

INFORMAL SESSION MINUTES

January 27, 2014

2:00 p.m.

Commissioners' Office Conference Room

PRESENT: Commissioners Allen Springer and Kathy George, Commissioner Mary P. Stern being excused for a meeting in Salem.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Christian Boenisch, John Phelan, Silas Halloran-Steiner, and Paul Kushner.

Guests: Nathalie Hardy, News-Register; and Dave Adams, KLYC.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Allen called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

Department Updates

Public Works: John Phelan provided updates on the Green Bridge project, implementation of the Blue Sign Policy, the temporary closure of a portion of Panther Creek Road, a bike/pedestrian lane on a bridge on Old Sheridan Road, and the Roadside Vegetation Management Subcommittee. He stated that Multnomah County will no longer be providing road striping services, so that contract will go out to bid in the next month or two. He said that he anticipates an increase in costs because the equipment is so specialized and expensive.

HHS: Silas Halloran-Steiner reported that the county was awarded five of the six Community Behavioral Health grants for which it applied. He said that without a grant writer on staff, it was a heroic effort to get all of those applications done. He explained that the grant agreements would be presented for Board approval later, but he would like to start recruiting for the new positions right away. He discussed an expected contract that would allow expansion of the Reflections transitional treatment program by increasing the number of beds for women and adding beds for men.

Silas expressed appreciation for Paul Kushner's 32 years of service and for his role as a mentor to him. Paul discussed the changes that he has seen in the system over the years, noting that people are much more open now to talking about their challenges and recognizing that they can seek help. He said that there have been significant improvements in effective, cost-effective, and humane treatment, both in medications and in support systems.

* Personnel - Allen presented personnel requests from various departments. See formal session agenda for details.

* Grant - Authorize HHS Public Health to apply for an Accreditation Readiness grant through Oregon Health Authority in the amount of \$10,000, effective March 1, 2014, through August 31, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary