

POLK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY MEETING MINUTES
January 31, 2023

1. At 9:00 a.m., Commissioner Gordon declared the Tuesday meeting of the Polk County Board of Commissioners in session and led the Board and attending audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Pope was present and Commissioner Mordhorst was absent.

2. COMMENTS (for items not on this agenda):

None.

3. MINUTES: **COMMISSIONER POPE MOVED, COMMISSIONER GORDON
SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF January 24, 2023**

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE QUORUM.

4. FAMILY & COMMUNITY OUTREACH UPDATE:

Brent DeMoe, Family & Community Outreach Director along with three members of his team, provided a handout to the Board that highlighted several programs in their department: Resource Centers, Holiday Assistant Project 2022, Homelessness Prevention Updates, Polk County Warming Centers, Veteran Program Updates, School Based Mental Health, Community Education & Training, Mid Valley Parenting, Service Integration Program, and the Polk County Point in Time (PIT) Count Efforts that happened January 2023. Commissioner Pope asked Dana Goodale, School Based Mental Health Supervisor, if she can describe what a day in the life of a SBMH Counselor looks like. Ms. Goodale used an example of an Elementary School Based Mental Health Therapist and described their day to day work. Commissioner Pope then responded with how the Surgeon General stated recently that they are recommending that children do not have access to any social media platforms until the age of 16 and he asked about what kind of training do they have and what kind of intervention is there within SBMH. Ms. Goodale stated they do see this as a problem with young children today and they try and work with parents on getting them the necessary resources. Commissioner Gordon thanked Dana for her presentation for School Based Mental Health and for all of her hard work with filling the gaps in schools to help them with their needs. Next, Stephanie Gilbert went over the Resource Centers (two locations) and what services are offered. Ms. Gilbert talked about the challenges and success rate they have with helping assist people with housing. She stated that right now it is very difficult to find housing and for example, they had 50 families on a recent list and in 3 months, only 14 of those families were able to find housing. Commissioner Pope asked what is their strategy to access the dollars from the State to get more funding for housing navigation for people in need. Mr. DeMoe stated that they could use the help from the Commissioners by talking to Lawmakers and advocating for them more. Amber Kramer, Service Integration Coordinator, went over the Polk County Point in Time Count Event that happened recently. Ms. Kramer talked about the requirements that the HUD PIT Count normally requires, and because they didn't like those guidelines, they created their own survey for Polk County. Ms. Kramer shared that they held 154 surveys and out of those numbers, 84 were unsheltered, 8 were sheltered, and 44 were at risk of being homeless. They still submitted the required data for the HUD PIT Count, but retained the data from the other questions for their own records. Commissioner Pope asked if we have any resources that tell us about how people become self-sustaining after receiving help from Polk County. Ms. Gilbert stated that they have a pretty intensive intake when taking in applications so they can track any help that they have received in the past. They also track when they exit their programs. Mr. DeMoe stated that in closing he wanted to say that in their department, they are focusing on prevention. They want to prevent the bad thing from happening to a family or an individual and they do not handle the treatment element of these

situations. Commissioner Gordon wanted to thank them for all of their hard work and everything that they are doing in the FCO Department.

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

None.

Commissioner Gordon adjourned the meeting at 10:27 a.m.

Minutes: Nicole Pineda
Approved: February 7, 2023