

**Board of Commissioners**

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AGENDA*(Chair May Alter the Agenda)***BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS****SPECIAL MEETING****Monday, November 14, 2022, 1 PM**

How to Participate in the Board of Commissioners Meeting			
In-Person	Zoom Video	Zoom Phone Audio	Facebook LiveStream
Kalapuya Building 4500 Research Way Corvallis, OR	Click for Zoom link	Dial 1 (719) 359-4580	Click for Facebook LiveStream link
	Zoom Meeting ID: 859 2674 1927		
	Zoom Passcode: 885683		

1. Opening

- 1.1 Call to Order
- 1.2 Introductions
- 1.3 Announcements

2. Review and Approve Agenda**3. Comments from the Public**

Time restrictions may be imposed on public comment, dependent on the business before the Board of Commissioners. Individual comment may be limited to three minutes.

4.1 Justice System Improvement Program (JSIP) Homeless Services Facility
Recommendation – Nick Kurth, Justice System Improvement Program Manager

5. Other

ORS 192.640(1)" . . . notice shall include a list of the principal subjects anticipated to be considered at the meeting, but this requirement shall not limit the ability of a governing body to consider additional subjects."

The Board of Commissioners may call an executive session when necessary pursuant to ORS 192.660. The Board is not required to provide advance notice of an executive session. However, every effort will be made to give notice of an executive session. If an executive session is the only item on the agenda for the Board meeting, notice shall be given as for all public meetings (ORS 192.640(2)) and the notice shall state the specific reason for the executive session as required by ORS 192.660.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to the Board of Commissioners Office, (541) 766-6800.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Monday, November 14, 2022, 1 PM

Present: Nancy Wyse, **Chair**; Pat Malone, **Vice Chair**; Xanthippe Augerot, **Commissioner**; Vance Croney, **County Counsel**; Joe Kerby, **County Administrator**

Staff: Nick Kurth, Justice System Improvement Program Manager; Matt Wetherell, Juvenile Department; Gary Stockhoff, Public Works; Cory Grogan, Public Information Officer; Amanda Makepeace, Meeting Recorder

Guests: Allison Hobgood, Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center; Brenda Downum; Downum Consulting, Chris Edmonds; Coastline Public Relations; Alex Powers, Media; John Harris, Horsepower Productions; Peggy Lynch, League of Women Voters

1. Opening

1. Call to Order

Chair Wyse called the meeting to order at 1:09 PM.

2. Introductions

Introductions were made.

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

2. Review and Approve Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

3. Comments from the Public

Peggy Lynch, Benton County Resident, provided the following comment: "I am very interested in safety public process and the recommendations you have regarding adding some homelessness recognition in the May 2023 bond. It is really important that Benton County citizens who provided survey information feel comfortable with the

recommendations that you are making, working on it from the state level to make sure there is funding for infrastructure and urban growth boundary. These are important components and I hope it will move people toward support.”

4. Work Session

4.1 Update on Justice System Improvement Program – Nick Kurth, Justice System Improvement Program Manager

Kurth expressed appreciation for the opportunity to present recommendations around the inclusion of homelessness services facilities in the proposed bond measure.

Kurth indicated Allison Hobgood of the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center (CDDC) was also present to answer questions regarding the recommendations and to discuss the recommendation that aligns with CDDC and its partnerships.

Two community surveys were conducted in Corvallis this year, with statistically significant results, and both surveys indicated that service facilities addressing homelessness was a top priority in the county. Commissioners instructed staff to investigate options for the homelessness services and possibly consider including them in the bond measure. Staff has had three meetings since that directive of October 18, 2022; here today before the Board to present those recommendations.

All options presented here require additional funding elements in order to come to fruition, either with state funds, other grants, or earmarks would be needed in order to complete the project. The bond language has to be flexible to accommodate those unknown elements. At the same time, the JSIP program would like to have a preferred option that is actionable. So that there can be maximum benefit to the community on the one hand, there is a need to be specific, but also recognize that because there is additional funding that would be possibly be needed; there is uncertainty. There may be a need to pivot at some point in the future, so the bond language should be flexible enough to accommodate that.

The objective today is to align on a preferred option for inclusion of homelessness services facilities in the May bond measure, and today’s goal will be to arrive at a preferred option, but also to have flexible bond language that can accommodate those funding unknowns.

The presentation will start with some of these options, and Allison Hobgood with CDDC will talk briefly about the homelessness services facilities, a housing navigation

center. A secure residential treatment facility (SRTF) was one of the options that the Health Department presented around which the county administrator, Joe Kerby, had previously asked the Health Department to develop recommendations.

An SRTF is essentially transitional housing with on-site mental health treatment for unsheltered people who are in the justice system. Kurth indicated his awareness that the county is pursuing a separate grant for funding for an SRTF, regardless of any decision today.

Hobgood will speak about the Housing Navigation Center with permanent, short- or long-term housing, whether transitional housing or a micro shelter community. A reminder that the second survey had a question on that point, and the community, at least in answering that question, was divided on which was more important; that does not mean that they were equally divided. That could also mean they simply did not know. However, the question was asked. The prioritization was evenly split.

The Health Department also mentioned a heating/cooling smoke/air quality shelter. That is certainly a sheltering option that is needed in the community.

Finally, there is a sort of default “general bucket” of funding, the non-specific alternative of understanding that the bond measure will include homelessness services facilities, leaving it at that without a preferred option, making it the default option. It does not have the value of a preferred option.

Hobgood spoke about the options presented to the Commissioners for homelessness services facilities and assured Commissioners that her presence is to share information as neutrally as possible, to answer questions, and to take feedback.

Hobgood is the Executive Director of the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center (CDDC), a resource and navigation hub for people in poverty in our community, in Benton County, and beyond. A Navigation Center Project would allow CDDC to increase our overall impact and our available supports.

There are precedents for this around the state, with other navigation centers tailored to the specific needs of a particular community. Some of these local needs are already being addressed at CDDC, and improvements mean being able to amplify and add another piece to solving the complex homelessness puzzle. Navigation Centers are often referred to as a “one-stop shop.” There are a lot of service providers who work together collaboratively, in-house, in a common space to offer community members who are in need of supports a direct, low-barrier access to those supports, and in trauma-informed

and trustworthy kinds of ways, engaging with community members. It is challenging to navigate complex systems, and to break down those barriers to access is important to the work.

Drop-in day services are a crucial part of Navigation Centers. The drop-in model that is currently followed would continue. People could come spend time during the day to get the supports that they need to be able to access services with help from the navigators and the social service providers that are on-site. There is a non-congregate respite or emergency shelter piece to the Navigation Center; a series of units that allow some of the most vulnerable people in the community to get immediate stabilization, to have respite from the challenges that they are experiencing, and then give them time to integrate back into the community. Ideally, these are first steps to getting people into housing and into contact with Navigators. People with needs are welcomed into that space. Staff works to invite them to start thinking, as they can, about the next steps for their future, plug them into people who could support them around those steps, and then as affordable housing becomes available, make sure that they can get indoors when they are ready.

Malone asked about respite center construction, is there any idea if this will fit in with Benton County Health Department plans for the respite center?

Hobgood stated unfamiliarity with the Benton County plan and asked for clarification.

Augerot stated the BC respite center is intended to be for mental health crisis. Hobgood was pleased that the clarification noted the similarity between the two entities, though the language is different. Currently, the drop-in center is serving folks with mental health disabilities or in outright crisis, though the drop-in is not a clinical space; the crisis center would be better equipped to handle MH interventions through clinical approaches. A Navigation Center uses more of a social services approach, such as providing behavioral health supports and assistance with medications, as part of wrap-around support experiences, with a holistic health and wellness approach that includes goal-setting and 'next steps' processes for moving forward into mental health stabilization.

Malone noted that one-stop shopping model of services means is convenient and efficient. Hobgood agreed, noting that people who may not be sure what they need can receive advice and support from experienced folks at the Navigation Center, providing built-in logistics and proximity to solving several issues in a concentrated time frame.

Malone noted that it is important for people who are struggling to get immediate help

by connecting with a team of human beings, rather than call a phone number and leave voice mail and hope there is enough staff that a return call is coming soon.

Hobgood shared that the service providers at a Navigation Center are able to connect with each other behind the scenes to collaborate on approaches for a particular individual, rather than being isolated from knowing what is going on with the individual, and this works across agencies and jurisdictions.

Augerot posed a question about the Navigation Center, asking if there is a large enough common area or common space that it might be out into use as an additional emergency cooling/heating/air quality shelter. Hobgood replied that this concept has been mentioned previously and noted that there is a good possibility of creating a partnership around that, though it may be visited at a point further down the road. Having a multi-use space that is flexible is an idea worth re-visiting, but for the moment, the focus is on launching the Navigation Center as quickly as possible.

Kurth continued speaking about the evaluation criteria shown in the meeting packet presentation, noting that filling the gap in homelessness services was a compelling need, as well as aligning with previously approved HOPE (Home, Opportunity, Planning and Equity) Advisory Board recommendations based on the excellent work done by Julie Arena, Rebeca Taylor, and Damien Sands from the BC Health Department; it was a collaborative and effective process. Kurth noted that the evaluation criteria involved outside stakeholders, support partnerships, and collaboration. Kurth invited Edmonds to speak about stakeholders and collaboration with support partnerships.

Edmonds said that the JSIP mission as an inclusive project that involves multiple community stakeholder groups means that the community drives the agenda, the process, and the need. Edmonds found broad community support for the current components of the JSIP Bond that are under consideration right now. The survey uncovered a huge gap, addressing homelessness, which was not a part of the original JSIP in its form from five years ago. The community is driving this process, and projects tend to work better when there is strong collaboration across civil and legal jurisdictions with regard to problem-solving, work efficiencies, and duplication of efforts. Community member interest and involvement bring an energized group of stakeholders into the JSIP fold, which means there will be an advantageously high level of communication between the groups as this project moves into the Spring of 2023.

Kurth continued speaking about the Evaluation Criteria, moving to ideas that are easily communicated and understood by the public. An example is a secure, residential

Treatment Facility (SRTF), which is a niche product and more difficult to communicate and share with the public; last year at this time, an SRTF was not a consideration, but there was a decision to include homelessness services facilities relatively late in the communication process. Finding projects that had already been cultivated to an extent and brought before the community means that much of the groundwork was in place; the Navigation Center is a good example of that. The project cannot be fully, directly funded by BC at this point, but perhaps can serve as a catalyst, and using stated and federal matching grants are useful as tools for garnering attention, maintaining momentum, and getting a project over the finish line. Site location sensitivity is a big consideration, and BC has gone through an exhaustive site process. One of the final Evaluation Criteria was survey testing, asking questions about homelessness, facilities, services, and specifically about the Navigation Center; data was collected that reliably informs the program.

Kurth noted that the evaluation ranking brought three possibilities to the public: the SRTF, the homelessness resources and housing Navigation Center, and the default no-preference “bucket” of options. The Navigation Center really checks off all of the boxes, though JSIP is not diminishing the need for an SRTF, nor a heating/cooling/smoke shelter, nor additional housing; they are all important. In terms of objectives and timeline the Navigation Center seems like the strongest option that staff is presenting you with today.

The recommendation is to include funding in the JSIP Bond Measure for homelessness services facilities, with a preferred option in support of Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center’s planned homelessness resources/housing navigation center project that as yet lacks an official name, and was thus presented here in lowercase letters. Funding would represent a portion of the total cost. December 6, 2022, will provide an opportunity to bring costing numbers in front of the Board as part of the broader JSIP Bond Measure package discussions. The second recommendation is to prioritize the funding for the navigation center as part of the legislative process for 2023. Kurth added that the City of Corvallis is in the early stages of looking at navigation funding as part of its prioritization process as well as a legislative process. There is nothing definitive at all at this point, but they will be submitting a list of recommendations to the League of Oregon Cities, including a recommendation on the Navigation Center, so there is potential opportunity down the road for further collaboration with the city.

Wyse expressed appreciation for the list of evaluation criteria, noting it as very complete, and suggested adding in, perhaps as part of “filling a gap”, that whatever BC does is actually going to be impactful, rather than simply checking a box. She wants to make sure that true assistance is rendered to the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center to

help them make a difference, and avoiding admiring the work that our neighbors are doing from a distance while taking credit for positive effects. Wyse is focusing on the outcome for a tangible and meaningful impact upon the community in a collaborative way.

Kurth mentioned that he and Hobgood had an opportunity to talk about the Navigation Center in person a few days ago; Kurth credits Arena with bringing the Navigation Center to Kurth's attention several months ago. Kurth noted that Hobgood stressed looking for actionable partnerships and collaboration in this effort.

Hobgood expressed appreciation for the ongoing conversation about being uniquely poised for a powerful new and different collaborative model intended for transformative work in the community and reaffirmed her commitment to that outcome. Hobgood appreciated the care in conversations about what it might mean to include homelessness services as part of a larger justice project, and the important intention that needs to be set around the kinds of community bias that might link up criminalization and folks who are homeless. The CDDC is providing innovative support services intended for diversion, to move people away from incarceration, rather than towards re-incarceration and recidivism. These kinds of dialogues inform this type of collaborative partnership.

Hobgood also spoke about the 'site sensitivity' piece and understands that to mean that the Navigation Center is not intended to be located on the Justice Campus. Similar to the crisis center, it will be its own thing, not physically aligned with the proposed justice campus.

Kerby spoke about the work done by the JSIP team in the respective JSIP-focused meetings and wanted to applaud their work and efforts in being able to pivot so quickly to including it as part of the bond measure, having to explore a previously unknown concept. Kerby also thanked the Health Department and others who were integral to the conversations and to the support being offered.

Malone appreciated the speed with which this came together. Not too long ago it was a warm and fuzzy concept and while much progress has been made on the specifics, evolving into a project that BC wants to support, the inclusion of multiple partners and funding streams makes this a more concrete reality.

MOTION: Augerot moved to include funding the justice system improvement program bond measure for homeless services facilities, with the preferred option in

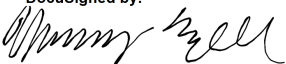
support of the Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center planned homelessness resources and housing navigation center. In tandem with that, Augerot moved to prioritize additional funding for the CDDC homelessness resources and housing navigation center as part of our county 2023 legislative agenda. Malone seconded the motion, which **carried 3-0.**

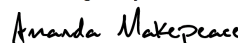
IX. Other

No other business was discussed.

X. Adjournment

Chair Wyse adjourned the meeting at 1:51 p.m.

DocuSigned by:

85593F1F843F4FD...
Nancy Wyse, Chair

DocuSigned by:

A2A8D288AFC640F...
Amanda Makepeace, Recorder

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

BOC Agenda Checklist Master

Agenda Placement and Contacts

Suggested Agenda Date 11/14/22

View [Agenda Tracker](#)

Suggested Placement * BOC Tuesday Meeting

Department * Board of Commissioners

Contact Name * Nick Kurth

Phone Extension * 6076

Meeting Attendee Name * Nick Kurth, JSIP Manager; Chris Edmonds, Coastline PR

Agenda Item Details



Item Title * Justice System Improvement Program (JSIP) Homeless Services Facility Recommendation

Item Involves * Check all that apply

- ☐ Appointments
- ☐ Budget
- ☐ Contract/Agreement
- ☒ Discussion and Action
- ☐ Discussion Only
- ☐ Document Recording
- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Notice of Intent
- ☐ Order/Resolution
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 1st Reading
- ☐ Ordinance/Public Hearing 2nd Reading
- ☐ Proclamation
- ☐ Project/Committee Update
- ☐ Public Comment
- ☐ Special Report
- ☐ Other

Estimated Time * 45 minutes

Board/Committee Involvement *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Advertisement *

☐ Yes ☒ No

Item Issues and Description	
Identified Salient Issues *	Two statistically valid JSIP community surveys were conducted by Oregon-based DHM Research in 2022 that confirmed addressing homelessness is a top priority in Benton County. In October 2022, the Board of Commissioners directed staff to provide options for including funding to address homelessness in the Justice System Improvement Program bond measure scheduled for May 2023. Staff met on multiple occasions to analyze and discuss homeless services facilities options in order to provide a recommendation to the Board.
	Options *
Fiscal Impact *	1. Support recommendation provided by staff. 2. Support recommendation with edits, directing staff to reconsider elements of the recommendation. 3. Reject recommendation, directing staff to reassess and return with new recommendation. 4. Reject recommendation outright and rescind decision to include homeless services facilities in the JSIP bond measure.
	☒ Yes ☐ No
Fiscal Impact *	The fiscal impact involves two financial considerations: 1) the amount of funding for homeless services facilities included in the JSIP bond measure; and 2) the total cost of the facilities in the bond measure relative to the total bond amount. Both considerations will be addressed as part of the Board of Commissioners' bond measure package discussions in December 2022 - January 2023.

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Mandated Service? * ☐ Yes ☒ No

2040 Thriving Communities Initiative

Describe how this agenda checklist advances the core values or focus areas of 2040, or supports a strategy of a departmental goal.

To review the initiative, visit the website [HERE](#).

Values and Focus Areas

Check boxes that reflect each applicable value or focus area and explain how they will be advanced.

Core Values *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Vibrant, Livable Communities
- ☒ Supportive People Resources
- ☐ High Quality Environment and Access
- ☐ Diverse Economy that Fits
- ☒ Community Resilience
- ☒ Equity for Everyone
- ☐ Health in All Actions
- ☐ N/A

Explain Core Values Selections *

The Justice System Improvement Program Vision: The residents of Benton County require an effective, efficient, and equitable criminal justice system that maintains public safety and holds people accountable while providing treatment opportunities that address underlying causes of criminal behavior.

Focus Areas and Vision *

Select all that apply.

- ☒ Community Safety
- ☒ Emergency Preparedness
- ☐ Outdoor Recreation
- ☐ Prosperous Economy
- ☐ Environment and Natural Resources
- ☐ Mobility and Transportation
- ☐ Housing and Growth
- ☐ Arts, Entertainment, Culture, and History
- ☐ Food and Agriculture
- ☐ Lifelong Learning and Education
- ☐ N/A

Explain Focus Areas and Vision Selection *

The Justice System Improvement Program Vision: The residents of Benton County require an effective, efficient, and equitable criminal justice system that maintains public safety and holds people accountable while providing treatment opportunities that address underlying causes of criminal behavior.

Recommendations and Motions

Item Recommendations and Motions

Staff

Recommendations *

- 1) Include funding in the JSIP bond measure for homeless services facilities with a preferred option in support of Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center's (CDDC) planned Homeless Resources and Housing Navigation Center. (The to-be-determined funding would represent a portion of the total project cost).
- 2) Prioritize additional funding for CDDC's Homeless Resources and Housing Navigation Center as part of the County's 2023 legislative agenda.

Meeting Motions *

I move to ...

- 1) Include funding in the JSIP bond measure for homeless services facilities with a preferred option in support of Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center's (CDDC) planned Homeless Resources and Housing Navigation Center.
- 2) Prioritize additional funding for CDDC's Homeless Resources and Housing Navigation Center as part of the County's 2023 legislative agenda.

Attachments, Comments, and Submission

Item Comments and Attachments

Attachments

Upload any attachments to be included in the agenda, preferably as PDF files. If more than one attachment / exhibit, please indicate "1", "2", "3" or "A", "B", "C" on the documents.

BOC Homeless Services Facilities Presentation

407.18KB

11_14_2022 FINAL.pdf

Comments (optional) If you have any questions, please call ext.6800

Department Approver JOE KERBY

Department Approval

Comments**Signature**

Joseph Kerby

BOC Initial Approval

Approvals Required ☐ Counsel

☐ Finance

☐ HR

County Administrator MAURA KWIATKOWSKY

Approver

Comments

County Administrator Approval

Comments

Signature



Maura Kwiatkowski

Building Better Outcomes

Homelessness Services Facilities in JSIP Bond Measure

Benton County Board of Commissioners Special Meeting
November 14, 2022



Justice System Improvement Program
Nick Kurth, Manager



Background

- Two statistically valid JSIP community surveys were conducted by Oregon-based DHM Research in 2022 that confirmed addressing homelessness is a top priority in Benton County.
- In October 2022, the Board of Commissioners directed staff to provide options for including funding to address homelessness in the Justice System Improvement Program bond measure.
- Staff met to analyze and discuss homelessness services facilities options in order to provide a recommendation to the Board.

Current Situation

- All homelessness services facilities options under consideration will require additional funding from outside the County. Those funds are TBD, including state grants or future earmarks.
- Bond language needs to be flexible enough to accommodate future unknowns, but include a “preferred” option to be actionable and maximize community benefit

Today's Objective and Approach

- Objective: Align on a preferred option for inclusion of homelessness services facilities in the May 2023 bond measure
- Approach: Provide a preferred option with bond measure language that is also flexible to accommodate future unknowns

Homelessness Facilities Services Options Considered

- Secure Residential Treatment Facility
- Homelessness Services/Housing Navigation Center
- Permanent short- or long-term housing
- Heating/Cooling/Smoke (Air Quality) Shelter
- General “bucket” funding

Evaluation Criteria

- Fills a compelling gap in homelessness services
- Aligns with previously approved HOPE recommendations
- Involves outside stakeholders; support partnerships/collaboration
- Easily communicated and understood by public
- Demonstrable public process – not starting from square one
- Serve as financial catalyst versus full project investment
- Minimize site location sensitivity
- Survey tested

Evaluation Ranking

	Secure Residential Treatment Facility	Homelessness Resources and Housing Navigation Center	"Bucket" only – no preference
Fills compelling gap	✓	✓	✓
HOPE Recommendations alignment	✓	✓	
Involves stakeholders/partners		✓	
Easily communicated/understood		✓	✓
Demonstrable public process		✓	
Catalyst investment	✓	✓	
Minimal site sensitivity		✓	✓
Survey tested		✓	✓

Recommendations

- Include funding in the JSIP bond measure for homelessness services facilities, with a preferred option in support of Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center's planned homelessness resources/housing navigation center project (funding would represent a portion of the total project cost).
- Prioritize additional funding for CDDC's navigation center project as part of the County's 2023 legislative agenda.