

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
February 18, 2025, 9 AM**

Present: Nancy Wyse, Chair; Pat Malone, Commissioner; Gabe Shepherd, Commissioner; Vance Croney, County Counsel; Rachel McEneny, County Administrator; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

Elected Officials: Judge Joan Demarest; Judge Matthew Donohue, Benton County Circuit Court; Ryan Joslin, District Attorney; Jef Van Arsdall, Sheriff

Staff: Dawn Dale, Sheriff's Office; Lindsey Goodman, Rachel Bulder, Maura Kwiatkowski, Board Staff; April Holland, Staci Yutzie, Health Services; Erika Milo, Board Recorder; Carly Fredericks, Anne Thwaits, Communications; Greg Munn, Financial Services

Guests: John Harris, Horsepower Productions; Christopher Jacobs, Corvallis-Benton Economic Development Office; Janet Seiko Nishihara, Oregon State University; Michael Skipper, CFM Advocates

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Wyse called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and introductions were made.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

4. Proclamation

4.1 Proclamation No. P2025-002, Proclaiming February 19 the Day of Remembrance of Japanese Americans Incarcerated During World War II –
Dr. Janet Seiko Nishihara, Educational Opportunities Program Director, Oregon State University

Nishihara read the Proclamation aloud.

MOTION: Malone moved to proclaim February 19, 2025 as the Benton County Day of Remembrance of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II, Proclamation No. P2025-002. Shepherd seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

5. Comments from the Public

No comments were offered.

6. Work Session

6.1 Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments Update – Ryan Vogt,
Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments

Vogt presented a report on recent Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments (OCWCOG; COG) activities. COG's next report will include more information regarding the transition with the Community Services Consortium (CSC). Vogt reported the Philomath downtown project is substantially complete; the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning organization played a significant role in assisting Philomath with funding for the project.

The Cascades West Economic Development District (CWEDD) five-year comprehensive economic development strategy planning effort is underway for Linn, Benton, Lincoln, and Lane Counties. The plan is the gateway for accessing funds through the economic development administration. Vogt noted that over the last two sessions of building the plan, the team has gotten incrementally better at addressing community needs in a way that is an actionable plan and something that has helped bring significant funding into the community to target the important economic development structures. The kickoff session held several months ago was well attended. The plan will take several months to complete, and there will be multiple opportunities for Commissioners' voices to be heard.

COG is currently collecting annual report data from each member agency, and the report will be available for the next update to the Board. CSC is also preparing its report. A new, shared communications staff person is supporting COG and CSC.

Vogt updated the Board on the COG/CSC transition. Vogt acknowledged the CSC Board members having the foresight to consider a single administrative structure over both organizations and the opportunities that exist for the two organizations to work better together to serve the members of the community, particularly those most vulnerable and lower income. Seniors are the population that tends to cross over both organizations. Vogt recognized the individuals sacrificing to ensure lives are better for people in the community. This time of year, the weather is a significant issue, and as a result, the need and demand for utility assistance skyrockets. Over the last few months, over 512 individuals (approximately 350 households) in the Benton County area received slightly over \$125,000 worth of utility support to ensure power stayed on. Linn Benton Food Share continues to assist with record numbers of food boxes and food delivery. The Linn Benton Food Share program partnered with Stahlbush Island Farms, which is a local, family-owned farm, and the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church to develop

locally grown and nutritious soups. The food share program began to develop specialty group soups that were carbohydrate dense and very nutritious. The soups were canned, and over 22,000 cans were donated to the Linn Benton Food Share.

Vogt reviewed some of the challenges facing the two organizations, who was recently in Washington, DC for the National Association of Regional Councils. Panels presented information that was very close to what is currently happening in the Federal government. There continues to be some uncertainty at that level and locally. For COG, about 80 percent of funding is Federal direct or indirect; most is Medicaid for seniors and people with disabilities. Vogt has received assurances that funding is stable; the State could handle operations for a period of time if Federal funding is stopped. The Older Americans Act reauthorization House Bill did not pass. For the CSC, 40 percent is Federal direct or indirect funds. There is still a great deal of concern regarding Head Start programs and related mixed messages, and workforce programs have not been re-authorized. So, there is some instability even though there are no immediate funding shutdowns. COG is planning to reduce some programs if the Federal government does not re-authorize that support.

Malone asked Vogt to discuss some of the specifics regarding the current structure of the two organizations and current structure and where the transition is headed.

Vogt stated over the last several years, he and former CSC Director Pegge McGuire had been identifying administrative inefficiencies, including many internal processes. Both organizations purchased the same financial, payroll, and human resources solutions. The two Information Technology (IT) teams have been combined into one, as have Human Resources and Communications. Vogt's vision is for a single leader to provide a unified vision for the two organizations, maintaining focus on serving the most need in the community. COG and CSC are now co-located in the Corvallis building. An individual eligible for multiple programs will not have to visit the office multiple times. CSC and COG do not plan to combine Financial Services currently, because both organizations are in different financial positions and have different levels of funding streams, and neither organization can take on others. Vogt anticipates implementing intentional work around staff cross-training for education and a more holistic understanding.

Vogt confirmed the CSC agency director is Kayla Hatley and COG should have an agency head soon. Getting a COG director in place will allow the executive leadership group to solidify the vision of each role and how they work together. Much more efficiency is expected over the next year.

Malone asked for an updated plan for the mobility hubs that will improve Corvallis-Albany transit.

Vogt responded there had been cost modifications, and a petition for additional funding through the State Transportation Improvements Fund to help subsidize. The project is moving forward, and Vogt will provide more information in the future. Vogt anticipates that Safe Streets for All Grant that Tangent took on for the surrounding area is paused due to current Federal Government situation, and a few climate-friendly projects are on hold.

Malone asked if the Philomath Boulevard project that will improve traffic movement and bike and pedestrian safety crossings has any funding.

Vogt stated there was no funding awarded for the project, and there are questions regarding what the intersection with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) would look like over time. A Federal Department of Transportation memorandum regarding all future funding opportunities includes conditions Vogt does not believe the State of Oregon would be willing to agree to. For example, the memorandum includes language that that all sub-recipients agree to fully cooperate with Federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and will refuse to endorse vaccine and/or mask mandates. These are currently in conflict with Oregon law and may be a future ODOT conversation.

McEneny asked Vogt about what Federal funding COG and CSC rely on, and which organization is affected by certain programs.

Vogt responded that workforce programs are CSC. This is a large body of work that is done for six counties over two workforce investment boards; all this work could potentially be affected. Head Start Lincoln only is CSC. Older Americans Act funds are with COG. Other funding streams may be involved, but most have been re-authorized; there is a great deal of funding uncertainty.

McEneny asked about specific services provided for older Americans, especially in Benton County.

Vogt responded that Medicaid funds a great deal of senior services, from case management to meals on wheels.

Shepherd asked if there was a written plan around the COG/CSC partnership, and if there is a completion date.

Vogt responded work on the plan is in progress, but there are a few structural problems creating some challenges.

Shepherd asked if CSC and COG are two distinct entities.

Vogt confirmed, and both organizations require separate boards. Additionally, the CSC has a requirement for a Community Action Advisory Council.

Shepherd reported receiving an inquiry from a Corvallis City councilor about the timeline and long-term vision and asked Vogt how long it may be before Vogt is comfortable overseeing both organizations and operations are steady.

Vogt said Shepherd's question was difficult to answer. Outside of the Federal situation, there are financial conversations to be had to ensure both agencies are financially stable and providing the right services for the community. If conditions were more stable, Vogt would

expect to have a strategic plan within six to eight months. Given the current uncertainty, Vogt estimated a strategic plan would be available 18 months from now.

6.2 Quarterly Economic Development Update – Christopher Jacobs, Economic Development Manager

Jacobs reported on the progress toward goals in the in the Corvallis-Benton County Economic Development Strategic Plan. Regarding Goal 1b, the CPACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy) program the first reading of the County Ordinance has been completed, and the second reading is scheduled for March. Also, the first multiunit property tax exemption (MUPTE) application will be heard at this evening's City Council meeting for the Obie Companies' project in downtown Corvallis. Regarding Goal 1c and the Airport Industrial Park (AIP), a task order is being finalized for the survey of the AIP and the airport itself. This would be part of an annexation application that would bring in about 1,000 acres of land from the Urban Growth Boundary into the Corvallis city limits. Doing so will allow the city to update some of its land development code for industrial zones, bringing those up to best practices so the region is more competitive for that type of development.

Strategy 2 will develop a modern business retention and expansion program to support traded and growth sector businesses, data provided by the Secretary of State using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which is a coding system classifying businesses for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and publishing statistical data related to the U.S. business economy. Over half the industry classification codes in Benton County include just one business; there is a great diversity of businesses across the County. The top 20 codes represent about half of all businesses. The County's commercial vacancy rate is at four percent, while the industrial vacancy rate stands at three percent.

Jacobs referenced Page nine of the report, showing the major employers of the region, including Oregon State University, Samaritan Health Services, and Hewlett-Packard (HP). The Corvallis School District, Benton County, Corvallis Clinic, City of Corvallis, and Jacobs Engineering are also included. Page 10 of the report shows US Bureau of Labor and Statistics labor force data, which indicates the largest employment sectors for the region are government; education and health services; trade, transportation, and utilities; professional and business services; and leisure and hospitality. Those five sectors represent 83.4 percent of the total workforce.

Jacobs reported on Quarter 2 data regarding the business retention and expansion program. The Economic Development Office (EDO) had 49 touch points with businesses across county and almost reached the target set at the beginning of the year, which was 100. **Regarding Goal 2b, to support businesses navigating the development review process and seek to provide ad seek to provide grant and loan opportunities**, Table six on Page 11 of the report shows the touchpoints by service over the last two quarters.

Regarding Goal 2c to work closely with the Oregon State University Tech Hub to incubate innovative technologies and foster research commercialization: on January 14, the Oregon State University (OSU) Microfluidic Tech Hub received \$45 million from the Federal government. That funding follows the August 27, 2024 award of \$53 million to HP through the Federal CHIPS

Act. On January 26, 2024, HP received \$9.5 million under the State CHIPS Act. A significant amount of funding has flowed through the State and the Federal governments to support OSU and the semiconductor industry.

Goal 2d, to Collaborate with ATAMI, the OSU Advantage Accelerator, the Foundry, Oregon RAIN, Willamette Valley Capital and the Willamette Innovators Network to support the entrepreneurship ecosystem. EDO participated in the Willamette Innovators network event; an opportunity to network with companies and other important partners in the entrepreneurship ecosystem; On January 9, EDO hosted Economic Vitality Day through Leadership Corvallis. Thirty professionals from a variety of organizations in the region participated, and the day included a tour and learning about the history of Hewlett Packard, visiting Western Pulp in the AIP, and then a roundtable with representatives from Downtown Corvallis. EDO's Main Street Program made some strides in the last quarter; the City Council endorsed the Downtown Corvallis organization as the downtown management organization on December 16, and Downtown Corvallis applied to become an affiliated Main Street community on January 15. A Main Street revitalization grant application is currently open for funding up to \$400,000, and applications are due in March.

EDO continues to distribute funding following the obligation of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant funding to the Food Hub grant recipients and to help two of the projects navigate issues with identifying a site in South Corvallis.

Jacobs referred the Board to Page 17 of the report, which included a forecast of what EDO staff believe the next six months will look like. There is also a list of future items for consideration, that have not yet been prioritized. The future items are where EDO staff would appreciate Board input regarding anything that stands out as very important.

Page 17 also included the EDO Priority List based on the feedback from the Economic Development Coalition, Benton County Board of Commissioners, and Corvallis City Council.

January 2025	Mobile Food Unit Ordinance Amendments, Annexation Survey Contract Execution
February 2025	Obie Companies MUPTE Application, Commercial Use of Public Right of Way Ordinance Amendments, Benton County CPACE Adoption, Electric Vehicles Gaps Analysis Report
March 2025	AIP Lease Standards Update, Main Street Revitalization Grant Submittal
April 2025	Corvallis Industrial Code Amendments, Philomath Economic Development Contacts
May 2025	AIP Annexation Application Submittal, South Corvallis Urban Renewal Agency Revolving Loan Fund Awards.
June 2025	AIP Enterprise Fund, South Corvallis Urban Renewal Agency Commercial Incentives Planning, Downtown Tax Increment Financing and Financial Consultant Request for Proposals.

Shepherd asked about the scheduled date for the AIP annexation.

Jacobs said the survey will be complete by the end of April 2025, and the application submitted by the end of May 2025, by the end of the fiscal year at the latest.

Shepherd referred to Page nine of the report, which lists employees, and asked whether the numbers represented people or full-time employees (FTEs). Jacobs confirmed the numbers represented people.

Shepherd referenced report Page 17 and the electric vehicle (EV) gaps analysis report: and asked what the report will accomplish.

Jacobs noted the region is behind on fast chargers compared to other communities of similar size. A trip to Newport often runs out of charge, and more people would use the Scenic Byway if beyond Level 1 chargers were available.

Shepherd asked whether the report could lead to EV chargers in downtown Corvallis.

Jacobs suggested it was a possibility. The previous approach had been to install as many Level 1 EV chargers in as many places as possible, whether on public land, private land, or through public-private partnerships.

Shepherd indicated many people, residents and visitors in Corvallis, have complained about a lack of chargers, and asked what needed to happen next for a feasibility study for a downtown urban renewal district.

Jacobs responded a determination needs to be made about whether there is budget for a feasibility study. The City Council must determine how to approach the tax increment financing plan; whether to put a vote out under the current charter or amend the charter along with other amendments previously discussed. Defining the scope of potential charter amendments and how to proceed (with or without a vote alongside those potential charter amendments) will lay the path forward for the downtown tax financing plan and feasibility study.

Malone cited the significant funding to HP, and asked if the funding will create jobs, or if it is primarily for infrastructure. And, if the funds had been disbursed yet.

Jacobs indicated the \$53,000,000 award would be used to support the manufacturing of silicon devices used in medical research. It was reported that it could create 150 temporary jobs and more than 100 manufacturing positions. Regarding the Micro Fluidic Technology Hub, the number of jobs is not yet known. Companies would partner with OSU and Atami and work on the HP campus to commercialize the market research in emerging technology. Depending on the applications developed with the new research and the funding used in that development, it could create many jobs for the region and encourage further investment over the next decade. Exactly how much further investment in jobs will be is unknown at this point.

Malone expressed optimism regarding progress at the AIP. As a member of the Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation, Malone learned about a proposal for improving the airport

several years ago, including repaving the runway and landing lights. These are regional funds from ODOT on non-highway transportation projects. Malone would like to see better coordination between Corvallis and Benton County on potential local projects and expressed hope Jacobs would facilitate conversations. An electric bike subsidy for low-income individuals, funded by Pacific Power, was done by former EDO Director Kate Porsche. Malone encouraged Jacobs to consider pursuing second round funding through the program.

Jacobs stated there was not a second round of funding.

Wyse recessed the meeting at 10:13 AM and reconvened at 10:18 AM.

6.3 Facilities Update: New Courthouse/District Attorney's Office and Emergency Operations Center – Gary Stockhoff, Public Works

Stockhoff reported a fence has been placed around the Swick House, and the remainder of the erosion control fence will be installed soon. Regarding the permit process, the County is awaiting a donation document from ODOT so the County can donate property for Highway 20, and then the submittal will move to the City of Corvallis. The completion schedules for the new Courthouse and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) have been pushed out to 2027, although work should be substantially complete in Fall 2026. The additional time going into 2027 is to commission the building and work with the courts on setup and move-in. County staff continues to work with Counsel and the Oregon Judicial Department to complete the Phase 1 agreement for the new Courthouse and District Attorney's Offices.

Malone noted the new Courthouse is the larger project, the EOC is part of it, but the timeline for completion is approximately the same for both facilities.

Stockhoff confirmed this was the case. There are site construction improvements that will take place toward the end of the Courthouse project, and the site will not be ready for EOC use until the improvements are completed.

6.4 Facilities Update: Crisis Center – April Holland, Staci Yutzie, Health Services

Yutzie stated the current report will focus on tasks and timelines currently in process, but items are happening rapidly. Page five of the report in the meeting packet lists completed and in-progress tasks.

Staff has also established a list of other memoranda of agreement and intergovernmental agreements for other community partners; these needed to be drafted and reviewed. Staff is working on the information technology equipment order, which needs to be submitted by the end of February.

Malone stated that with the building nearly complete by the end of April 2025, May 2025 would be a good time for tours, grand openings, and sharing with partners (the Governor, Association of Oregon Counties Executive Director, etcetera), who may have ideas for addressing staffing challenges.

Holland agreed the first half of May 2025 would be a good time for ceremonial activities. Even if a few small project elements need completing, the County can still celebrate the achievement. A phased operating approach is used, given statewide workforce challenges; hiring will continue to be prioritized to ensure program needs are met. Once the building is furnished and information technology equipment is installed, the work currently done in crisis will still be done, but now at the new location. Nothing will be lost in terms of the current service level. More information will be included in the communication plan, so everyone is aware of what is happening when. The core services will always be available, and Holland looks forward to bringing on the respite and stabilization pieces.

Malone expressed hope that the unique quality of the facility will aid in recruiting.

Holland agreed and noted the level of care will be atypical in the State, particularly for a government facility. It will have a real and positive impact in the community.

7. Consent Calendar

7.1 Application for Change of Ownership for a Retail On-premises Sales and Consumption for John Boys Alsea Mercantile Incorporated

7.2 Letter of Support for Funding for the Maintenance of Greenhouses and Related Structures at the US Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Research Units in Corvallis, Oregon

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the Consent Calendar of February 18, 2025. Shepherd seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

8. New Business

8.1 Quality Assurance Coordinator for Developmental Diversity Program – Jasper Smith, Developmental Diversity

Smith reported that in the last biennium, the number of people served by the Developmental Diversity Program (DDP) unexpectedly increased by 24 percent. Several years ago, the program converted an FTE from a quality assurance coordinator to a service coordinator to respond to that growth and work directly with individuals and families to identify access, plan and monitor, and ensure all the services support their need. The idea was that the FTE conversion would be the best use of resources in an unprecedented situation.

The Quality Assurance Coordinator (QAC) role includes components that could be a conflict of interest for providers, such as abuse investigations, setting rates for providers, licensing providers, eligibility determinations, and needs assessments that set rates DDP would like to add this position into the new budget in July; but one of the existing QACs is going on parental leave in May, and the position is needed sooner. Smith indicated there is funding for the

position. DDP is funded by long-term Medicare funding or Medicaid funding, which is a State and Federal funding partnership. The State and local government portion has been approximately 35 percent, and the Federal portion is approximately 65 percent. If DDP does additional work, local County funds can be used to match the Federal Medicaid funds to extend those positions.

Smith pointed out that the current service demand situation is not necessarily unique to Benton County. The entire State has seen unprecedented growth in service needs for individuals with developmental disabilities. DDP's continuing service level budget is expected to increase; and if DDP continues to work at its current level, the program has more ability to draw down Federal funds with the County funds. Smith noted the position conversion is an approximate \$41,000 difference, which is an approximate net \$14,000 difference when the Federal portion is considered.

Shepherd asked what is driving the change in need.

Smith responded that the reason is unknown; but during the pandemic, many people were not accessing services, and many moved closer to families. Smith also cited the expanded definition of autism, as well as individual's inability to receive the types of support in other systems.

MOTION: Shepherd moved to approve the request to hire a Developmental Diversity Services Quality Assurance Coordinator as a permanent position. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

8.2 Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan Annual Progress Report – Hannah Shafer, Emergency Management, Sheriff's Office

Shafer reported that Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) was last updated in late 2023 by the Community Development Department; and in late 2024, the plan was transferred to Emergency Management (EM) to manage going forward due to EM's involvement with the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (NHMP) and wildfire projects.

In November 2024, Shafer held a joint CWPP and NHMP update. Updates are completed each year for both plans, and it made sense to hold them at the same time, since there is a great deal of overlap in both the advisory committees for the plans, the report will include updates that resulted from the November 2024 meeting.

The CWPP's purpose is to inform wildfire risk for communities, identify projects and actions and to secure funding. One project was to access a community wildfire risk reduction grant from the State. The grant was split over two project areas: 1) 50 percent toward Shafer's position, 2) 50 percent for the reduction fund. Shafer's position organized a group named Fire Adapted Benton County, the purpose of which is to empower, prepare, and educate local communities for wildfire resilience. Many other counties are taking a similar approach – fire professionals work to increase participants in defensible space and wildfire resiliency activities. Shafer noted that May is Wildfire Awareness Month.

In the City of Corvallis, one of the projects was development in the Skyline area to widen access roads to improve access, road connectivity, and extension of municipal water systems. Fair Oaks is being upgraded, and there is a connection being made from Fair Oaks to Skyline west. Regarding Benton County, the County is split into five regions. In Strategic Planning Area Region 1 the Ponderosa Ridge to Oak Creek connectivity was completed in 2024, which is the Sheep Farm access route through the OSU property. The Oregon Department of Forestry has a project to improve structural defensible space and to widen access roads. ODF's 2024 update indicated current work to widen roads in the Soap Creek area. Hoskins Kings Valley Rural Fire Protection District completed expansion of their fire hall in 2024.

The NHMP was formally updated in April 2024. Shafer reported on several of the agency updates provided in the November 2024 update meeting. **City of Corvallis:** One project identified was to utilize the regional updated landslide risk maps to update the comprehensive plan and development code. In 2024, the maps were formally updated to incorporate Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries information. The next project was to complete a detailed inventory of locations where critical facilities and infrastructure are subject to landslides, and those potential landslide areas have been formally mapped. **Benton County Community Development:** Watershed revisions have been finalized with the US Army Corps of Engineers, and the FEMA Risk Map Group is preparing to move the Upper Willamette Flood Insurance Rate Map revision project to the next phase, which includes a formal flood risk review. An in-person meeting is planned for February 28 with FEMA to view and discuss draft maps before the information is officially released to the public for review and comment. That meeting will also create an opportunity for communities to use the new map information presented to think about any new risk assessments that would be beneficial and begin developing those. **Benton County Public Works:** One project identified was the access vulnerability of routes feeding into South Fork Road to improve evacuation capacity on that road. Grant funding was received in 2024 for that project, and it is expected to occur in 2026. Another project was to construct a new bridge on Hayden Road, which started in 2024 and is currently in progress. Official construction is expected to begin in 2026. Another project for Benton County Public Works was to expand and complete seismic vulnerability analyses of critical public facilities with significant seismic vulnerabilities. This project is ongoing. As buildings and bridges are replaced, they are brought up to seismic standards. Improving the County maintained road network, to provide continuous access during flood events where feasible, is another ongoing Public Works project. Culverts are being replaced as crews perform pavement maintenance on projects. The last project is the planned installation of a water storage tank in Alsea to support the Alsea Rural Fire Protection District. The project is ongoing,

Malone referenced the Cardwell Hill Road evacuation route. The current road in one spot is falling into the Marys River. Malone asked what the schedule is for repairing that portion of the road.

Stockhoff indicated the original plan was to do the work in Fall 2024, but weather became an issue. The current plan is Spring to early Summer 2025 to complete the repair on the Cardwell Hill corner. Stockhoff noted that with the help of the Sheriff and OSU, another route through the McDonald Forest, and there is another route through Grant, as well as the Sheep Farm evacuation route.

MOTION: Shepherd moved to approve the Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and Community Wildfire Risk Reduction updates. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

8.3 Community Initiated Project Requests for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 – Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator; Michael Skipper, CFM Advocates

Crager presented the request for approval to apply for three grants through the Community Initiated Project (CIP)/Congressional delegated spending process. The first step is a preliminary application that is considered during the budget process. Then, if successful, the work with a specific Federal agency to apply for the specific funds would occur. The offices of Senators Merkley and Wyden have indicated the portals open and will close February 23, 2025. Skipper was onsite in December to work with department directors and provide feedback relative to County priorities. Pages 81 and 82 of the meeting packet show the three priority projects:

Jackson-Frazier Boardwalk: \$1,200,000 sought to match the existing \$1,200,000 from private donations and State grants. Additional State funding is also being sought. The project is ready to begin.

Regional Public Safety Radio Equipment: The County received a CIP award supported by Congresswoman Hoyle for antenna infrastructure. That work is progressing well. The previous award was half of the requested \$2,000,000; the \$2,500,000 funding request would support the replacement of the handheld radios that are necessary in optimizing communication. Benton County is requesting \$2,500,000 to purchase radios necessary to improve public safety and emergency response, particularly for volunteers in rural fire service districts.

Monroe Health Center Expansion: In Federal Fiscal Year 2024, the County received \$1,000,000 from the US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural community Facilities Assistance Program to replace the existing Monroe Health Center. The plan was to deconstruct the existing facility and replace it with a prefabricated facility at the existing grade school site. After the funding award, the County was provided the opportunity to place the Health Center on the high school campus. USDA has affirmed the grant is still eligible since the outcome will be the same, except in a new location that affords better accessibility to services and expanded services. Unfortunately, with the change of scope and the rising cost of construction, the project cost has increased by \$1,250,000. The County is requesting \$1,250,000 to provide the last needed resources to complete the project.

Skipper noted the current significant uncertainty regarding Federal funding that is inherent with a change in administration. While the current situation is particularly disruptive, CFM is committed to helping the County secure Federal funding.

Crager indicated that for all projects, staff is assuming a 20 to 25 percent match. For the regional public safety radio equipment, the previous funding came via a COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) grant, which does not require a match. For the two other projects, the match amount has been secured.

Malone expressed appreciation for the effort invested in narrowing the County's list to three projects and suggested it is advantageous to have projects in different areas: of public safety, health, and the environment.

Crager expressed confidence that all three projects fit the resources available. The intent is to be thoughtful about Board goals and the 2040 Plan.

Wyse asked for clarification regarding the match for the Monroe Health Center, that the \$1,000,000 previously received does not qualify for the match.

Crager confirmed that Federal funding cannot be used as a match, but the County has approximately \$750,000 left over from another grant that will serve as the match.

MOTION: Malone moved to approve the submission of three Congressionally Directed Spending requests for the Jackson-Frazier Boardwalk, Regional Public Safety Radio equipment, and the Monroe Health Center expansion. Shepherd seconded the motion, which carried 3-0.

Wyse recessed the meeting at 11:12 AM and reconvened at 11:45 AM.

Wyse recessed the meeting at 11:45 AM and reconvened at 11:53 AM.

8.4 Adult Drug Treatment Court Program Bureau of Justice Administration Grant Application – Judge Matthew Donohue, Judge Joan Demarest, Benton County Circuit Court; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

Crager stated the Federal grant application to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) is the same grant the County applied for in 2024 but did not receive. The request is for \$950,000 for a planning and implementation grant. However, recently, the grant process was pulled but Skipper recommended continuing to move forward with the application with the hope it will be reinstated soon. If there are any substantive changes if/when the process resumes, the application approval request would be brought back before the Board. The grant does require a 25 percent match, but the State is recruiting for a program coordinator that will make up most of that match.

Crager acknowledged the Commissioners had previous questions regarding the role the County would have in the ADTC. The County would be performing the grant management component; however, the cost of that work would be paid from the grant itself through allowable indirect cost.

Demarest indicated assumption of responsibility for ADTC from Donahue as Donohue will shift focus to the Family Treatment Court (FTC). ADTC has been on hiatus for two years, and the Court is hopeful the BJA grant will become available again and that the County applications will be successful. If the grant is not available or if the County's application is not successful, the Court is committed to moving forward with what we can be done without the grant. There are 11 drug treatment or treatment courts in the State of Oregon that operate without extra grant funding, so if that becomes the case for Benton, the Court will likely ask the County to help with

some components that normally would be grant funded, such as housing. A few housing units can make a drug treatment court successful versus not successful.

Donohue indicated there will be other opportunities coming up if the BJA grant is not successful. There is a State Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) implementation grant later this year that may be an opportunity for ADTC support. If successful with the implementation grant, in two years, in the 2027-29 biennium, the CJC sustainability grant could be an option.

Shepherd asked two questions: "Why, in your opinion, did this fail last year? And why are we in a better position to receive this grant this time around?"

Donohue advised that the program shut down primarily due to a lack of available treatment resources. ADTCs and FTCs are defined largely by their fidelity with best practices and the maintenance of best practices. With high risk, high need individuals, there is a high risk of recidivism and high needs for treatment and support. The County had taken on the treatment provider services; however, there was not the ability to provide treatment resources consistent with best practices.

Since then, the Policy Committee has looked at additional treatment options. A treatment provider that provides services in Lane County has been identified and is familiar with treatment courts, currently provides treatment, and understands the best practices and necessary wrap services and is excited about participating in the Benton program.

Malone recalled that previously, the per participant cost was relatively high and asked how that has changed in the last year.

Donohue indicated there had been several changes since then. Previously, there was a significant decrease resulting from pandemic delays in processing cases through the criminal justice system. Also, there were not many individuals with straight substance use disorder charges, which was a result of Measure 110 impacts. The pandemic delay has been worked out of the system. In addition, the HB 4002 changes to Measure 110 regarding criminal penalties is no longer a limiting factor in the program. Internally, there has been a focus on how to incentivize people coming into the program because when the program stopped in 2023, most of the individuals coming in were coming in on downward dispositional departures from prison. Those individuals are still out there coming in. The goal now is to incentivize a larger pool of individuals with substance use disorders in the criminal justice system, and there are several ways to do that. Another factor is having a large, agreed upon ahead of time jail or prison sentence, which disincentivizes people from participating. Conversations are ongoing with the District Attorney and defense attorneys to address that issue.

Wyse invited Van Arsdall to share any thoughts on the ADTC. Van Arsdall expressed support for the ADTC, and Wyse noted District Attorney Joslin has also expressed support of the ADTC.

MOTION: Shepherd moved to, in coordination with the Oregon Judicial Department, to approve the submission of a \$950,000 grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration to support the planning and continuation of the Adult Drug

Treatment Court Program in Benton County. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

8.5 Family Treatment Court Grant Program Preliminary Application Approval –
Judge Matthew Donohue; Judge Joan Demarest; Rick Crager, Assistant County Administrator

Crager stated the request is for a state grant via a new program. The State is allowing preliminary applications, but the Legislature still needs to conduct its budgetary process and make funding awards. Preliminary applications are due March 30, 2025.

Donohue indicated the Family Treatment Court (FTC) is more focused on identifying individuals who are in the juvenile dependency system; individuals who have had Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) contact (child/children have been removed from the home by DHS based on harm or risk of harm). Donohue reported having assumed the role of juvenile judge for dependencies and delinquencies following Judge William's retirement.

The FTCs are something of an adjunct of the dependency system. The goal is to 1) identify individuals in the juvenile dependency system who have substance use disorders, and the substance use disorder led to circumstances that required removal of their children from the home; 2) bring the individual into the treatment court model to provide treatment and services to hopefully facilitate return of the child/children; and 3) to give the parent the treatment, services, and support to prevent/reduce the possibility of the children returning to the dependency system in the future.

A dependency court does not have the level of oversight that a drug treatment court has. There is a phased system in the FTC that is similar to a treatment program that the ADTC. There is generally no criminal penalty or criminal element. FTC is primarily for individuals in the DHS dependency system. These are much more voluntary courts; the primary motivator for participation in the FTC is to facilitate the return of their children more quickly and to receive the resources necessary to prevent their children from returning to the dependency system.

FTC partners include the Oregon Department of Justice, which is the legal representative for DHS; a consortium of juvenile attorneys similar to the Benton County Legal Defense Consortium on the ADTC side. This group of six or seven attorneys handle dependency and delinquency matters in Linn, Benton and Lincoln Counties. Other partners include the treatment providers. Benton County staff have been working with treatment providers who work with the in Linn County FTC to identify the feasibility of these providers offering services in Benton County. The Benton FTC program is operating; and at this point, a maximum capacity of eight program participants is anticipated. The process of identifying participants is underway and currently working on getting the Streamlined Court Management System licensing in place for data management. Because there currently is a State Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) sustainability grant available, and the FTC would be eligible to apply for that grant. Activities are moving quickly because the deadline for the narrative application is March 20. Much of the platform is already built. The memorandum

of understanding has been developed and is being finalized. The specialty court operating plan has already been submitted to the organizational department and will be transferred to CJC. Work is now beginning on the narrative questions for submittal by March 20. Because it is a CJC grant, a letter of support is also needed from the local public safety coordinating council (LPSCC) which is the WCJC.

Also, while this would be a County-administered grant, the actual application must go through the LPSCC, which is the WCJC. At this point, no other county services are anticipated to be required. The Legislature did allocate to DHS some startup FTC grant funding that was available for each county. Once the FTC was operating, DHS could release that treatment court grant money to the FTC. Once the Benton FTC starts receiving participants the County would be eligible for the disbursement of those funds, so there may be some additional grant money coming quickly from DHS. Award of the CJC grant would get the FTC program off to a positive start; and once that funding is spent, the FTC would hopefully move right into the CJC sustainability funding.

Crager indicated the County's grant manager would look very closely at the budget. There is no anticipated need for other County services, so it is the same situation as ADTC. There will not be a commitment until the final application submittal by July 1, 2025. County staff will work closely with the State in the preparation of the submittal.

Malone asked whether the program was already underway.

Donohue stated it had recently begun. The start was accelerated to reach an OCJC grant level of eligibility. We have our staff team, participant handbook, policy handbook, identified two individuals with Release of Information, so we can start staffing discussion.

Malone asked about alternative plans if the grant application was not successful.

Donohue responded the CJC grant is different from a federal grant; it is only for treatment courts in Oregon and designed to provide those courts with operational funding. Therefore, the potential for Benton to receive funding is very high; a higher probability than receiving a Bureau of Justice grant for an ADTC. The DHS grant is one-time startup funding. If Benton was not awarded that grant, there are more endemic resources in the community for the participant pool of families; more services may be more supported with Medicaid reimbursement. It could be a functional program; perhaps not a full one, but it could operate at a lower level in terms of the number of participants and level of treatment provided.

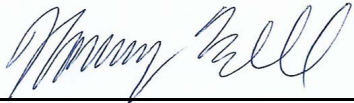
MOTION: Malone moved to, in coordination with the Oregon Judicial Department, approve a preliminary application to the Criminal Justice Commission to support the creation of a Family Treatment Court Program in Benton County. The final application will come before the Board prior to the July 1, 2025 deadline for review and approval. Shepherd seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

9. Other

No other business was discussed.

10. Adjournment

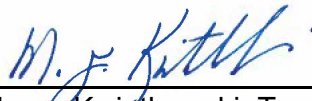
Chair Wyse adjourned the meeting at 12:38 PM.



Nancy Wyse, Chair



Erika Milo, Recorder



Maura Kwiatkowski, Transcriptionist

* NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.