

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd. Portland, Oregon
Thursday, September 8, 2011**

REGULAR MEETING

Chair Jeff Cogen convened the meeting at 9:33 a.m. with Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioners Loretta Smith, Judy Shiprack, and Diane McKeel present.

Also attending were Henry Lazenby, Jr., County Attorney, and Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk.

CONSENT AGENDA

- C.1 BUDGET MODIFICATION # DCJ-02 Reclasses a New 1.00 FTE Marriage & Family Counselor Associate to a Program Coordinator in Family Court Services, as Determined by the Class/Comp Unit of Central Human Resource.
- C.2 RESOLUTION No. 2011-105 Appointing Larry Ellis as Ex-officio Representative to Serve on the PDX Community Advisory Committee for the Port of Portland.

Upon motion made by Commissioner Shiprack and seconded by Vice-Chair Kafoury, the consent calendar was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Opportunity for Public Comment on non-agenda matters. Testimony limited to three minutes per person unless otherwise designated by the presiding officer.

Public testimony was given and received for the record.

REGULAR AGENDA

- R.1 **Briefing on Winter Shelter Services for Families Experiencing Homelessness. Sponsor: Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury, D-1. Presenters: Mary Li, Division Manager, Community Services; Jean DeMaster, Executive Director, Human Solutions; Rev. Kate Lore, Social Justice Minister, First Unitarian Church of Portland; Brandi Tuck, Portland Homeless Family Solutions; Troy Hammond, 211 Info; and Marc Jolin, JOIN.**

Ms. Li provided the introduction. Ms. DeMaster acknowledged the hard work of all seven partner agencies represented today. She explained that these partnerships help create a more unified and coordinated system, with less overlap of services. This system provides 18,034 nights of shelter; houses 112 families; serves 218 households; and directs 1,538 families who call 211. She thanked the volunteers who contributed

25,217 hours, which is the equivalent of more than 12 FTE, or \$302k at \$12/hour. Additionally, these partnerships provide families with a warm, safe, and dry shelter and ensure that no families are turned away all winter; school-aged children remain in school; families are matched with appropriate services to overcome specific problems and are provided with public health benefits.

Rev. Lore said she believes the four most important things are: 1) that our community is suffering in ways unseen since the Great Depression; 2) homeless families must be provided a safe place until they can be placed in housing; 3) In this time of incredible polarization anything that bridge divides is important; and, 4) the programs in place are working and successful. She thanked the Board for their continued support in building this partnership.

Ms. Tuck spoke about the services Portland Homeless Family Solutions provides. She said that 85% of the families they aided this year have been placed in permanent housing in an average of three weeks. She thanked the Board and partners for their support.

Mr. Hammond said that 211*info*'s role as an initial point of contact that connects the people with the community resources they need and she would present more in the second briefing.

Mr. Jolin explained that JOIN's primary role in this partnership is to provide street outreach, housing placement and retention support to families who are not accessing the shelters that are part of the partnership. The flexible rent assistance that the Board allocated to this partnership allows them to make the most of their shelter beds, staffing capacity, and ensure that families move through their system and back into permanent housing as quickly as possible. Over the past year, the partnership has been able to move 112 additional families into permanent housing with the flexible rent assistance. He thanked the Board for their investment in this partnership.

The presenters responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked them for their presentation and hard work.

R.2 Briefing on 211 Info Quarterly Report and Service Update. Sponsor: Vice-Chair Kafoury. Presenters: Liesl Wendt, CEO and Alison Lord, Community Information Center Specialist - 211info; and, Susan Stoltenberg, Exec. Director - Impact NW.

Vice-Chair Kafoury provided the introduction. Ms. Wendt showed a video and then explained the services 211*info* provides. 2-1-1 is a phone number that connects people to health and community services. In Multnomah County, 211 receives about 6,000 calls each month from individuals looking for housing, utility support, food, mental health, addiction support, employment, personal needs, etc. She spoke about the scope of their work and the data they collected about current needs in the community. The top caller needs are housing and utilities, for which 211 received 28,747 calls in a year. Other needs include health care; food and meals; legal, consumer and public safety; individual, family

and community services; mental health and addiction; income support and assistance; clothing, personal and household needs; and transportation.

Ms. Wendt spoke about unmet needs, which are needs for which there isn't a service in the County, or a service that is tapped out. These unmet needs include rent and energy assistance, dental care, and requests for low-cost burial services. They are working to capture this information and share it with funders and/or stakeholders who are interested in where those specific gaps in the community are and what could be done about them.

Ms. Lord spoke about her experience and daily challenges answering 211 calls for the past five years. She explained that due to the recent economic situation, her job isn't only to direct callers to the appropriate services, but to engage them in realistic and creative problem solving for situations where no services are immediately available.

Ms. Stoltenberg spoke about the energy assistance cooperative project, which has made the distribution of financial assistance more efficient.

Ms. Wendt spoke about their increasing use and benefits of social media as an outreach mechanism. She thanked the Board and 211's partners for their collaboration.

Following questions and discussion, the Board thanked them for their presentation.

R.3 BUDGET MODIFICATION # NOND 12-01 Requesting General Fund Contingency Transfer of \$258,420 to Program Offer #25135 Community Services Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Victims' System of Care. Sponsor: Commissioner McKeel. Presenters: Mary Li, Division Manager, Community Services & Invited Guests.

Commissioner McKeel moved and Commissioner Shiprack seconded approval of R.3.

Commissioner McKeel discussed the County's mission to prioritize vulnerable populations in the community. She explained that this system of care for children who are commercially sexually exploited will provide highly intensive and population-specific services necessary to conduct successful intervention. Ms. Li explained that these funds will be used to contract for long-term, congregate care for children who have been victimized by commercial sexual exploitation. These services will be part of the comprehensive housing continuum developed within the overall System of Care for these children.

Commissioner Smith asked the dollar amount that is currently being asked of the Board and in the future. Ms. Li responded that this year, their request is \$258,420 from contingency funding, and they anticipate coming back with a program offer in the normal budget process and requesting \$410k. Commissioner Smith asked whether the \$410k will be the ongoing cost of the program, which Ms. Li affirmed. Chair Cogen asked if the \$410k is based on an assumption that other funding will come in. Ms. Li responded that

it assumes that they will receive at least \$100k from community-based fund-raising or from Federal grants.

Public Testimony was given and received for the record.

The Commissioners discussed the fact this is the only local housing for human trafficking victims, the vital need for these services, and, the difficulties of serving the needs of the victims without better levels of funding.

Chair Cogen explained his concerns, given the \$12 million in budget cuts the County is facing in a week and ongoing fiscal responsibilities that must be considered in the larger context of the budget. He explained that although he supports these services and would consider them in the future, he will be voting "no" today.

Commissioner Smith asked for a confirmation that the Board is voting on the \$258,420 that's already put aside in contingency, not the full \$410k that Ms. Li said is the ongoing cost of the program. Chair Cogen affirmed this amount, adding that he believes this implies that the Board is planning on making an ongoing commitment, not just nine months.

Commissioner Shiprack said she plans on voting "yes" for this BudMod because she believes this to be a priority service. She stated her vote means a long-term commitment to support this program, as it would be unreasonable to establish a service and then discontinue it.

Vice-Chair Kafoury explained her concerns and said she will be voting "no" today. Although this issue is very important to her and the rest of the Board, she believes it would be irresponsible for her to vote for a program they might not be able to fund long-term. This program wasn't proposed during the regular budget process with an outline of where the long-term funding will come from, so further discussion needs to be held about where cuts will be made to fund these services. She thanked those who worked on this issue for their commitment and hard work.

BudMod NOND12-01 was approved (3-2).

R.4 RESOLUTION Declaring the Wikman Building, 4402 SE 64th Ave., Portland, Oregon, as Surplus Property and Authorizing Facilities and Property Management Division to Commence the Surplus Property Process. Presenter: Colleen Bowles, Interim Dir., FPM; Mike Sublett, FPM Strategic Projects.

Commissioner Shiprack moved and Vice-Chair Kafoury seconded approval of R.4.

Ms. Bowles and Mr. Sublett provided the explanation and responded to Board questions and comments. It has been determined that this property is no longer required for county use now or in the future. It is a 5,600 square foot commercial property on 8,000

square foot lot zoned Storefront Commercial in Lents Town Center Urban Renewal Area and was used by DCJ, which has been relocated and leaves the building vacant. The Director recommends the property be declared surplus.

Ms. Bowles said public notice will commence upon the Board's approval and public comment will be solicited. FPM will prepare a report to the Board, as specified under the Surplus Property Process, no later than 45 days from the date public input is due. Operating costs were \$36,154 in FY 2011. Assessed Value in 2010 was \$505,340.

Resolution No. 2011-106 was unanimously approved.

BOARD COMMENT

BC.1 Opportunity as time allows, for the Commissioners to provide comment on non-agenda items.

No comments were made.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Submitted by:
Lynda J. Grow, Board Clerk and
Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County