

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2020

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Ainsworth declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session. Commissioner Pope and Commissioner Mordhorst were Present.
2. **MINUTES:** **COMMISSIONER MORDHORST MOVED, COMMISSIONER POPE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 1, 2020**

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Jacqui Umstead, Public Health Administrator, review the COVID-19 case data from the most recent review period for Oregon overall as well as Polk and Marion County. Oregon currently has a total of 85,788 COVID-19 cases and 1,045 deaths. Oregon overall has a test positivity rate is 8.3%, Marion County is 12.3%, and Polk County is at 10.9% for the 22nd of November through December 5th. .

Polk County currently has 1,461 COVID-19 cases, 8 people in the hospital and a total of 24 deaths. Positive cases who are currently isolating is 124. Marion County currently has 10,491 cases, 5 hospitalizations and 165 deaths.

Long term care facility, Windsong at Eola Hills still has a total of 11 cases, Capital Manor has a total of 6 cases, Heron Pointe has a 14 case, Jefferson Lodge has 46 positive cases, Dallas Retirement Village has 6 cases, Marquis Spa Corp. has 12 positive cases, and Truitt Bros. has 6 positive cases. Salem Health has a total of 95 positive staff as of the 12/2 OHA weekly report. This number represents the total number of positive cases since they started reporting.

Commissioner Ainsworth wants to know what is meant when OHA reports that somebody who had underlying conditions. Ms. Umstead stated that it can mean a variety of things but it is usually referring to any diseases that would put them at higher risk from having a worse outcome from COVID-19 such as cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease or diabetes.

WOU is still managing all of Polk County's contact tracing and 269 people are currently being monitored for symptoms. Public Health is still recruiting for some Public Health Workers to help with COVID response. One RN has resigned and staffing will have to be shifted in order to cover what she was doing. OHA is still providing case investigation support which has been very helpful. The data system that they do all of their case investigations has improved and is running better than it was.

There are two planning free testing events in Polk County, one on December 10th and another on the 29th. There are three CBO's that will be helping by providing volunteers and the state will come to do the testing. CBO's state Coordinator is working on scheduling a meeting with all of the CBO's that can do contact tracing in order to review the workflow. They will test as many people as they can in the 3 hour period. Funding is an obstacle for 2021 because it is unknown if the state will be supporting it or not. Public Health is still working with West Valley Hospital in order to provide testing to those who don't have access to it otherwise.

Oregon had a positivity rate of 7.9% during the weeks of November 15th through the 28th and there were 406.7 cases per 100,000 people. In Polk County during that time there were 358 cases and the case rate per 100,000 people was 431.6 making Polk County one of 25 counties who are in the extreme risk category. The case positivity rate in Polk County during that time was 10%.

The percent of emergency department visits for COVID-19 like illness during this review period in Polk County was 4.8%. Hospital admissions of COVID-19 cases during the week of November 22nd was 298 for Oregon and 6 for Polk County. The percent of COVID-19 cases with follow up initiated within 24 hours was 96%. The percent of COVID-19 cases traced to a known source was 63%.

Marion County is also in the extreme risk category after the review period from November 15th through November 28th. Marion County had 1,713 cases which is 492.6 cases per 100,000 people. That gives Marion County a positivity rate for that time period 10.3%. The percent of emergency department visits for COVID-19 like illness in Marion County during the week of November 22nd was 4.8%. Hospital admissions for Marion County during that time were 40. The percent of COVID-19 cases with follow up initiated within 24 hours was 10% and the percent of cases traced to a known source was 50.3%.

Due to the cases per 100,000 and the case positivity rate the school are not able to return to in person instruction yet. For onsite learning we need to have a case rate of less than 50 per 100,000 and less than a 5% positivity rate. They could do hybrid learning we would need between 5-8% with a case rate of 50-100 cases per 100,000 people.

Commissioner Pope stated that there was an announcement from Salem Health that they are canceling all elective surgeries that require an overnight visit. Ms. Umstead stated that because hospitals have to move staff to cover COVID-19 that leaves less staff to cover things that are elective. Commissioner Pope, Ms. Umstead and West Valley Hospital staff has been meeting bi-weekly to consider any collaboration between the hospital system and the county with regard to how we can work more closely to get community messaging out. They have also been discussing cost for the test and how we can help consumers access their charity care program for testing and vaccination.

4. SHERIFF OFFICE UPDATE

Sheriff Mark Garton stated that jail numbers have been increasing slightly and was going well until one person tested positive. They are still limiting their bookings to mandatory arrests or a misdemeanors and above. Patrol is still busy which is not new because call volume has been high for a while now. There has been a slight uptake in crashes all throughout the county. All jail deputies are out of training now and there is one person in patrol that is in FTEP training. The two new recent hires have been on their own for about two weeks now. Sheriff stated that they will be hiring one lateral position starting January 1st who is already a certified Police Officer. Sheriff and Jennifer Lief, Health Services Division Manager, have been talking about how to move forward with the Mobile Crisis Response Team in terms of funding and how much other agencies charge to ensure that they are all consistent. The program itself is going very well.

The average length of stay in the jail is 15 days and the average daily population for November is 84. 11% of the total calls for the MCRT in September and October ended up in a mental health facility, 5% went to jail and 40% of those calls were referred for services. These numbers show that the program is doing what it is supposed to be doing. Commissioner Mordhorst stated that business in West Salem have seen a reduction in the homeless issues with regards to shoplifting. Sheriff Garton stated that they talked with Salem PD about those issues and they changed some of their processes because they had misunderstood what Polk County process was. Salem PD are being more active in the area and bringing more people over and will be held depending on what the courts decide.

Commissioner Pope thanked the Sheriff for posting something about driving behaviors on the county roads especially in regards to the weather advisory meeting they had recently. Commissioner Pope believes it is important for County leadership to keep reminding drivers that practicing safe driving habits will save lives.

Commissioner Ainsworth expressed his empathy for how difficult it must be to be in law enforcement right now. He recognized how frustrating it must be for a Deputy to arrest somebody and go through all of the paperwork and then have the case be declined by the DA's office. Sheriff Garton stated that each entity has its own bandwidth and that is the message that he tries to send to his troops and for them to not let things like that deter them from continuing to do everything they can. Commissioner Ainsworth thanks the troops for everything they do and they hard work they put in.

5. FACT TEAM UPDATE

Jody Merritt, Community Corrections Director, and Jennifer Lief, Health Services Division Manager, discussed a new program called F-ACT. Ms. Lief stated that Behavioral Health has had challenges working with some individuals in the community who they haven't had the ability to provide them with wraparound services. These individuals don't always qualify for the number of programs that are available. Forensic Assertive Community Treatment's (F-ACT) goal is to serve the population that are often homeless, mentally ill, multiple hospitalizations, high arrest rates, etc. and for staff to locate people and work with them. These are the people who won't respond to traditional treat and sit in the group meetings or even come and ask for help. The F-ACT team is put together of therapists, substance abuse counselor, two case managers, a Nurse and a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner who can prescribe medication. The goal is to reduce the arrests and hospitalization and stabilize the clients by providing the support they need to improve their lives in the community. As part of this team they will have a Probation Officer to attend the daily morning staff meetings to figure out what is going on with the clients. Every day they review the list of clients in their ACT program but some of those will transition to the F-ACT team. Once the client is stable they can help enroll them into the services that they need, they want to meet the client where they are at in the community to try and help them.

Ms. Merritt informed the Board that they just submitted an amendment for the Justice Reinvestment grant, to move the pretrial money to help support this F-ACT program because the pretrial program wasn't able to be implemented due to COVID-19. There is a higher level of severe and persistent mentally ill individuals and she feels that this is a program that will help them work together so they have a PO and treatment provider involved at the same time. There is now a PO who is strictly covering mental health PO who will cover the F-ACT program, the ACT team as well as mental health court. The goal is to role all of the mental health clients into this program so they can get the help they need to get stabilized.

6. RECLASSIFICATION

Matt Hawkins, Administrative Services Director, requested that Mayra Mendoza be reclassified from a Parole/Probation Officer I to a Parole/Probation officer II. It has been the common practice at Community Corrections that a PPO I be reclassified to a PPO II position after serving in the prior position successfully for two years. Mayra just passed her two year mark and has performed very well during her time at Polk County. If this is approved it would be effective December 1, 2020 and will have an impact on the budget for fiscal year 20-21 of approximately \$5,500 including PERS contributions should it be for a 12 month period.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVED THE RECLASSIFICATION.

7. RECLASSIFICATION

Mr. Hawkins requested that Miranda Miller be reclassified from an Assistant Planner to and Associate Planner. The Planning Division typically consists of a higher level Planner, mid-level Planner and an entry level Planner. Miranda has demonstrated that she is ready to move from an entry level position to the Associate Planner position and the division has recently hired a Planner trainee to take over the lower level duties. Miranda will be able to assist the division manager with more complicated land use applications as an Associate Planner.

If approved this would be effective December 1, 2020 and will have an impact on the budget for fiscal year 20-21 of approximately \$5,500 including PERS contributions should it be for a 12 month period.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD APPROVE THE RECLASSIFICATION.

8. NON-LISTED ITEMS - (Pursuant to ORS 192.640, the Board of Commissioners considered the below identified non-listed items.)

a) **BUSINESS RELIEF GRANT UPDATE**

Greg Hansen, Administrative Officer, announced that the Business relief grant is now posted to our county website as well as our Facebook page and is available to be submitted through December 14th. Once they are all received Mr. Hansen will develop a plan to get the money out to businesses as soon as possible. The County received \$1.2 million from the state for these distributions. Right now the county is trying to get the word out there to as many businesses as possible.

Commissioner Pope stated that he wanted to recognize that the Board has given Mr. Hansen the autonomy to manage the review team for the applications for these grants. The Commissioners will not be involved in the review of these applications.

BY CONSENSUS, THE BOARD AGREED THAT MR. HANSEN IS MANAGING THE APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM.

Commissioner Ainsworth adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.