

9-30-2013

Judge Thompson called the Tri-County Court meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. at the OSU Extension/Experiment Station- Moro, Oregon.

Judge Thompson noted this meeting was advertised as Tri-County Court meeting. This Tri-County Court includes Sherman, Gilliam and Wheeler Counties: these entities have met quarterly for the past five years. We review and discuss pertinent issues which affect our three counties.

Tri-County Court Members Present:

Gilliam County: Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar

Wheeler County: Judge Chris Perry, Commissioner Ann Mitchell

Sherman County: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Mike Smith, Commissioner Tom McCoy

Other Present:

Gary Peterson-Columbia Gorge ESD, Barb Seatter- MCCFL, Steve Kramer- Wasco County, Will Carey-Sherman, Gilliam and Frontier Telenet Legal Counsel, Tyler Stone- Wasco County, Amber DeGrange-Sherman County Juvenile Director, Molly Rogers- Wasco County Juvenile Director, Matthew Solomon-Mid-Columbia Children's Council, Julie Ryan-The Next Door, Trish Elliott-Hood River County Health District, Joella Dethman- Hood River County, Karen Joplin-Hood River Commissioner, Teddy Fennern-Gilliam County, David Meriweather-Hood River County, Teri Thalhofer RN BSN NCPHD, Trudy Townsend-North Wasco County school District, Candy Armstrong-NWCSD #21, Doreen Hotchkiss-Mid-Columbia Children's Council, Nancy Patten-Child Care Partners-CGCC, Dan Spatz-CGCC, Melva Thomas-Sherman County, Marla Davies-Gilliam County

IN THE MATTER OF EARLY LEARNING HUB

Projected Budget for the ELC Hub for the five Counties was presented by Joella Dethman using last year's five county Commission on Children and Families allocations from Healthy Start; Children, Youth and Families; Great Start and Family Preservation Services. There will also be a one-time Hub start up allowance of \$50,000. Noting these amounts are assuming the allocation will remain as they were last year. Healthy Start funds are the only funds received at this time and they are the same as last year.

Teri Thalhofer stated the Early Learning Council/Hub is not a replacement for the Commission on Children and Families. The State expects Hub to allocate funds, providers are to take the available funds and make sure targeted children are ready to learn when entering kindergarten.

Discussion on the ELC Hub Governance Board appointees:

- Limit Early Learning providers on Board: concerns with providers being on board may have conflict of interest, not best interest of program and children being served.
- All five counties have a representative appointed by the County Court or Board of Commissioners.
- Importance of Board flexibility, important to keep the board small enough to do business as needed.

Judge Shaffer made a motion the Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Board consist of eleven members: Five representatives designated by the governing structures of each county, and a representative from the designated sectors: K-12 Education, Early Childhood Services, Healthcare, Business, Social Services and Parents and Families. Judge Chris Perry – seconded.

Discussion:

- This governance structure had an addition of Parents/Families representative.
- Noted concerns on getting too large of a Board, unable to accomplish duties.
- Area served by two Coordinated Care Organizations: could there be a collaborative seat, not a governance seat possibility.
- Commissioner Joplin asked for an additional Board position for the fiscal agent.
- How all entities: Education Service District, Community College and Child Care Referral are involved in the Early Learning Hub.
- Importance of setting bylaws which may be amended as needed

Commissioner Tom McCoy made an amendment to Judge Steve Shaffer's' motion providing an additional fiduciary seat position on the Early Learning Hub. Commissioner Ann Mitchell - second.

Yes vote: 4

No vote: 3

Amendment passed

Judge Steve Shaffer made the amended motion: Four Rivers Early Learning Hub Board consist of eleven with the option of twelve members: Five representatives designated by the governing structures of each county, and a representative from the designated sectors: K-12 Education, Early Childhood Services, Healthcare, Business, Social Services and Parents and Families.

Motion passed unanimously.

Judge Chris Perry moved to have Sherman County be the fiscal entity and responsible signer for the Four River's Early Learning hub as the region responds to the application. It is further moved that the governing board create a process to take applications and select a permanent fiscal agency within the first year. Commissioner Tom McCoy – second.

Discussion:

- Sherman County would provide the fiduciary services to get the Hub application submitted on time.
- Columbia Gorge Community College could become the fiduciary agent within the year.
- Columbia Gorge Community College and Sherman County both agree not to take the 15% administration fees, all funds will go for direct service.
- Sherman feels current staff could assume ELC Hub duties, if not they are willing to contract service.
- In the event the employee providing ELC Hub duties was laid off, the Hub would be held harmless for unemployment compensation benefits.
- Importance of point person to insure accountability of data, reports and funds.
- Importance of getting application completed and turned in by the deadline: Board will take control of operation when application is approved.

Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on the budget process for application submission occurred.

Collaborative partner meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2013 and will be held in Moro, Oregon. Columbia Gorge Community College has provided a PSA and ads for the meetings. Everyone was asked to send out meeting information stressing importance of collaborative input and participation.

#### IN THE MATTER OF AOC MEETING

AOC District 3 will be meeting at the Washington Family Young Life Farm in Antelope, Oregon on Thursday, October 3, 2013 from 10:00-2:00. Wasco County will be hosting lunch.

## IN THE MATTER OF FRONTIER TELENET UPDATE

Judge Chris Perry opened the conversation regarding the state reimbursed funds for the Frontier Digital Switch 190, which is made up of the three counties. The three Judges are on the Board and are responsible for the Digital Switch. Discussion on Frontier Digital Switch 190 obtaining a checking account so funds could be accessed and used to pay Motorola invoices.

It was noted Frontier Telenet consist of the three counties and North Central ESD and the board meets quarterly. Frontier Telenet includes the entire communication system including 911 emergency services.

Judge Chris Perry reported fiber has been installed from Clarno to Antelope: Clarno to Camp Hancock and to Washington Family Young Life Ranch. Discussion on getting fiber to Wheeler County which could be funded with a USDA Rural Infrastructure grant.

Judge Steve Shaffer reported Antelope will have a one hundred and twenty foot tower installed, which can be upgraded to a two hundred foot tower as needed. Noting the Digital Switch and this tower could potentially cover Deschutes, Grant and Malheur counties for 911 and other services.

Fiber maintenance agreements were discussed.

## IN THE MATTER OF FLY ZONE

Judge Steve Shaffer has been trying to set up a meeting with Navy representative Rick McCartel to discuss the fly zone and existing/future windmills. The Navy is asking for ground up ownership of an eight mile strip through Gilliam/Sherman County.

Legal Counsel Will Carey reported the Navy has no legal claim to maintain flyway without providing compensation.

## IN THE MATTER OF RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD

Representative Greg Smith is looking for support for an initiative to change renewable energy to include existing hydro power. It was noted the tribes will be included in the upcoming treaty discussions regarding the Columbia River, and hydro power rates may be increased substantially.

Discussion on energy alternatives and effects on rates for the area occurred. It was noted electric companies should look at energy diversification.

## IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY COLLEGE

Judge Steve Shaffer and Commissioner Ann Mitchell have graduated County College; Tom McCoy also attended County College. Everyone agreed it was a good learning experience and provided necessary relationship building with other County representatives.

IN THE MATTER OF NORCOR UPDATE

Norcor has implemented video visitation at the facility: This saves staff time and reduces drug or other contraband being brought into jail.

IN THE MATTER OF NEXT MEETING

The next Tri-County Court meeting will be held in December 2013 in Gilliam County. All parties will be notified of date and time.

No further discussion items Judge Thompson closed the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Gilliam County Court

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge, Steve Shaffer

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Absent \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner, Dennis Gronquist

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Commissioner, Michael Weimar