

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 00-063

Acceptance of the Report of Mental Health Task Force; Creation of a Design Team to Pursue Implementation Priorities

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Improving mental health services to children, adults, and their families is a priority of the Board of County Commissioners.
- b. Last June, the Chair appointed a Task Force on Mental Health. The Mental Health Task Force and the response to the Task Force from the Department of Community and Family Services provide a wealth of specific ideas and background to pursue improved mental health services for Multnomah county residents. These documents are recognized as the starting point for system change.
- c. Active involvement from the Governor, the State of Oregon behavioral health officials, and neighboring counties, and financial support from the State Department of Human Services and the State Legislature will be crucial for long term system improvements.

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

1. The Chair will appoint a Special Assistant to the Chair for Mental Health Services. The Special Assistant to the Chair will report directly to the Chair and be responsible for assuring that we make progress in system accountability, redesign, advocacy, and service quality. The Special Assistant will work with multiple County Departments, state agencies, consumers, provider agencies, family members and other stakeholders.
2. The Chair will appoint a Design Team, lead by the Special Assistant, to work with county, state, and community personnel to develop short and long term action plans to improve County mental health services.
3. The Design Team will form workgroups to deal with specific issues identified by the Mental Health Task Force, consumers, providers, family members, and other stakeholders. One workgroup will focus on mental health services for children, including early childhood and school-age children. The Special Assistant will provide to the Chair and the Board action items designed to improve systems management and delivery of services. The Design Team will develop plans to improve the delivery of mental health services including the following operational dimensions - improving quality of services, improving access to care,

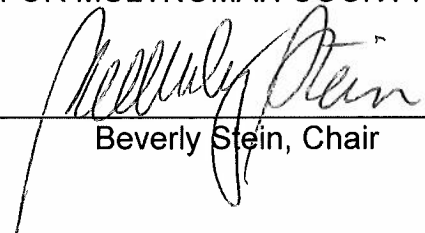
accountability, financial systems, reducing administrative costs, and improving data systems.

4. The Design Team will prepare the County to respond to the State's planned Request for Proposals in the fall of 2001 for the provision of mental health services in Multnomah County.
5. The Design Team will develop a legislative strategy in conjunction with the Association of Oregon Counties, which has adopted mental health as a legislative priority, and with the Governor's Task Force on Mental Health.
6. The Chair will work with the Special Assistant to develop a proposal with the State to use the \$1,500,000 that the Emergency Board reserved for Multnomah County use. The funds will be used to promote system changes and improvements over the next fourteen months. The Chair and Board will continue their advocacy with the Oregon Legislature for additional funding for the mental health system.
7. The Chair has included in her Executive Budget a proposal for an \$800,000 increase in mental health services for Multnomah County residents for 2000-2001. These funds come from the General Fund, the managed care funds from the state currently in reserve, and administrative cost savings. This appropriation is designed to address the need to stabilize clients currently in supported housing, reduce caseloads of chronically and severely mentally ill clients, and implement improvements in the children's mental health system.

ADOPTED this 4th day of May, 2000.

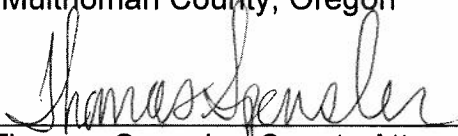


BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:

Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney
For Multnomah County, Oregon

By 
Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney