

**Mental Health, Addictions, and Developmental Disabilities
Advisory Committee
(MHADDAC)
April 5, 2022
Virtual Meeting held via GoToMeeting**

Present: Mal Miner, Cody Gotchall, Diane Scottaline, Elizabeth Hazelwood, John Gotchall, Kevin Dimmick, Laura King, Rita Sawyer
Staff: Dani Martin, Dannielle Brown, Ricky Garcia, Ashley Talamantes, Jasper Smith, Nick Kurth, Xan Augerot
Guests: Nikki Holland
Excused: Katrina Shortridge

I. Call to Order and introductions

Meeting called to order at 5:15 pm by chair, Scottaline.

II. Approval of March minutes

- A motion was made to approve March minutes and the committee unanimously agreed to accept them as recorded.

III. Community Feedback and Announcements

- Dannielle Brown has given her notice at the County and will be leaving next month. Ashley Talamantes and Ricky Garcia will be filling her position in the interim and will be attending this committee in her absence starting next month.
- Captain Devaney invited up to 10 people to tour the jail. J. Gotchall asked for anyone interested to contact him.
- March was DD awareness month. The walk and roll awareness event had about 100 people. Many community groups and LEA were represented in this event. The hope is for a whole week of awareness events for the DD population in the future.
- Barbara Ross, former representative, recently passed away. She acted as a mentor to many people in the justice reform sphere in this community and state.

IV. Legislative updates

- There were no new legislative changes, but a summary of recent movement in DD services: There have been investments to raise wages on support staff, as well as enhance technology to agencies providing services. Sprinklers in foster homes will not be required. Agency of choice was created for individuals receiving Medicaid funds. Grant funds are coming out for American Rescue Care Act so funds will be available for community groups, staff retention, etc.
- The Cover All Oregonians bill was passed which covers all residents regardless of citizenship status, however the funds for each person are not available yet and the hope is to this to one day reach all Oregonians

- Some of the funds from 2021 that were approved are starting to roll out to behavioral health.
- There is an application in for funds to support individuals who are forensically involved and also have behavioral health needs.
- Our portion of the \$100 million housing funds will be distributed based on several decision points such as population, etc. The definition for use is broad which will allow for some additional housing resources in the County. There is a huge housing shortage in all financial levels, especially those on disability and with low income. There are some efforts to provide low-income housing coming into our community as well.

V. JSIP

- There has been a focus on securing staffing for JSIP lately. There is now a political strategist, an owner's rep., half of an admin position, and a communications coordinator.
- An executive committee and sub committees for communication and design implementation have been created as well.
- Project planning is a focus right now.
- The timeline for the crisis center is about 16 months away.
- The crisis center location will be downtown.
- The plan is for the RFP to be out this week.

VI. CommCard Presentation

- J and C. Gotchall presented information about use of the CommCard by individuals who need accommodations during interactions in the community, including during interactions with law enforcement.
- Individuals with disabilities are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, so the goal is to educate about living with disabilities, why accommodations are necessary, and how to improve relationships between community partners and those living with disabilities. The hope for this tool is to prevent traumatizing experiences by individuals who may otherwise be mischaracterized based on their disabilities.
- The program is moving into the production phase and many processes for program improvement and feedback are occurring concurrent to this release.
- Their goal is to begin onboarding in other locations, have at least one franchise established, provide this service to the bulk of Benton County, and develop the ability to provide remote sessions in 2022.
- More information about this program and how to register can be found at www.arcbenton.org/the-commcard-program .

VII. Proposed topics for May:

- Community Feedback / Announcements
- Legislative updates
- JSIP

Adjourned at 6:34pm by Scottaline