

COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

Regular Meeting
Adams County Public Services Building
Othello, Washington

March 26, 2014
(Wednesday)

Call to Order @ 9:00 a.m.

Present:

Chairman Jeffrey W. Stevens
Vice-Chairman John N. Marshall
Commissioner Roger L. Hartwig

Integration of Mental Health and Chemical Dependency

Commissioner Marshall moved, Stevens seconded to *authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of support to Christine Barada, Director of Spokane County Community Services, Spokane stating their support to work with Spokane County to explore the possibility that mental health and chemical dependency Medicaid and state contractual funding and services may be combined under a regional concept.* **Motion carried.** A total of eight (8) counties have submitted letters of support for the concept. The Board discussed potential changes, if any, that may occur within the Adams County IHCS agency should this integration be successful.

Peer Support Specialist

Director Guse reported that the agency had just received the 'Combined Behavioral Health License' that will be effective April 1, 2014; and, therefore the agency was now authorized to provide Peer Support Services. The case manager position was included in the approved 2014 budget of funding allocated by Spokane RSN.

Discussion followed regarding the required qualifications and duties of the position. Board **consensus authorized proceeding with the advertisement and the filling of the position of Peer Support Specialist.**

Guse was asked to prepare a formal job description noting qualifications and classification for Board review on April 9 with formal adoption by resolution to follow.

Low Income Housing

Director Guse reported that new legislation impacting the Consolidated Housing Contract will be amended July 1, 2014 to state that the agency will be required to spend a certain percent of funding on private for profit rents. Currently IHCS spends these contract dollars on three (3) units leased by the Housing Authority and on salary for the part-time position. These Housing units would not qualify under the new regulations and would necessitate some changes to how local tax dollars are then used. The Department of Commerce is checking to see if the use of certain Hotels in the area would qualify as 'private for profit'. Further information and details will be forthcoming.

Adams County Health Department Building (Ritzville)

The Board inquired about the remodel progress at the Ritzville Department of Health building and were told that the back area and carpeting remain uncompleted. Commissioner Marshall noted that the lack of completion was unacceptable given the time lapse over winter and that an outside contractor would be hired to finish the project as soon as possible.

Community Health Opinion Survey 2014

The Adams County Health Alliance will be conducting a 'Community Health Opinion Survey' on April 14-15, 2014 in partnership with the Adams County Health Department, Adams County Community Counseling, Othello Community Hospital, East Adams Rural Hospital, and Columbia Basin Health Association. This survey will be conducted on-site by trained volunteers (as opposed to using a 'survey monkey' or distributing by mail) and will include a total of a minimum of 210 samples. A grant will cover portions of the total cost including an appreciative token for participants. Although required by the State Department of Health, the County will have access to the data compilations and will use it for future program planning purposes.

Adjournment @ 12:00

Submitted:
s/Linda Reimer, MMC
Clerk of the Board

Edited and Approved:

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
ADAMS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
s/Jeffrey W. Stevens, Chairman
s/John N. Marshall, Vice-Chairman
s/Roger L. Hartwig, Commissioner