



## **PUBLIC MEETING**

May 9, 2023  
MINUTES

The Lewis and Clark County Commissioners Public Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 9:00 AM in Commission Chambers, Room 330.

### **Roll Call**

Chair Tom Rolfe called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

Commissioner Andy Hunthausen and Commissioner Candace Payne were present. Others attending all or a portion of the meeting included Roger Baltz, Nicho Hash, Jolene Jennings, Drenda Niemann, Lona Carter, Theresa Ortega, Paige Jorgensen, Denise Mergenthaler, Ara Babcock, Emily McVey, Julie Bir, Betsy Kirkeby, and Nadine McCarty, Recording Secretary.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Everyone recited the pledge.

### **Proclamation Declaring May as Mental Health Month.**

- [01:47] Commissioner Rolfe read the proclamation recognizing May 2023 as Mental Health Month in Lewis and Clark County.
- [04:25] Jolene Jennings, Public Health Behavioral Health Systems Improvement Specialist, presented statistics on behavioral health crisis work in the community.
- [06:54] Lona Carter, Helena School District Public Educator, gave an overview of the significant need for mental and behavioral health services in the District.
- [16:09] Jeannette Clark, St. Peter's Hospital Mobile Crisis Response Therapist, gave an overview of the various support services and resources they provide for the community.
- [20:40] Julie Bir, Public Health CONNECT Referral and Systems Improvement Specialist, gave an overview of four behavioral health resources available to individuals and families.
- [23:43] Theresa Ortega, Good Samaritan Ministries Executive Director, thanked the Commission for recognizing May as Mental Health Month.
- [24:44] Alton Talley, Our Place Coordinator, stated the numbers are growing and gave an overview of their programs.
- [30:56] Ara Babcock, Good Samaritan Ministries Assistant Coordinator, gave an overview of her experiences working with individuals living on the streets with mental health issues.

[34:11] Paige Jorgensen, a victim of human trafficking, shared her thoughts on mental health treatments and her volunteer work at Our Place.

[35:14] Charles Payne stated he attends Our Place and thanked everyone for the support.

[35:33] Emily McVey, United Way Lewis and Clark Area Executive Director, gave an overview of 211 call line and available resources on the website. The 211 and 988 call centers work together.

[39:37] Commissioner Rolfe discussed the financial support Lewis and Clark County gives to behavioral health services.

[40:54] Commissioner Hunthausen discussed the partnership the County has with many of the providers in the community and what that entails.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hunthausen to accept the proclamation and proclaim May 2023 Mental Health Month in Lewis and Clark County. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. The motion Passed on a 3-0 vote.

### **Consent Action Items**

There were no consent action items.

### **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 9:54 a.m.

Meeting minutes approved on June 01 / 2023

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Rolfe, Chair

  
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Andy Hunthausen, Vice Chair

  
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Candace Payne, Member

ATTEST:

  
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Amy Reeves, Clerk of the Board