

COMMISSIONERS' AGENDA ACTION SHEET

Meeting Date:	March 1, 2022		
Subject:	Behavioral Health Advisory Committee		
Presenter:	Matt Rasmussen		
Prepared By:	Matt Rasmussen		
Reviewed By:	Jerrod MacPherson		
PA Review, Approval to Form:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A (If no, include reasoning for no approval)
Type of Agenda Item:	Type of Action Needed: (Multiple boxes can be checked, if necessary)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass Motion	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision / Direction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass Resolution	
<input type="checkbox"/> Scheduled Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Sign Letter / Document	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass Ordinance	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Execute Contract	

Summary / Background Information

On February 23, 2022 the Boards of County Commissioners gave direction to staff to finalize the formation of a Behavioral Health Advisory Committee for Benton and Franklin Counties. The Commissioners elected to have half of the voting members of the committee appointed by each Board separately and directed staff to add four voting members representing the general public.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Committee will exist to gather community input and advise the Benton and Franklin Boards of County Commissioners as to how to best spend the revenues generated by the 0.1% Behavioral Health Sales Tax. This will include, but not be limited to:

- Make recommendations on contracts to provide behavioral health services. This includes selection of providers and on-going monitoring of the services performed under those contracts
- Have input on the design and construction of behavioral health facilities under the jurisdiction of the counties
- Make recommendations for new services or services that need to be expanded
- Make recommendations on services that are not effective, not utilized, or need to be adjusted.

To have good representatives from the region the Committee should be made of up of the following representatives (17 in total):

- Two experts in the field of mental health
- Two experts in the field of substance use disorder
- Three representing persons with lived experience
- Two representing hospital emergency room managers
- Two representing law enforcement or corrections
- Two representing fire departments or emergency medical responders
- Four representing the general public

There should be non-voting members of the committee that attend to provide knowledge and resources for committee activities. These could include:

- Representatives from the Counties, typically a County Manager or Finance Director, to give feedback on the availability of resources to carry out committee recommendations
- A representative from the County Human Services Department to provide technical support and background on how proposed services interact with other available programs. This person could also act as the meeting facilitator.
- A representative from the Benton Franklin Health District to provide background on how proposed services interact with programs they already offer
- Two representatives from the Therapeutic Courts (one from Adult and Juvenile Drug Court and one from Mental Health and veterans court) to provide guidance on how proposed services interact with their programs
- A representative from the Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition to provide Community/Citizen point of view and support

The Committee plays an advisory role only. The final decisions on all matters will be made by the respective Boards of County Commissioners after taking input from the Committee, service providers under contract with the counties (as appropriate) and other interested members of the community.

Fiscal Impact

There will be minimal cost involved to operate the Committee. Frequently reimbursement of actual costs for things like travel or attending meetings are covered by the Counties. It is likely that any of those costs would be eligible to be paid out of the 0.1% Mental Health/SUD sales tax as part of the cost of operating the associated programs.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Boards formally approve formation of the Committee.

Suggested Motion

Approve as part of the consent agenda.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Benton County Resolution _____

Franklin County Resolution _____

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES,
WASHINGTON:**

**IN THE MATTER OF ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH NEEDS IN BENTON AND FRANKLIN COUNTIES**

WHEREAS, there is unmet need in Benton and Franklin Counties and the surrounding region regarding treatment services for persons in behavioral health crisis; and

WHEREAS, in response to this unmet need Benton County and Franklin County have separately implemented the 0.1% Chemical Dependency and Mental Health Sales Tax authorized under RCW 82.14.460; and

WHEREAS, the Counties desire that services provided with revenues from the new tax be community centered and seek a range of public perspectives to inform their decisions about these programs; and

WHEREAS, in order to gain this community perspective it is desirable to create a committee of experts and persons with lived experience who can provide advice to each Board of County Commissioners regarding the need and effectiveness of behavioral health services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Benton County Commissioners and the Board of Franklin County Commissioners hereby create the Benton-Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there shall be seventeen voting members of the Advisory Committee, sixteen of which shall be selected by and serve at the pleasure of the Boards of County Commissioners and the remaining position representing persons with a lived experience who is a certified peer counselor or has been in recovery themselves for at least one year or has had close family members with substance use disorder or mental health issues shall be nominated by the members appointed by the Board of Commissioners and subsequently appointed by resolution of each Board of County Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appointments shall be for three-year terms, each member may serve a maximum of three terms, and shall serve without compensation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sixteen voting members of the Advisory Board selected by the Boards of County Commissioners shall be appointed pursuant to separate resolutions adopted by each County Board of Commissioners in compliance with the following criteria:

Law Enforcement or Corrections Officer
Fire Department or Emergency Medical Responders
Hospital Representative
Mental Health Experts
Substance Use Disorder Experts
Persons with Lived Experience
Members of the Public
; and

One by Benton County, One by Franklin County
One by Benton County, One by Franklin County
One by Benton County, One by Franklin County
One by Benton County, One by Franklin County
One by Benton County, One by Franklin County
One by Benton County, One by Franklin County
Two by Benton County, Two by Franklin County

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there shall be seven non-voting members of the Advisory Committee who shall be selected as follows:

One person representing Benton County (County Administrator or designee)
One person representing Franklin County (County Administrator or designee)
One person representing Benton County Human Services (Human Services Manager or designee)
One person representing the Benton-Franklin Health District (Executive Director or designee)
One person representing Adult and Juvenil Drug Court (Superior Court Administrator or designee)
One Person representing Mental Health and Veterans Court (District Court Administrator or designee)
One person representing the Benton-Franklin Recovery Coalition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the voting and non-voting members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed pursuant to resolutions adopted by each County Board of Commissioners and removals and replacements thereafter will also be reflected in resolutions of each Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the Advisory Committee shall not engage in activities that may be considered a conflict of interest and shall not use Committee membership or information gained through Committee participation to advance their own business or personal interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Committee shall develop its own by-laws and meet regularly to consider community needs surrounding behavioral health and provide input to the Benton County Board of Commissioners and the Franklin County Board of Commissioners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Advisory Committee shall comply with the Washington Open Meetings Act and Public Records Act, and staff for the counties shall assist with such compliance efforts.

FOR BENTON COUNTY

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2022.

Chair of the Board

Chair Pro Tem

Member

Constituting the Board of County
Commissioners of Benton County, Washington

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

FOR FRANKLIN COUNTY

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2022.

Chair of the Board

Chair Pro Tem

Member

Constituting the Board of County
Commissioners of Franklin County, Washington

Attest:

Clerk of the Board