



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

1300 NW Wall Street, Bend, Oregon
(541) 388-6571

FOR RECORDING STAMP ONLY

JOINT MEETING WITH CIRCUIT COURT

5:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2023

Allen Room and via Zoom

Deschutes County Attendance:			
x	Commissioner Anthony DeBone	x	Nick Lelack, County Administrator
x	Commissioner Patti Adair	x	Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator
x	Commissioner Phil Chang	x	Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
X	Dave Doyle, Legal Counsel	x	Kim Riley, Assistant Legal Counsel
X	Lee Randall, Facilities Director	x	Brenda Fritsvold, Executive Assistant
Circuit Court Attendance:			
X	Hon. Judge Bethany Flint	X	Hon. Judge Beth Bagley
X	Hon. Judge Wells Ashby	X	Hon. Judge Alison Emerson
X	Hon. Judge Alycia Sykora	X	Hon. Judge Raymond Crutchley
X	Hon. Judge Alycia Herriott	X	Hon. Judge Randy Miller
X	Hon. Judge Michelle McIver	X	Chief Justice Megan Flynn
X	State Court Administrator Nancy Cozine	X	Trial Court Administrator Angie Curtis

1. Introductions

Chair DeBone called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm., at which time everyone present introduced themselves.

2. Courthouse Expansion Project

Lee Randall, Facilities Director, presented an update on the courthouse expansion project which will add approximately 50,000 sf of space to the current facility. He

provided an overview of the floorplans and reviewed the project timeline, noting next steps are bidding and permitting with construction starting in March 2024.

Commissioner DeBone commented that although the cost estimate rose from \$25 million to \$40 million due to inflation, the State has contributed \$15 million towards this project.

Judge Ashby expressed appreciation for the County's efforts to address the need for more space and stated his confidence in the County's ability to deliver a quality project.

3. Mental Health and Public Safety

Judge Emerson spoke to the difficulty of finding placement for persons who need residential treatment for mental health issues since the Deschutes Recovery Center has only 17 beds, emphasizing the concern that the number of cases taken on community restoration may have to be capped due to the limited capacity to manage these cases. Adding that civil commitment filings grew more than 40% in the last year and the expectation is that these will continue to rise, she commended the work of the Central Oregon Guardian Assistance Program (COGAP) which offers pro bono and low-cost guardian services to assist persons experiencing a health-related crisis.

Commissioner DeBone commented on the possibility of partnering with jurisdictions from Eastern Oregon to establish an additional recovery center. Commissioner Adair supported lobbying efforts to lift the federal rule which limits the recovery center to 16 beds. Commissioner Chang said although Behavioral Health has some funding for building an additional center, more is needed.

State Court Administrator Nancy Cozine spoke to the significant number of people who cycle back into the criminal justice system due to lack of resources and facilities. Because some of them are prone to violence, many service providers are reluctant to work with this population.

Commissioner Chang asked if available space at Deer Ridge could be used to house or treat people with violent backgrounds or a propensity for violence. Commissioner Adair reported that Deer Ridge offers inmates the opportunity to learn welding, which is a work skill they can use post-incarceration. She commented on the possibility of using BHRN funding to teach inmates other work skills and shared that she toured Ideal Option's Bend facility this week.

Commissioner DeBone relayed that District Attorney Steve Gunnels has said Adult Treatment Court is the gold standard for helping people and asked what can be done to re-establish this program, which recently ceased operating.

Judge Crutchley spoke to the success of this program, which is both service-intensive and treatment-intensive. Often, participants are experiencing both substance use disorders and mental health issues, and they may also have socioeconomic needs relating to housing, childcare and employment which must be addressed. Due to their circumstances, many participants are likely to fail on supervision.

Court Administrator Angie Curtis shared that funding for the County's treatment court came from a State grant which ended on June 30, 2023.

Judge Ashby said while these services are critical, it might be appropriate to transfer this program's management and administration to a different entity. He said the treatment court had experienced declining enrollment and invited discussion about possibly modeling this program on the one which offers intervention services for veterans.

Judge Miller described this program which involves partnership with the VA and the Central Oregon Vet Center.

Commissioner Chang said it would be valuable to develop a white paper on the treatment court program relevant to discussions happening regarding possible amendments to Measure 110. He said if it is known what resources are needed to run a robust, successful treatment court, the County could possibly seek BHRN funding for those.

Commissioner Adair praised CASA of Central Oregon and its volunteers for the extraordinary work done by this organization which makes a difference in the lives of many foster children.

Judge Crutchley commented on the need for in-patient treatment services associated with an adult treatment court, given that it takes 45 days for thinking/behavior to change.

4. Status of Public Defense Services in Deschutes County

Judge Ashby reported that two persons are currently unrepresented by public defense counsel—one of them is in custody and the other is out of custody. He said the court has changed some of its business practices to reduce its case count and be more efficient.

5. 2023 Court Updates

- Judge Crutchley shared an update on the work of the DEI Committee.
- Court Administrator Angie Curtis provided an update on case clearance rates, noting that the Court is clearing more cases than are being filed with the exception of civil cases. Curtis said although civil cases are being cleared at a rate 16% higher than last year, 21% more are being filed.
- Judge Flint spoke to efforts to reduce the number of child removals from family homes, saying this will require significant resource investments across several programs to assure services for those who are abusing substances and pregnant or parenting.

Adjournment: Chair DeBone adjourned the meeting at 6:24 pm.



Brenda Fritsvold, BOCC Executive Assistant