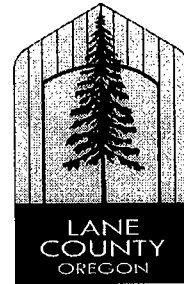


W9C

AGENDA COVER MEMO

AGENDA DATE: February 19, 2003
TO: Board of County Commissioners
FROM: Department of Health & Human Services
PRESENTED BY: Rob Rockstroh



AGENDA ITEM TITLE: IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE POLICY CHOICES IN RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING CUTS AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

I. MOTION

TO APPROVE THE POLICY CHOICES IN RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING CUTS AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

II. ISSUE OR PROBLEM

The Board of County Commissioners needs to approve the policy choices, presented to the Board by Health & Human Services, at its January 29, 2003 meeting. These policy choices are in response to mental health funding cuts.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Background

Funding for a number of mental health services are being reduced as a result of the State's revenue forecast shortfall and the failure of Measure 28. Funding for Community Crisis services are being reduced by \$67,622 due to the revenue shortfall and by an additional \$197,450 due to the failure of Measure 28. These reductions eliminate all community crisis funding from the State. Other reductions as a result of the failure of Measure 28 include a \$278,493 reduction in adult outpatient services (43% of our allocation for the period 2/1/03 – 6/30/03); a \$10,154 reduction in child outpatient services (54% of our allocation for the period 2/1/03 – 6/30/03); and a \$161,749 reduction in supported employment services (100% of our allocation for the period 2/1/03 – 6/30/03). In addition to these cuts, Lane County is facing an increase in indigent clients as Oregon Health Plan (OHP) standard clients lose their mental health and prescription benefits.

Lane County also received a contract amendment from the State discontinuing payment for clients who have been approved for stays at the State Hospital, but are unable to be placed there due to a lack of bed space. In the past, the County

has continued to provide care to these clients until the State had an available bed. Care was provided in the Lane County Psychiatric Hospital (LCPH) and reimbursement was received from the State.

B. Analysis

The cuts facing mental health services beginning February 1, 2003 require Lane County Mental Health (LCMH) to make significant changes to the way it does business. These changes are predicated on the fact that the OHP reimbursement level is insufficient to cover the cost of services; children's mental health services have always cost the County more than the funding received from the State; the reduction in indigent care funding for crisis services; changes to the OHP which will increase the number of indigent clients in Lane County; and the cessation of State funding for long-term care at LCPH.

H&HS is recommending the following policy changes:

- ⇒ Discontinue Emergency Room Coverage: Lane County has a long history of providing mental health coverage to the Sacred Heart Medical Center Emergency Room. Although the County had a revenue contract with Sacred Heart Medical Center for provision of these services, this only paid a portion of the cost of providing coverage.
- ⇒ Cut Commitment Investigation by 50%: Lane County will reduce the commitment investigation team to one investigator. If commitment investigation volume becomes more than that investigator can manage, the department will divert staff from other services to cover commitment.
- ⇒ Deliver to the State Hospital People Approved by the State for Long-Term Care Who are Housed at LCPH: H&HS is unable to provide free inpatient psychiatric care for clients for whom the responsibility for treatment has been transferred to the State. Clients approved by the State for long-term hospitalization at the State Hospital will be delivered to the State for care.
- ⇒ Ration Indigent Care Based on a Criteria to Enter and Remain in Care: Clients will be assessed and prioritized for services based on criteria such as their risk of harm to themselves or others; the potential for severe deteriorating function; and the ability to benefit from treatment.
- ⇒ Develop a Waiting List: Once all of the available treatment slots have been filled at LCMH, clients will be prioritized on a waiting list for entrance into treatment.

- ⇒ Reduce the Number of Child Clients Seen: The only child clients seen by LCMH will be those unable to be treated by other providers. LCMH will not see child clients who are covered by private insurance; they are presumably able to receive services at other agencies.
- ⇒ Develop Community Alternatives: LCMH has been the community's safety net for clients with mental illness. As this safety net begins to fall apart due to funding cuts, H&HS will work with community providers to develop a new safety net for these clients.

The Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC) and the Lane County Mental Health Quality Assurance Committee have reviewed the proposed policy direction prior to this agenda item being discussed by the Board and agree with these policy choices. These committees include a mix of providers, mental health consumers, consumer families, and interested community members.

This policy direction was presented to the Board as a discussion item at the January 29, 2003 meeting. Per the Board's request, this item is being resubmitted as an action item.

C. Alternative / Options

1. To approve the H&HS policy direction in response to mental health funding cuts.
2. To furnish a different policy direction for H&HS in response to mental health funding cuts.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION / FOLLOW UP

H&HS will implement policy changes as recommended by the Board.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER:) IN THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE POLICY CHOICES IN
) RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH FUNDING CUTS AS OUTLINED
) IN THE MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD OF COUNTY
) COMMISSIONERS.

WHEREAS, Lane County Health & Human Services (H&HS) is receiving significant reductions in funding for mental health services due to State budget rebalancing and the failure of Measure 28; and

WHEREAS, these funding cuts require H&HS to make changes in policies directing the provision of mental health services; and

WHEREAS, these policy choices include: Discontinuing Emergency Room Coverage; Cutting Commitment Investigation by 50%; Delivering to the State Hospital People Approved by the State for Long-Term Care Who are Housed at the Lane County Psychiatric Hospital; Rationing Indigent Care Based on a Criteria to Enter and Remain in Care; Developing a Waiting List for Services; Reducing the Number of Child Clients Seen; and Developing Community Alternatives to Lane County Mental Health.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Board of County Commissioners approve the policy choices as detailed above and outlined in the attached memorandum to the Board.

DATED this _____ day of February, 2003.

Peter Sorenson, Chair
Board of County Commissioners



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Mr. Peter Sorenson
Chair, Board of Commissioners
Lane County Board of Commissioners
Lane County Courthouse
125 East 8th Ave.
Eugene, Oregon 97401
February 10, 2003

Dear Mr. Sorenson,

This letter is to invite the Lane County Board of Commissioners to participate in a work group on local sustainable business and job development. The first meeting of the work group is planned for 8 AM to 12 Noon, Thursday, March 6, 2003, at the Library Room at Springfield City Hall.

There appears to be a good deal of interest in the field of sustainable development throughout Lane County. However, for a variety of reasons it has been difficult for local governments and economic development agencies to get traction on the issue. For this reason, we are initiating the Lane County Sustainable Business and Jobs Project (SBJP). Although sustainable development has many facets, this project will focus *solely* on the business and job development aspects of the field. The SBJP seeks to identify the policies and programs required to retain and expand existing sustainable businesses and to incubate or recruit new businesses applicable to rural and urban areas of Lane County.

We are forming a work group composed of local government and economic development officials who will serve as the steering committee for the project. A list of the communities and agencies that have been invited to sit on the work group is enclosed. A team of UO graduate students will serve as the staff for the work group and do most of the research and writing for the project with support provided by UO faculty and staff and outside experts.

We ask you to assign one elected official and one staff person to sit on the work group (this project may be appropriate for the Economic Standing Committee). However, additional elected officials and staff are welcome—indeed encouraged—to attend each meeting and participate in the process.

We expect the SBJP to take approximately six months to complete. Subject to the desires of the work group, at this point we are planning just three formal meetings of the group. This may be followed by a symposium where the information generated by the project can be shared with the general public and noted business leaders can share their views on our findings. We plan to use the sustainable industries project recently completed by the Portland Development Commission as a model and starting point for the project. However, we expect to go well beyond the work of the PDC.

INSTITUTE FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT • PROGRAM FOR WATERSHED AND COMMUNITY HEALTH
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The March 6 meeting will serve as the project kick-off. The goal of this meeting is to clarify the purpose of the SBJP, develop a common understanding of terms, and specify the initial research topics our graduate students will pursue. To achieve these ends, practitioners from local governments, the Portland Development Commission, and economic consultants involved with sustainable development will make short presentations, which will be followed by group discussions. The draft agenda for the first meeting is enclosed.

A second meeting will occur 5-7 weeks after the first get together when a set of draft research reports developed by our graduate students will be presented for discussion and the work group will clarify additional information or research desired. A third meeting will then be held 5-7 weeks later where the work group will review the final reports. Between meetings we expect draft reports and information to be exchanged via e-mail and phone.

Following the closure of the data gathering process, if the work group desires, a symposium will be organized where the information developed by our research team can be shared with the general public and business leaders from local or out-of-state sectors will be asked to speak about what may be required to help them expand locally, start firms, or locate in Lane County.

A background paper will be mailed to you about a week prior to the March 6 meeting providing definitions, key issues, examples, and other information that can be used as a starting point for discussion.

Please confirm your organization's willingness to participate in the work group, as well as the specific names of the people that will participate (and if they will attend the March 6 meeting), by calling me at 346-0687 or e-mailing me at cwch@darkwing.uoregon.edu

Sincerely,

Bob Doppelt
Director

Lane County Sustainable Business and Jobs Project

First Work Group Meeting
8 AM to 12 Noon, Thursday, March 6
Library Room, Springfield City Hall

Draft Agenda

7:30-8:00 Coffee and Juice Provided

8 AM Welcome and Introductions Bob Doppelt

8:15 AM Project Goals, Definitions, and Background on Sustainable Business and Job Development Bob Doppelt

8:45-9:30 Panel Discussion by Oregon Local Government Practitioners

- Matt Emlen, City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development (Portland and Multnomah County sustainable development efforts)
- Lynn Beaton, Oregon Department of Community and Economic Development (State of Oregon sustainability programs)
- Stephan Lashbrook, City of Lake Oswego (Lake Oswego City Hall Sustainability Plan)

Break

9:45-11:00 Panel Discussion on Sustainable Business Development and Job Creation

- Ann Griffin, Portland Development Commission, and Terry Moore, EcoNorthwest (economic consultants): (PDC Sustainable Industries Project)
- Tom Osdoba, E4Partners (Eco-Industrial Development)
- Daryl Ehrensing, OSU Crop Sciences (Alternative Agricultural Products--invited)

11-12 Noon Finalization of Initial Research Topics and Work Plan Bob Doppelt

12 noon End

LANE COUNTY SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS AND JOBS PROJECT

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

(Incomplete List: 2/10/2003)

Local Governments

**Eugene
Springfield
Oakridge
Cottage Grove
Florence
Junction City
Lane County**

Organizations

**Lane Metro Partnership
Lane Economic Committee
Eugene-Springfield Chamber of Commerce
Junction City-Harrisburg Area Chamber of Commerce
Creswell Chamber of Commerce
Oregon Department of Community and Economic Development
Other?**