

AGENDA

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/543524541>

or Dial 1 (408) 650-3123; Access Code 543-524-541#

Livestream: <http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov>

(Chair May Alter the Agenda)

THE BOARD WILL TAKE A BRIEF RECESS BETWEEN THE WORK SESSION AND BUSINESS MEETING

9:00 A.M.

I. Opening:

- A. Introductions
- B. Announcements

II. 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.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

IV. Work Session

- 4.1 9:00 a.m., 30 minutes - Update from Cascades West Council of Governments –Jenny Glass and Curtis Nelson
- 4.2 9:30 a.m., 30 minutes – Update from Corvallis-Benton County Library Board – Ashlee Chavez and Library Board Members
- 4.3 10:00 a.m., 1 hour – Discussion about Service Providers that Help People with Complex Behavioral Health Needs – Amelia Wyckhuyse, Chance Recovery; Elizabeth Hazlewood, Pathfinder Club House; Anita Earl, Samaritan Homeless Resource Team; Kenny Lowe, Benton County Health Department
- 4.4 11:00 a.m., 30 minutes - Update from Department Operation Center – Suzanne Hoffman, April Holland; Health Services

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.

BUSINESS MEETING

V. Information Sharing: (If time permits the following section will be heard. *The chief purpose of "Information Sharing" items is to allow the Board of Commissioners time and a venue to update one another of their individual activities.*)

- 5.1 Xanthippe Augerot, Chair
- 5.2 Nancy Wyse, Commissioner
- 5.3 Pat Malone, Commissioner
- 5.4 Joe Kerby, County Administrator

VI. 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 MEETING
BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

GoToMeeting link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/543524541>

Livestream: <http://facebook.com/BentonCoGov>

9:00 a.m.

- Present:** **Xanthippe Augerot**, Chair; **Nancy Wyse**, Commissioner; **Pat Malone**, Commissioner; **Joe Kerby**, County Administrator; **Vance Croney**, County Counsel
- Staff:** **Teresa Farley**, BOC staff; **Suzanne Hoffman**, **April Holland**, **Kenny Lowe**, Health; **Tracy Martineau**, Human Resources; **Erika Milo**, BOC Recorder; **Alyssa Rash**, Public Information Officer; **Jef Van Arsdall**, Sheriff's Office
- Guests:** **Ashlee Chavez**, Corvallis-Benton County Library Board; **Anita Earl**, Samaritan Health Services; **Jenny Glass**, **Curtis Nelson**, Cascades West Council of Governments; **Elizabeth Hazlewood**, Pathfinder Club House; **Amelia Wyckhuyse**, CHANCE Recovery

Chair Augerot called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

I. Opening:
A. Introductions
B. Announcements

Augerot acknowledged that Benton County is on the homelands of the Chemapho and Ampinefu bands of the Kalapuya peoples, and the Alsea peoples, who are now part of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians. Residents honor that spirit of taking care of the land, in consultation with the Tribes.

II. Comments from the Public

Melinda Spooner, Corvallis resident: Spooner shared concerns about the recent County mask mandate. Spooner felt that an outdoor mask requirement was unnecessary and unfair, particularly for workers and children, and described negative impacts on businesses due to changing regulations. Spooner cited statistics on vaccination rates, stated that there have not been excess deaths in the County due to COVID-19, and asked the Board to rescind the order.

Augerot responded that the Board took these measures to keep businesses, in-person schooling, and hospitals open. Masking is one of the best mitigation measures now available.

Vicki Palmer, Corvallis resident: Palmer, a retired nurse, felt that the County mask mandate does not uphold religious, disability, or First Amendment rights. Palmer was frustrated by a lack of County response to communications. Palmer felt masks are not proven to be effective for disease mitigation and also shared concerns about Critical Race Theory and technological surveillance.

Palmer Vilagi, Corvallis resident: Vilagi stated that mask mandates represent government overreach, masks are not effective, and religious or medical exemptions should be allowed without struggle to gain accommodation. The County should respect civil rights.

III. Review and Approve Agenda

The following items were added to the agenda:

Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(e) -- Real Estate Transactions

Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(d) -- Labor negotiations

IV. Work Session

4.1 Update from Cascades West Council of Governments (COG) – Jenny Glass and Curtis Nelson, COG

Glass began work at COG in January 2021, supporting economic development. Glass requested suggestions for communities to visit in Benton County. COG staff are serving clients at the City of Albany office but are mainly working virtually. COG received Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds for small grants to regional projects, including a five-year economic development plan for the City of Monroe and a Benton County business resource web portal. The report contains updates on the Corvallis Area Metropolitan Planning Organization transportation plan and on Senior and Disability Services.

Responding to a question from Malone, Glass replied that the business portal grant was about \$5,000. The portal provides access to services such as capital resources and technological assistance. In a chat comment, Glass added: “The Benton County Business Portal is a capacity-building project that would ultimately become the County’s primary resource to create links for businesses looking to start-up, grow, and complete projects or search for financing.”

Nelson provided highlights on veterans services. The Oregon Department of Veterans Affairs (ODVA) is still performing COG’s compensation and pension examinations after shutting down in 2020. ODVA is not recouping late payments or overpayments, so if a veteran can keep the money if accidentally paid or losing benefits; ODVA is helping veterans set up debt management payments. ODVA is still working remotely, creating a lag in mail processing for recoveries and funds, so COG’s recoveries appear artificially low. Third to fourth quarter funds have increased, but are not updated in the system; however, veterans are receiving funds. COG has requested permission to update recoveries if veterans provide the information, but ODVA has not granted this. Nelson asked if the Board could rectify the situation. COG conducted 180 interviews in the last quarter and continues to serve clients remotely.

Augerot noted that the client contact bar chart indicated all virtual appointments as walk-ins, but those items were color-coded as in-office appointments.

Nelson replied that COG has not updated the coding to include virtual and telephone appointments, but could do so in future. Any appointment is now marked as in-office.

Augerot felt that would be more informative. Augerot congratulated Nelson on his new role.

Nelson shared that interviews for Nelson’s replacement are occurring this week.

4.2 Update from Corvallis-Benton County Library (CBCL) Board – Ashlee Chavez, Corvallis-Benton County Library Director

Chavez explained that the annual presentation was delayed by the pandemic. It has been challenging and rewarding to innovate services during the pandemic. All buildings are now open for normal hours. Patron behavior has changed. The Benton County Library Services District is operated by the City of Corvallis through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA), where

Corvallis receives County funds to run the system; other cities and communities have branches via independent IGAs. The City of Monroe pays \$12-16,000 a year for utilities and building maintenance, and receives over 30 hours of service, online resources, and collection access. The collection of over 400,000 physical items floats between all branches.

The joint Corvallis-County Library Advisory Board is meeting only as necessary. The Bookmobile is not in service due to COVID-19 safety challenges. The Friends of the Library holds online book sales totaling about \$80,000 annually, while the Library Foundation Organization focuses on capital fundraising, larger investments, and estate planning. The Monroe Library Legacy Fund Committee supports long-term capital needs of the Monroe Library building; Chavez hopes to replicate this in the City of Philomath and potentially the community of Alsea. Three library staff (including Chavez) support all branches.

Chavez described delivery services during the pandemic. Staff have made 105,476 delivery trips throughout the County. CBCL circulation levels are typically high versus national and regional comparators. Since April 1, 2020, 566,880 physical items and over 233,000 digital items were checked out, despite buildings being closed for 16 months. Before buildings reopened, staff averaged 2,000 deliveries a week, and now perform about 1,000 per week. Patrons can use both in-person and delivery options. The highest number of deliveries in one day was 939 in summer 2020. All levels of staff perform deliveries in vehicles from various Corvallis departments and Oregon State University (OSU).

Other service innovations include online library cards, checking out laptops and wireless internet hotspots, the elimination of late fees, virtual classroom visits, take-and-go craft kits, increased digital offerings, and more inclusive virtual programming. CBCL provided wireless internet to Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center. Late fees prevent some people from using the library. CBCL had previously eliminated fines for juvenile items and extended return dates to 21 days. Staff felt it was more equitable to reduce systemic barriers than to provide a subsidy program. The change does not make a large financial impact for the library, and makes a big difference for the community. There is still a charge for lost items.

Future challenges include understanding new models of library use, balancing in-person and delivery services, and continuing to increase access. The top priority now is supporting schools. CBCL received a \$5,000 American Rescue Plan Act grant from the State Library for Alsea and Monroe libraries. The grant will fund Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) kits and literacy packages for students.

The Board praised the team's accomplishments and flexibility. Wyse is the new Library-Board Liaison.

Hahn offered to collaborate with Chavez on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion efforts.

4.3 Discussion about Service Providers that Help People with Complex Behavioral Health Needs – *Amelia Wyckhuyse, CHANCE Recovery Acting Interim Executive Director; Elizabeth Hazlewood, Pathfinder Club House Executive Director; Anita Earl, Samaritan Homeless Resource Team; Kenny Lowe, Benton County Health Department*

Augerot asked speakers to describe each group's mission and how its work fits into the Home, Opportunity, Planning and Equity (HOPE) Advisory Board recommendations to reduce homelessness in the community.

Wyckhuyse explained that CHANCE could work on these HOPE recommendations: 1. Facilitating and coordinating data improvement efforts. 2. Working to help create metrics for successful program goals. 4. Collaborating with social service and healthcare partners to increase the number of paid fulltime case managers to support people transitioning out of homelessness. CHANCE provides peer support for people in crisis due to substance addiction, mental illness, domestic violence, and/or homelessness. Case managers are very important, and CHANCE wants to help increase those numbers. 6. Provide organizational capacity to establish a 24/7/365 Sheltering System. CHANCE provides non-congregate shelter through the emergency hotel program. 8. Explore need and barriers to accessing housing. CHANCE helps people find housing and employment, and can help with other areas as needed.

Responding to a question from Augerot, Wyckhuyse explained that CHANCE is based in Albany and has six locations in Lebanon, Corvallis, Newport, and Lincoln City (currently closed). All peer support staff are now paid. CHANCE has 23 staff and has moved from an Executive Director model to an Executive Team that supports management staff at each location.

Augerot praised CHANCE's peer support role as part of the solution and offered Board support.

Malone asked if CHANCE operates in three counties in order to align with COG.

Wyckhuyse replied that the goal was a CHANCE drop-in center near any Samaritan hospital.

Responding to a question from Augerot, Wyckhuyse replied that the hotel/motel voucher program is not currently accepting new people, but new funds are coming in. In the chat window, Wyckhuyse added that there are currently 19 individuals in hotel rooms in Corvallis.

Hazlewood explained that a clubhouse is a group of people living with mental illness who choose to better their lives every day. Pathfinder Clubhouse (PC) in Corvallis helps members with non-clinical mental health services that address barriers to housing, employment, socialization, education, life skills, financial stability, health and wellness. According to the Oregon Health Assessment of 2019, Oregon has the highest prevalence of mental illness in the nation and ranks 48th in outcomes. An estimated one in five Oregon adults has a mental health diagnosis. A CDC study showed that Oregon suicide rates have risen 28.2% and are projected to increase 35% by 2025 (an estimate made before the pandemic). The evidence-based Clubhouse International model has existed since the 1940s, with over 300 clubhouses worldwide; 42% of members are employed. A year of Oregon Clubhouse membership was proven to reduce member hospitalization rates by 96%. After one year of operation, PC has 64 members, daily attendance of 11 people, and 1,368 total member visits; 8% of members attained housing, and 11 obtained employment. PC has connected with 61 partners.

Chuck Bauman shared personal experiences as a PC member, which provided community and life skills.

Hazlewood shared that people with mental illness die 20 years earlier on average. Voluntary low-barrier membership involves a one-page provider referral, followed by a tour and one-day orientation. Membership reduces recidivism and improves employment and housing rates, saving the community money. PC recently received a \$38,000 matching grant from the Collins Foundation. Regarding HOPE recommendations, PC fills a different gap, working with other agencies on housing and rental assistance, and addressing root causes of homelessness such as low income or unemployment. Avoiding hospitalization is the best outcome for everyone. Malone asked for more details on PC's coordination with providers.

Hazlewood explained that GSRMC is piloting a community discharge plan in 2022 where PC would meet with a patient before discharge. Partner meetings such as HOPE help organizations coordinate and avoid service duplication.

Augerot noted that Julie Arena, HOPE Coordinator, holds a monthly call with partners which helps coordinate case management. Augerot asked how Lincoln County clients access services.

Hazlewood replied that PC is helping members take a shuttle to medical appointments, then attend the Clubhouse afterwards. The long-term goal is to have a Clubhouse in Lincoln County. PC is talking with the Office of Self-Sufficiency on providing a direct medical transport route.

Earl works for the Samaritan Health Services Care Hub (CH), a tri-county medical respite program which coordinates discharges of unhoused and/or extremely fragile patients, and offers social work and nursing support for housed and unhoused individuals struggling with mental health, substance abuse, and other concerns. The program has licensed clinical social workers and nurses trained in a variety of disciplines, and can supply durable medical equipment. A community partner can contact Earl to help a client access resources. All CH social workers are trained in trauma debriefing. CH specializes in helping people navigate the healthcare system by arranging transportation to appointments, delivering medication, or providing education or wound care. If a person at a camp has a wound and refuses to go to Urgent Care, a CH nurse can meet the client at the Emergency Room, ensure they are transported back, and check on them after discharge. CH staff go wherever the client is. CH is unique in its ability to outreach anywhere with clinical staff providing assessment. CH's Homeless Resource Team coordinates within the client base. Expanding efforts include five new medical respite beds in Linn County and additional beds in the City of Newport for unhoused people with acute injury or undergoing treatment such as chemotherapy or amputation.

Responding to questions from Augerot, Earl replied that the 15-person team is growing rapidly. Three or four staff work on the unhoused outreach team. The nursing team is larger, and community healthcare workers may accompany clients to medical appointments. All staff operate from the SHS administrative building and use personal cars for travel. Many clients are eligible for Cascades West RideLine medical transport. Earl also has charitable funds from the Samaritan Foundation for transport, or can leverage partners. Staff do not transport clients in personal vehicles.

Augerot asked if CH collaborates with the SamCare Mobile Medical van.

Earl answered no, but CH staff are part of the van support team and were instrumental in advocating for the van to visit Corvallis Daytime Drop-in Center and Men's Winter Shelter. Earl tries to have a social worker at the shelter on those days. Samaritan staff can message Earl's team to follow up with a client at the shelter.

Augerot asked about Earl's biggest short-term and long-term aspirations.

Earl replied that CH hopes to be a primary player in the HOPE hub model, partnering on acquiring a building and placing a staff person there. CH has a staff person at each major shelter or camp. CH operates 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Monday-Friday; weekends are on call but not staffed.

Augerot praised Samaritan's and InterCommunity Health Network's support of CH.

Lowe described programs under Benton County Mental Health (BCMh) and Housing Services. Clients typically have severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) and may need help up to 24 hours a day. Many clients are experiencing poverty. BCMh oversees residential services at two adult foster homes, two residential treatment homes, and one residential treatment facility, for a total of 30 beds. Services include referral and transition to state-licensed adult foster homes. BCMh oversees rental assistance programs for about 39 clients, divided between people with criminal history barriers to accessing housing, and general rental assistance for SPMI individuals. Five spots are for clients that need the most complex care, providing direct support, case management, life skills training, and financial assistance. BCMh also provides general housing support and case management to people enrolled in outpatient therapy, in crisis, or in the drug treatment program. BCMh Housing specialists provide holistic housing case management to address the causes of homelessness. Last quarter BCMh served almost 1,000 people. All services include collaboration and working alongside HOPE recommendations.

Augerot noted that BCMh serves a population from the entire County and beyond, and includes all ethnicities and races, reflecting overall population demographics. Augerot asked about Lowe's biggest hope.

Lowe stated that housing issues and homelessness are a symptom of poverty, so the goal is to address community-wide poverty, whether due to scarcity of financial resources, or problems maintaining employment or housing. The 11% (about 40 people) of Corvallis high school students who do not graduate are not getting the tools to be self-sufficient. Poverty is both cause and consequence of homelessness, and trauma is often connected; it is necessary to address trauma and poverty to stem the flow of people needing support and services.

Augerot asked if Lowe had worked with Arena much on these issues.

Lowe had not; when Arena was hired to address homelessness, Lowe was redirected to working more on housing programs and rental assistance.

Augerot and Wyse thanked participants for the information as Corvallis and the County continue making programs to address poverty and the traumas that keep people in poverty.

Chair Augerot recessed the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Chair Augerot reconvened the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

4.4 Update from Department Operations Center (DOC) – Suzanne Hoffman, April Holland, Health Services

Hoffman explained that the DOC felt an update sooner than the first Tuesday Board Meeting was advisable. Hoffman met with Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center (GS) Chief Executive Officer Laura Hennum about the County's partnership and responsibility in handling the current COVID-19 surge.

Holland shared that Benton County COVID-19 cases continue to increase, with 162 last week, a 12.5% increase over the previous week. The seven-day case rate is 171 per 100,000 of population; the 14-day rate is 323 per 100,000. The positivity rate is 6.2%, which is high, but lower than the statewide rate of 11.7%. Children under 12 comprise 9.7% of the County population; in July 2021, children under 12 were 9.5% of cases. Adults ages 18-29 are 30% of the population and 35% of cases; this group is of working age and has slightly lower vaccination

rates. Older age groups are not heavily impacted at this time. People ages 75 and up have a 99% vaccination rate and very few cases. People ages 65-74 have a 94% vaccination rate. With 30-40 new cases daily, the Communicable Disease team must prioritize cases, focusing expanded investigations on older and younger individuals and outbreaks in prioritized settings such as medical sites, assisted living facilities, and schools. There are many such outbreaks currently.

COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to rise, with 937 statewide, from 752 a week ago. Patients in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) rose from 206 to 253 statewide. As cases increase, hospitalizations catch up several weeks later. Hospitalizations are expected to increase for at least the next few weeks, stressing hospital systems. Last week GS had 28 hospitalized COVID-19 patients, breaking a previous high of 16. About 20 patients are hospitalized now.

The State activated an Incident Management Team to prioritize resources for discharge issues, staffing challenges, and strengthening system-wide capacity. GS has been impacted less than some hospitals, so requests for help may not be prioritized, but has requested out-of-area contracted nursing assistance. Work is underway to increase long-term care facility staffing to relieve the discharge bottleneck. Public Health is working with SHS on surge levels and thresholds for additional action. GS has a comprehensive plan to expand Emergency Department (ED) and ICU capacity as needed, which is complicated by a staffing shortage. The County can help by directing people to Urgent Care facilities instead of the ED. The ED has seen a little relief this weekend. Staff are working with emergency managers and regional partners on emergency transport challenges, fatality management, and reducing hospital burdens.

On August 13, 2021, the CDC and then Oregon Health Authority updated guidance on a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for moderately to severely immunocompromised persons. On August 18, 2021, the CDC announced a plan to offer booster shots starting September 20, 2021, eight months after a person's second dose. Boosters are the same as the original vaccine. Data is expected soon on Johnson & Johnson boosters. Oregon educators and healthcare workers are now required to be vaccinated. Upcoming Benton vaccination events include Linus Pauling Middle School on August 24-25, 2021, and 10 events at high schools in September-October 2021. Staff encourage providers to plan now to vaccinate children under age 12 when approved; existing infrastructure of pharmacies and providers should be used as much as possible. Benton continues to focus on vaccinating underserved populations, including houseless people, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, rural residents, and community health center patients. Using new census data, the County can use mapping to direct outreach and education.

Wyse asked if the booster should be the same brand as original shot.

Holland believed so, but official guidance has not been issued yet.

Malone asked if GS is accepting patients from other regions.

Holland to follow up with that information. As a regional hospital and trauma center, GS often sees patients from other areas. GS is not delaying elective procedures yet.

Kerby asked if Holland anticipated mass vaccination clinics for boosters or children once approved.

Holland answered this is under discussion with SHS. Due to earlier mass vaccination events, many people will be eligible for booster any given day. There may be some smaller mass vaccination events.

Augerot suggested community education on how to assist immunocompromised individuals in getting a booster shot, and how to arrange in-home vaccination.

Holland concurred. People can arrange in-home vaccination by contacting the Benton County COVID-19 Call Center. Providers are asked to review patient rolls for house-bound individuals. Many providers will go to a patient's home.

Kerby shared that the Executive Committee recommends again closing County facility lobbies to public access due to the Delta surge, providing services by telephone, internet, or appointment. The Team would like to ensure that as many employees as possible are teleworking and minimize the number of people entering facilities. Some department heads support this step. The same action was taken previously when the County had similar case numbers.

The Board supported closing lobbies to public access. Kerby to work with the Executive Team and Public Information staff to communicate the change. To avoid a yo-yo effect, the closure would last at least 30-60 days, while staff continue to monitor data.

V. Information Sharing

5.1 Xanthippe Augerot, Chair

Augerot recently met with DevNW Executive Director Emily Reiman regarding low income and workforce housing development. DevNW owns a large Corvallis parcel planned for development in the Urban Renewal District, but has funding challenges because the site falls between the sizes] for multi- and single-family housing. DevNW works in multiple counties, and has lost its Benton County community liaison; Augerot asked that the Board recommend candidates.

5.2 Nancy Wyse, Commissioner

No business was discussed.

5.3 Pat Malone, Commissioner

Malone talked to Amanda Rowe, local OSU Extension Fire Specialist, about community requests in July 2021 to ban fireworks in Benton County. Malone wants to see broader discussion of how to make communities more fire resistant. A large education component could include the Firewise program, but the Oregon Department of Forestry's Philomath District position is not filled. Malone recently talked to the Monroe Fire Department Board and will speak with Corvallis Rural Fire on evacuation routes tonight.

Augerot noted that National Public Radio featured the City of Bend's fireworks ban and similar proposals in Lane County; this could be a good opportunity to discuss fire mitigation education.

Kerby is scheduled to meet with Van Arsdall and Counsel in September 2021 to further discuss fireworks and preparation for 2022, will update the Board.

Van Arsdall shared that Lane County is discussing the matter today; Van Arsdall to contact the Lane County Sheriff about borrowing that framework.

Malone stated that Benton County is updating the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The County needs to implement the plan and identify local actions to take.

5.4 Joe Kerby, County Administrator

Martineau explained that an employee approaching retirement asked if the Board would reinstate a policy which ended in March 2000, where Tier One employees who were fully eligible for Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) retirement could receive a cash payout for three-quarters of accumulated sick leave at time of retirement. The remainder was used to calculate the employee's final average salary for PERS benefits. On March 1, 2000, employees eligible for that benefit were grandfathered in; employees hired later were not eligible. Over time, those retirees have received cash-outs. About 20 grandfathered employees remain. Reinstating this policy would incur financial liability.

Otley added that in the 1980s, everyone received 50% of sick leave paid, and 50% was reported to PERS. After a policy reform, PERS no longer calculated pension with unused sick pay. The past County Human Resources Director and Finance Director rewrote the policy up to 75%. Then PERS changed the law again to use the sick leave. In 2000, many County personnel policies were rewritten. This benefit was discontinued due to cost. The 20 grandfathered employees are non-representatives. The liability for those 20 with salary and benefits is over half a million dollars. Even now, some employees want to leave the amount in for PERS calculation.

Wyse asked to what extent this policy was used in comparable counties.

Martineau believed that some cities and counties provide a form of sick leave cash-out or conversion, but fewer all the time.

Otley added that Benton sick leave is capped at 1,040 hours for most employees.

Augerot stated that non-profit organizations moved away from this policy, as it is unpredictable and can be burdensome to a budget. It is usually funded by levying a surcharge on all employees, which is difficult to manage and inequitable.

Otley explained the County has funded the benefit with a cost allocation charge; departments pay into the retirement reserve cost center, which is currently zero, but will regain a positive balance in the next few months.

Wyse was not interested in changing the policy at this time.

Kerby noted that staff are just opening dialogue, not recommending that the policy be resumed. Such benefits used to be more common, but have been discontinued in many organizations.

Augerot did not want to reinstate the policy, as it is not equitable or healthy; people should use vacation/sick leave when needed. Augerot was uncomfortable with the potential financial implications. Malone concurred.

VI. Other

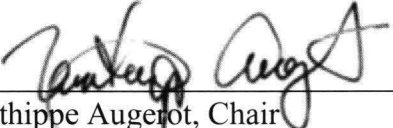
No other business was discussed.

VII. Adjournment

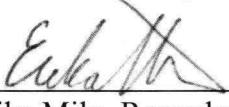
Chair Augerot recessed the meeting at 11:58 p.m.

Chair Augerot reconvened the meeting at 12:03 p.m. and immediately entered Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(d) – Labor Negotiations and ORS 192.660(2)(e) – Real Estate Transactions.

Chair Augerot adjourned the Executive Session at 12:53 p.m. and immediately adjourned the regular Board Meeting.



Xanthippe Augerot, Chair



Erika Milo, Recorder

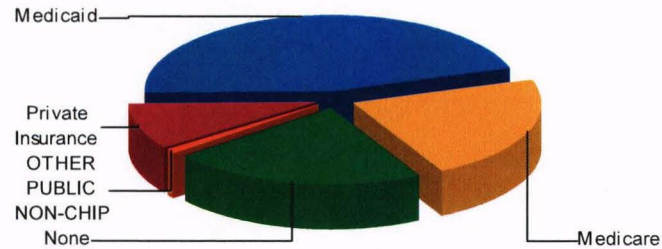
** NOTE: Items denoted with an asterisk do NOT have accompanying written materials in the meeting packet.*

Mental Health Services - Demographics

Report Period: Last Full Quarter
Date Range: 4/1/2021 to 6/30/2021

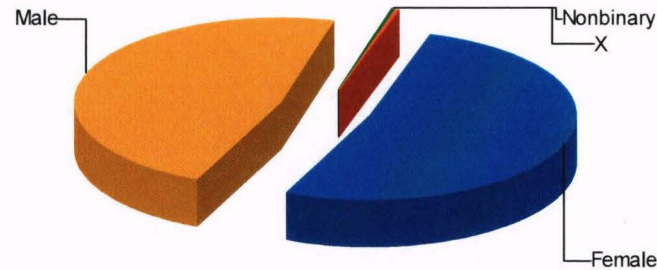
Total Patients	Total Migrant Seasonal	Total Veterans	Total Homeless
966	6	10	65

Payor Group



Medicaid	438	45.34%
Medicare	215	22.26%
None	212	21.95%
OTHER PUBLIC NON-CHIP	6	0.62%
Private Insurance	95	9.83%
Total	966	100.00%

Gender

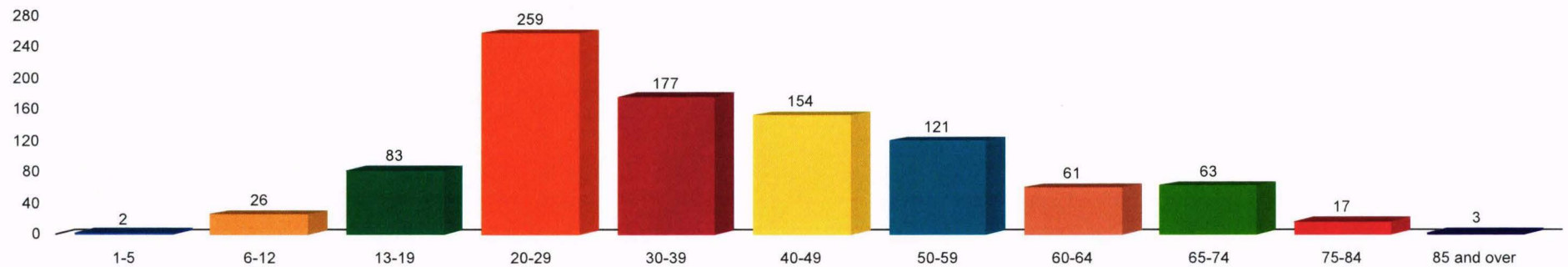


Female	502	51.97%
Male	459	47.52%
Nonbinary	2	0.21%
X	3	0.31%
Total	966	100.00%

Race Group

Race Group	Total
White	734 75.98%
Asian	10 1.04%
American Indian	13 1.35%
Pacific Islander	2 0.21%
Alaskan Native	3 0.31%
More Than One Race	38 3.93%
Not Collected or Unknown	35 3.62%
Patient Refused	28 2.90%
Black/African American	25 2.59%
Unknown	78 8.07%
Total	966 100.00%

Age



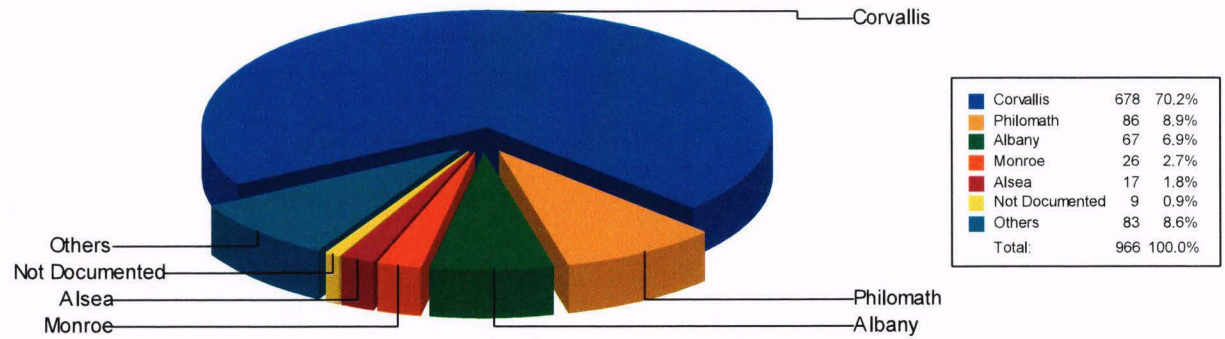
Mental Health Services - Location

Report Period: Last Full Quarter

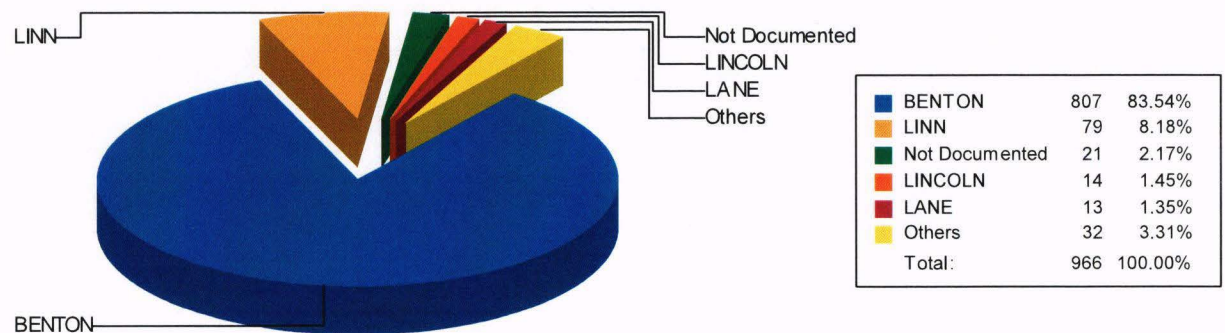
Date Range: 4/1/2021 to 6/30/2021

	Total
Albany	67
Alsea	17
Blodgett	5
Corvallis	678
Harrisburg	5
Independence	1
Junction City	6
Lebanon	7
Monmouth	2
Monroe	26
Other Cities	60
Philomath	86
Scio	2
Shedd	1
Sweet Home	2
Tangent	1
Total	966

Patients by City



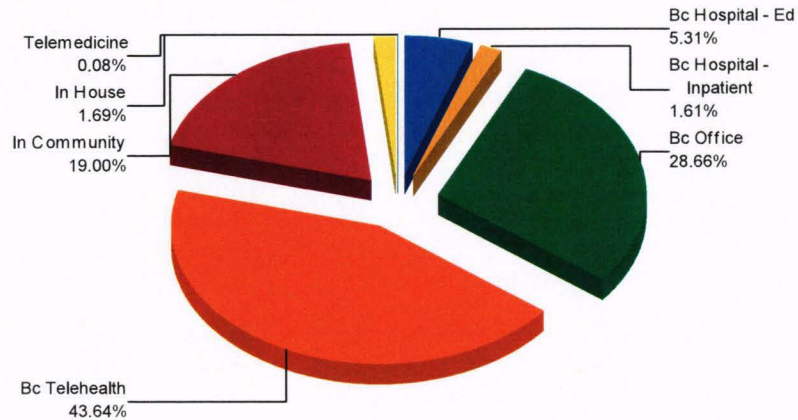
Patients by County



Mental Health Services - Provided Services

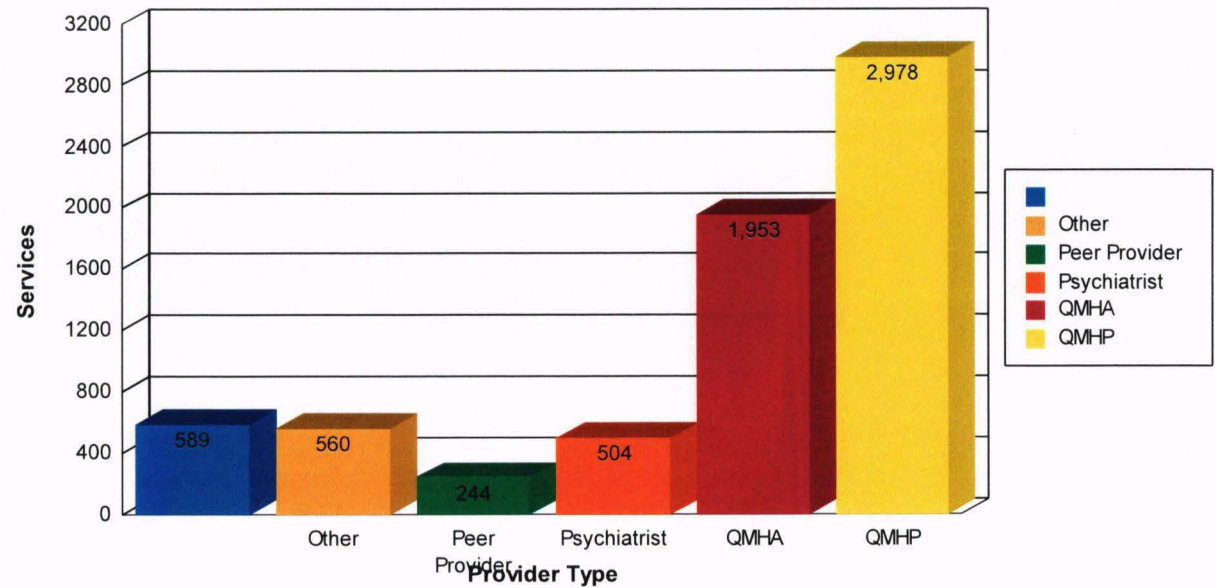
Report Period: Last Full Quarter
Date Range: 4/1/2021 to 6/30/2021

Place of Service



	Total
Hispanic	83 8.59%
Non-Hispanic	677 70.08%
Not Collected/Unknown	38 3.93%
Patient Refused	72 7.45%
Unknown	96 9.94%
Total	966 100.00%

Service Providers by Type





1400 Queen Ave SE • Suite 201 • Albany, OR 97322
(541) 967-8720 • FAX (541) 967-6123

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 24, 2021
TO: Benton County Commissioners
FROM: Ryan Vogt, Executive Director
RE: OCWCOG Updates

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development Updates:

CARES funding program is wrapping up with the final checks being disbursed. Eighteen projects were funded for a total of \$143,572. COG is sharing the projects featuring 2-4 each month in our email marketing, newsletter, and social media.

Benton County funded projects:

- Monroe: Economic Development Plan- creation of its first ever strategic 5-year Economic Development Plan. Total grant \$10,000.
- Corvallis: County Business Portal- to become the County's primary resource for businesses. Total grant \$4,270.

Funded projects benefitting Benton County:

- Halsey: Mid Valley Partners (MVP) Website - Define the geographic boundary of eight cities, values, goals, and objectives for economic resiliency in the MVP region. This info will be documented on a website with new branding that unifies all eight cities. Total grant \$10,000.
- Harrisburg: Tri City Business Expo-event will rotate between three cities (Junction City, Harrisburg, Monroe) in three counties on an annual basis. Total grant \$5,000.

Attending EDA American Rescue Plan webinars and helping disseminate the information in our region. Cascade West plans to be the lead on a Build Back Better grant for our region. We will be convening partners in the next few weeks.

Work on the Business Registry also continues including meeting with SOS office and Corvallis EDO to develop a Targeted Business Response and Recovery Measure.

RideLine Update:

- The number of rides increased, but have plateaued. This could be due to the concern of the Delta Variant. We are requiring all drivers to wear masks. There is no requirement from Oregon Health Authority on drivers having to be vaccinated. We do not have a number on how many drivers are vaccinated, since it falls under protected health information.

- Ride Line is currently recruiting a full-time Call Center position.
- Ride Line is currently looking for providers to add Wheelchair Vans to their fleets. We have a shortage of Wheelchair vehicle availability. We have reached out to providers in Lane and Marion Counties.

Cascades West Ride Line Statistics

April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020

Number of Trips	Number of Clients	Mode		
IHN				
7	7	Comm. Bus		
258	22	Lodging		
43	14	Meals		
8,977	400	Mileage		
2	1	Parking	36,294	Trips
36	34	Secure	32,104	Not Shared
21,350	1,844	Sedan	4,190	Shared
252	121	Stretcher		
5,369	639	Wheelchair		
36,294	3,082	Sub Total		
OHP				
44	4	Lodging		
2	2	Meals	1,497	Trips
726	32	Mileage	1,334	Not Shared
3	3	Secure	163	Shared
561	79	Sedan		
3	3	Stretcher		
158	22	Wheelchair		
1,497	145	Sub Total		

CAMPO

- The first round of public engagement for the 2043 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update happened in July with over a dozen attendees participating in the virtual open house. Staff are currently working on evaluating future scenarios and will be reaching out to the public again in October with more opportunities for input.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian counting on multi-use paths around the region. Staff are providing summary reports as they become available on CAMPO's website.

CWACT

- The Cascades West Area Commission on Transportation (CWACT) supported three projects for submission into ODOT's Enhance grant program, including an intersection improvement on Highway 20 in downtown Albany; a signal improvement projects on Highway 20 between Philomath and Corvallis; and an evacuation/signboard planning project in Lincoln County.

CED Transportation

- Significant advertising for OCWCOG's new CW Ride website, as well as the Linn Benton Loop expansion, is planned for this fall. Staff developed innovative and catchy marketing ideas to share information with students and the general public throughout September and October. If you see us out and about, feel free to stop by and say hi!
- Staff will soon begin work on a recently awarded STIF grant to design two new mobility hubs at Oregon State University and Linn Benton Community College.
- Staff will be collaborating with Benton and Yamhill counties on service planning for the 99W Transit pilot, which is estimated to begin in the fall of 2022. We are excited to continue work on this project which was originally written as the feasibility study for part of the 2019-2021 STIF grant cycle.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM

- Meals on Wheels (MOW)

	<i>Last three Months: April, May, and June 2021</i>			
	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>Subtotal</i>
Benton County Meals	3,403	3,260	3,536	10,199
Benton County Clients	169	171	162	-
Regional Meals	21,414	19,726	21,231	62,371
Regional Clients	1,130	1,116	1,094	-

Retired and Senior Volunteer Program volunteers shifted to a telecounsel model for its signature Medicare SHIBA counseling during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a return to the Corvallis Community Center (C3) earlier this month. The SHIBA team in Benton County counseled a total of 97 clients during the reporting period:

Benton County 4/1/2021 – 6/30/2021 – 97 total

97321 (N Albany) – 10

97324 (Alsea) - 3

97326 (Blodgett) – 2

97330 (Corvallis) – 60

97333 (Corvallis) – 13

97339 (Corvallis)– 2

97370 (Philomath) – 5

97456 (Monroe) – 2

SENIOR AND DISABILITY SERVICES

APS: total counts for branch 2211, Benton County

Month	Complaints	Community Investigations	Facility Investigations	Community Non-Abuse	Facility Non-Abuse
January	50	14	11	20	5
February	42	10	11	14	7
March	73	15	9	29	20
April	78	15	20	27	16
May	68	17	15	25	12
June	72	19	19	26	8
July	93	20	16	43	14
2021 TOTALS	476	110	101	184	82

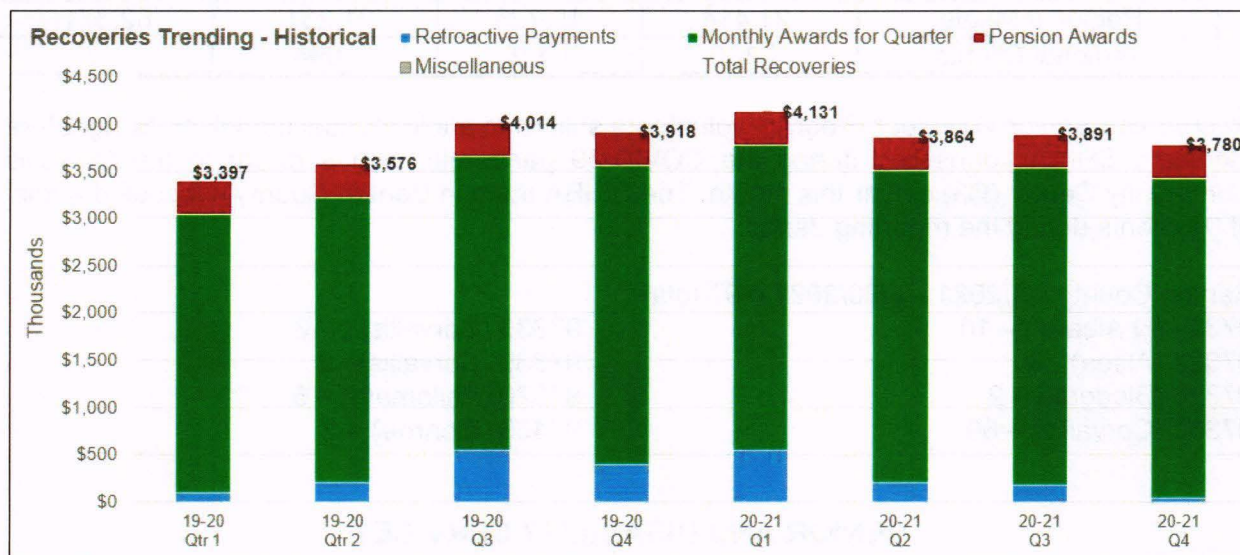
VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE QUARTERLY REPORT

This report covers Quarter 4 of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021, from April 1st through June 30th. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent safety measures implemented, the Corvallis office was closed to the public on March 23, 2020. All County Veteran Services Office (CVSO) staff were either deployed to work remotely or redeployed to an alternate office location.

All scheduled interviews with Veteran clients were moved to tele-interviews. As of this report, the office continues to conduct business remotely. It should also be noted that in response to COVID19 and social distancing guidelines, and a delay of records being updated by ODVA this quarter, it creates an image of our recoveries trending to be lower than normal.

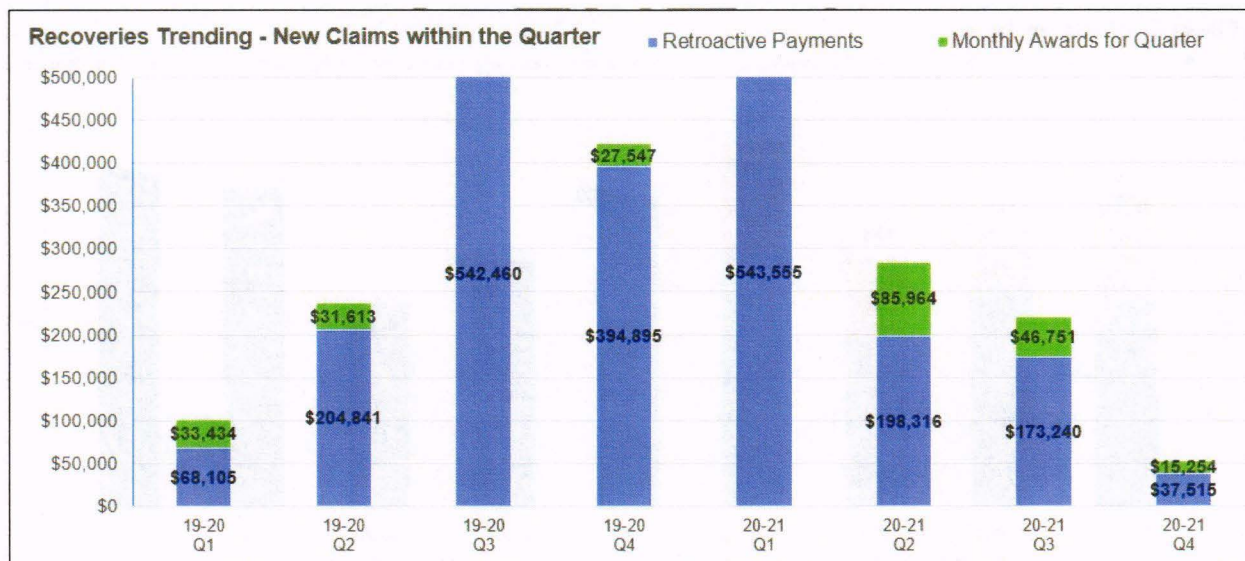
Recoveries:

Recoveries are the calculated amounts of Veterans Administration (VA) dollars paid direct to Veterans due to efforts of the CVSO. The chart below reflects all dollars coming into the County, updated as awards may be revised, or other information is received. Due to COVID19 and a delay of records being updated by ODVA, this quarter's numbers are not accurately reflected.



Legend: Pensions are income based and are awarded to Veterans or their surviving spouses. Compensation awards for service connected disabilities or as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), are paid to the survivors of Veterans who die from service connected conditions. Retroactive payments can be issued for compensation or pension payments, and are awarded when significant time passes between the effective date and the award date of the claim to bring the monies current. Miscellaneous includes burial, plot, Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), etc.

Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs (ODVA) requires reporting new dollars being brought into the County through monthly awards and retroactive awards made during the current reporting period only. The chart below reflects new quarter claims. Due to COVID19 and a delay of records being updated by ODVA, this quarter's numbers are not accurately reflected.

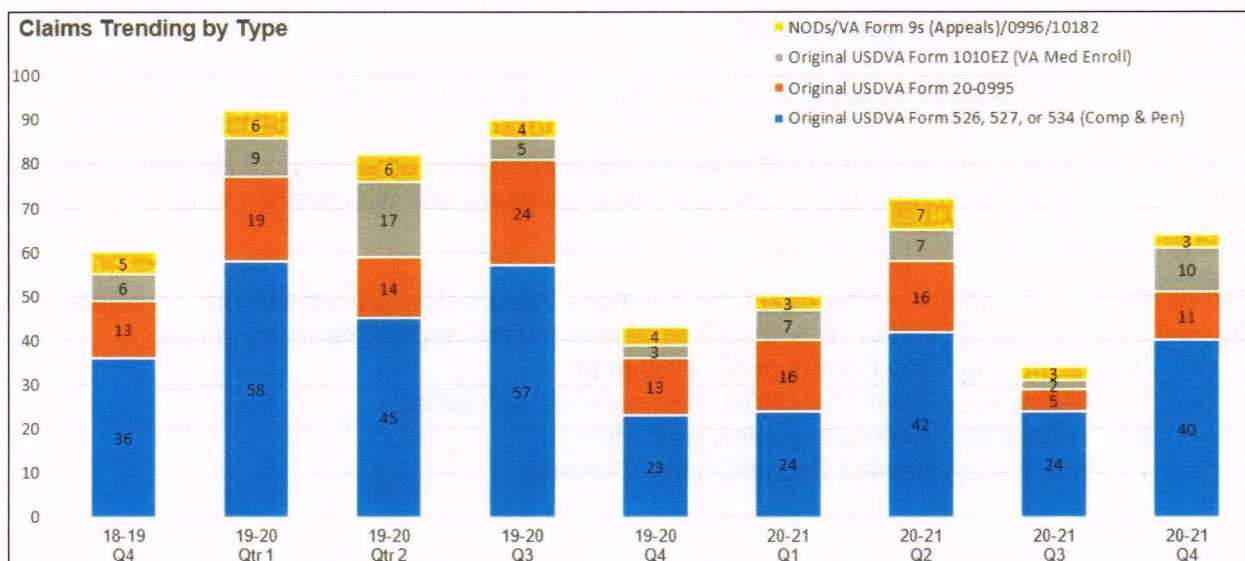


Monthly Awards for 19-20 Quarter 3: \$46,733

Monthly Awards for 20-21 Quarter 1: \$7,736

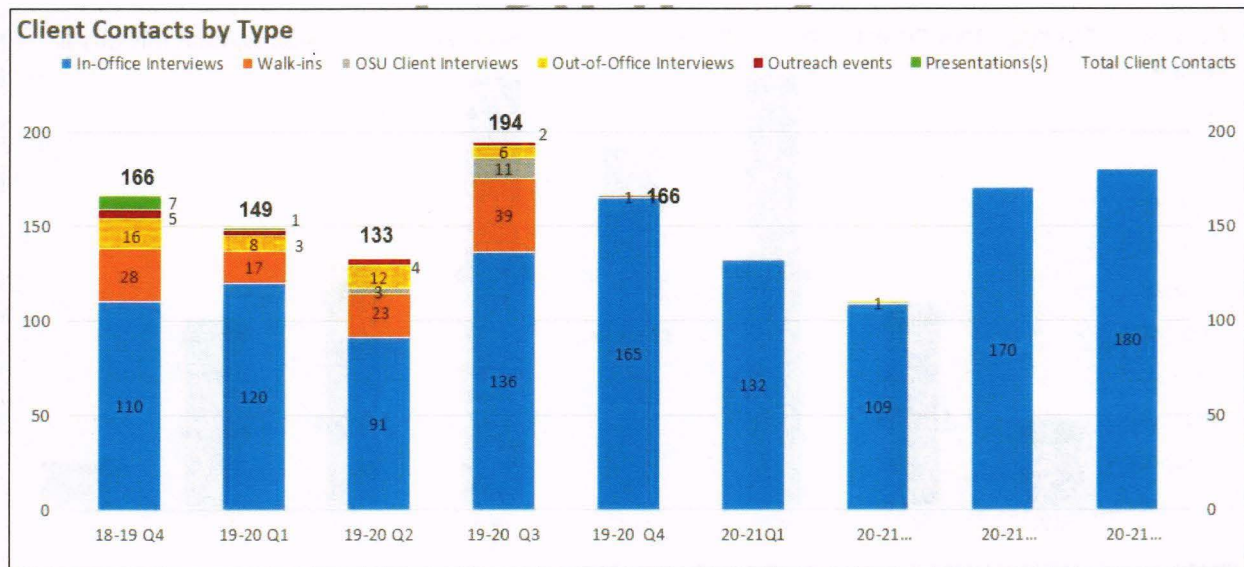
Claims

A total of 64 claims were filed over the Quarter. This decrease from previous quarters was expected due to COVID19 and the office moving to working remotely.



Interviews

A total of 180 client interviews were conducted over the quarter. VSO's conducted these 180 interviews over the phone working remotely. Although this is an increase from quarter 3, the decrease in total interviews this quarter is due to COVID19 and in person outreach, out of office, and OSU interviews being halted to comply with social distancing guidelines and for the safety of staff and clients.



While the physical office was closed mid-March in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, staff are still serving clients remotely. The number of calls for assistance remains steady, and support normally given to a walk-in client is now being delivered electronically (whether by phone or email), and will continue to be considered a “walk-in” contact point.

Outreach (Presentations and Events).

Presentations and events have been put on hiatus until Executive Order 20-21 is lifted.

In light of COVID19, the office and VSO Nelson have worked on other ways of reaching veterans in Benton County. The CVSO placed an ad in the local paper and will continue exploring ways to utilize Facebook.

Out-of-office outreach appointments at the locations listed below have been put on hiatus until Executive Order 20-12 is lifted. The CVSO continues to take appointments by phone.

- 1st Wednesday: Boy Scout Lodge, Philomath
- 2nd Wednesday: Snell Hall, OSU main campus, Corvallis
- 3rd Wednesday: American Legion Hall, Monroe
- 4th Wednesday: Hewlett Packard (HP), Corvallis

Service to Veterans

- Staff continue participation in Vet-Net and local Operation Welcome Home meetings as they are scheduled.
- VSO Nelson and Molly Murphy are coordinating with the *Older Adult Behavioral Health Initiative (OABHI)* team regarding collaborating on available resources for Veteran clients.
- In addition to claims support, the CVSO assisted Veteran clients with the following needs, providing referrals to other programs:

- ❖ Housing Assistance – 25;
- ❖ Medical and Dental Assistance – 15;
- ❖ Crisis Navigation – 4;
- ❖ Financial Assistance – 10; and
- ❖ Assistance with other Benefits – 60.

Training

- ODVA Regional Training – Curtis, Linda, Molly
- Mental Health First Aid Adults and Veterans Instructor training – Curtis and Molly
- Trauma Informed Care Training – Curtis and Molly
- Death and Loss Response Training – Curtis and Molly
- Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day Symposium – Curtis and Molly
- NVLSP Webinars – Curtis, Linda, Molly