, Lewis and Clark Public Health, St. Peter's Health, the Sheriff's Office, and other partners. The award will provide support for the mobile crisis response team at St. Peter's Health as well as staffing for jail-based care coordination at the detention center. The award period is July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Staff recommends acceptance of the grant award from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Jolene Jennings, Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Specialist, discussed the crisis receiving and stabilization facility model planning. It is a service funded by Addictive and Mental Disorders Division (AMDD) and Lewis and Clark County is one of four counties approved for the service. They are working with Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) on defining and planning for a crisis receiving and/or stabilization facility in Lewis and Clark County. She gave an overview of the Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Leadership Team and listed the members in the community. The team began phase 1 of the process in late August that consisted of interviews with the crisis coordinators throughout the counties, completion of a status questionnaire on what the crisis team has done to date. The goal is to have phase 1 finished in 30 to 60 days with phase 2 beginning upon completion. WICHE recommends the counties conduct site visits to know what is needed.

Ms. Jennings discussed the three components of the crisis response system that includes a strong call center, Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT), and the last component a stabilization facility. She gave an overview of the MCRT that has existed since November 2020 and consists of four fulltime behavioral health specialists with two part-time to try to meet 24/7 coverage, which has been a challenge. The number of individuals served the first eight months in Lewis and Clark County was 172 individuals with more than half not having to go through a traumatic crisis response. They can see a potential of the numbers increasing by a minimum of 15%, and maybe even a 25% increase. Law enforcement plans to start work on their own model in the future. The current work regarding the Journey Home is to

determine if it is the correct model for the need in the county and to ensure its sustainability. She explained the three different proposed models: a crisis receiving facility, under 24 hours; a crisis stabilization facility, 7-14 days; a crisis receiving and stabilization facility.

Ms. Rothenbuecher added they have a very strong collaboration with DPHHS and AMDD. When the budget cuts were experienced, that lead to this award, an additional \$200,000 was received in the last month or so to help with Detention Center staffing.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Contract Agreement Between Lewis and Clark Public Health and Brandi Lidbeck. (A.C. Rothenbuecher)

A.C. Rothenbuecher, Community Health Promotion Division Administrator, presented the contract with Brandi Lidbeck in an amount not to exceed \$2,500. Services provided are to assist in the creation, implementation, and organization of the Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors (LOSS) Team. The LOSS Team is based on an active postvention model. She will serve as a consultant and trainer for the LOSS Team project with 8 hours of training for the team volunteers and 12 hours of consulting assistance that includes providing support during law enforcement and the coroners office conversations and providing information on what has worked with other teams. The contract begins upon signature through June 30, 2022. Staff recommends approval of the contract with Brandi Lidbeck.

No public comment was received.

A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

Board Appointments. (Roger Baltz)

Roger Baltz, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the joint board appointments for the Airport Authority Board and the Heritage Preservation & Tourism Council. Lewis and Clark County and the City of Helena reviewed the four applications received for the Airport Authority Board. The City of Helena has approved the reappointment of Tom O'Connell. Staff recommends the joint appointment of William Burkland to the Airport Authority Board to a term that expires September 1, 2024 and the joint reappointment of Tom O'Connell to the Heritage Preservation & Tourism Council to a term that expires June 30, 2024.

No public comment was received.


A motion to Approve was made by Commissioner Rolfe and seconded by Commissioner Hunthausen. The motion Passed on a 2-0 vote.

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

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Andy Hunthausen, Chair



Jim McCormick, Vice Chair



Tom Rolfe, Member

ATTEST:



Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board