

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners  
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100  
501 SE Hawthorne, Portland, Oregon  
Thursday, November 15, 2012**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Chair Jeff Cogen called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. with Vice-Chair Loretta Smith and Commissioners Deborah Kafoury, Judy Shiprack and Diane McKeel present.

Also attending were Matthew O. Ryan, Assistant County Attorney, and Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- C.1 RESOLUTION No. 2012-194 Directing Payment of Deferred Taxes on Tax Foreclosed Property to the Department of Revenue as Required under ORS 311.694.
- C.2 BUDGET MODIFICATION DCHS13-08 Reclassification of a Vacant full-time Program Coordinator Position to an Administrative Analyst in Aging and Disability Services.
- C.3 NOTICE OF INTENT to Submit an Application to the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) for up to \$5,000 to Engage in Activities for a Pilot Project to Analyze Birth Records from the Oregon Health Authority Vital Statistics Office.
- C.4 NOTICE OF INTENT to Submit an Application for \$50,000 to the Northwest Kaiser Permanente Special Initiative Grant Fund.

Upon motion made by Vice-Chair Smith and seconded by Commissioner 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.

Testimony was given and received for the record.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

- R.1 BRIEFING on Services for Addressing Mental Health and Substance Use Concerns with Transition Age Homeless Youth. Sponsor: Commissioner Shiprack. Presenters: Mary Li, Div. Mgr.; Dennis Morrow, Janus Youth

**Programs; Heather Brown, Outside Inn; Tim Sessions, Portland Police Bureau & Other Invited Guests.**

Commissioner Shiprack provided the opening remarks. Ms. Li discussed the history of Project Metamorphosis, which provides outreach, screening and assessment, peer mentoring, recovery-oriented activities, and support groups for over 276 homeless youth annually. Due to compression impact on the Portland Children's Levy, this program lost its funding. In response, the Board approved a budget note during the FY 2012-13 budget process which created the Homeless Youth Oversight Committee, which met with stakeholders and interested parties from July through September 2012 and put together recommendations on the Optimal System of Care to support mental health and addictions treatment for homeless youth. In FY 2012-13, pass-through funds for the project increased by \$265k and in FY 2014, the Board will decide on further funding.

Ms. Li gave an overview of the Optimal System of Care, its elements, desired outcomes and recommendation to address gaps in the system. These recommendations include: establishing consistent coordination for effective referral and/or connection to inpatient/outpatient treatment, detox, mental health crisis response, psychiatric hospitalization, and courts, probation and parole; collaboration with current providers to identify and evaluate barriers to treatment access and engagement in the mainstream treatment system; increase cultural competency of treatment programs in serving homeless transition-age youth; increase utilization of currently available mental health resources including Multnomah Treatment Fund for uninsured individuals; and access potential benefits of health care transformation for homeless youth.

The invited guests spoke about their organizations' collaboration with Project Metamorphosis and efforts to address youth homelessness and provide mental health and addiction treatment.

The presenters responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked them for the presentation.

**R.2 Authorizing the County Attorney to Join in a Lawsuit Against the Mortgage Electronic Registration System, Inc. ("MERS") and Member Banks. Presenters: Matthew Ryan, Assistant County Attorney & Thomas D'Amore.**

Commissioner Kafoury moved and Vice-Chair Smith seconded approval of R.2.

Mr. Ryan explained that the County Attorney's Office is seeking Board approval to partner with outside counsel to bring a lawsuit against Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems (MERS) and member banks for damages and injunctive relief for failure to properly record mortgage transfers with the County. If approved, the County is responsible for costs capped at \$20k incurred in the litigation. Expenditures of over \$1,500 must first be approved by the County Attorney. Outside counsel is taking the case on a contingency basis and any available fees would only be payable as a percentage of damages recovered in the litigation.

Mr. D'Amore explained that MERS is a privately held company that serves as a registry to electronically track ownership of mortgage loans nationally for the convenience of large financial institutions. MERS allows these banks to transfer loans by circumventing public recording offices and lists themselves as the holder of a mortgage on County land records, instead of the banks. This not only corrupts the County title records, but also allows for mortgages to be bought and sold numerous times without a recording fee being paid each time. It has also led to confusion about true ownership of mortgages. This lawsuit will call upon the recovery of County recording fees dodged by MERS and the reform of the system that has allowed this to occur.

Public comment was provided and received for the record.

The Chair and Board spoke in favor of pursuing litigation against MERS.

The request for authorization was unanimously approved.

**R.3 Board Briefing on Mobile Devices - Management and Accountability. Presenters: Steve March, County Auditor with Judith DeVilliers & Nicole Dewees, Auditors Office.**

Dr. March provided the opening remarks. Ms. DeVilliers explained that this audit included all County mobile devices, except the Sheriff and County Attorney's Offices, since Telecom doesn't manage their mobile devices. The analyzed usage data focused on the January through March, 2012 billing periods. In FY 2012, the County spent \$1.2M on mobile device plans, which doesn't include the cost of Telecom, IT security and Helpdesk staff, or the 186 telecom liaisons.

Ms. Dewees explained that the County could have saved over \$300k in FY 2012 by adopting the following recommendations: (1) Provide stronger central management of costs and choices for mobile devices; (2) Create stronger controls for losses and security of devices; (3) Evaluate and document employee needs for mobile devices; (4) Monitor usage and reassess ongoing business needs; and, (5) Contract for outside services to assist in management of mobile devices and plans.

Chair Cogen spoke to the changes already implemented in response to the audit findings and measures taken to address the other concerns.

The presenters responded to Board questions and comments. The Board thanked them for their work on the audit.

**R.4 Deferred Compensation Plan Presentation. Presenter: Susie Cameron, Deferred Comp Administrator.**

Ms. Cameron explained that the purpose of this presentation is to bring the Board up to date on changes to the County's Deferred Compensation Plan implemented over the last few years. She spoke about the history of the plan and objectives the Deferred

Compensation Committee wants to meet, including: increase in employee participation; increase of plan awareness; going green; reducing administrative workload; improving investment options and reducing fees. In 1991, the Committee sent out an RFP (Request for Proposal) and the providers chosen were Hartford, ING, and Advantis CU. In 2011, the Committee decided to solicit bids again, and out of six proposals, they chose ING as the primary investment provider and Advantis CU as the secondary provider.

Ms. Cameron stated that enhancements to the plan include a custom website where participants can access their account information and make changes to allocations and contribution levels; EZ enrollment, which speeds up the enrollment process; and a shift to provider handling of hardship withdrawals to reduce the County's administrative workload and improve participant confidentiality. Other improvements include the addition of Roth accounts, Self-Directed Brokerage accounts, and auto enrollment for Local 88 new hires. The Committee will continue working with Labor Relations to expand the auto enrollment program to other bargaining units and will continue to offer educational opportunities to employees. She responded to Board questions and comments.

The Board thanked Ms. Cameron for the presentation.

**R.5 Briefing on Facilities Asset Strategic Plan. Presenters: Sherry Swackhamer, DCA Director; Michael Bowers, FPM Director; Peggidy Coffman Yates, FPM Strategic Planning Manager; Scott Rose, Principal DLR Group.**

Chair Cogen announced that this item has been postponed indefinitely.

### **BOARD COMMENT**

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

Comments pertaining to non-agenda items were made by the Board and noted in the record.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

**The minutes reflect the actions of the Board. For more detail, you are welcome to view the presentation material and/or video at:**

**[http://multnomah.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view\\_id=3](http://multnomah.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3)**

Submitted by:

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