

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
July 9, 2024

Present: Joe McBride, Jerry Sonnenberg, Alan Samber, Kristan Lange, Debbie Unrein, Rick Cullip, Sarah Arntt, Michelle Pemberton, and Jennifer Crow.

Vice-Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION – Commissioner Sonnenberg moved to approve the minutes of July 2, 2024 as written. Chairman McBride seconded, and the motion carried, 3-0.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCHEDULE OF COUNTY BILLS – The Board met with Kristan Lange to review the Logan County schedule of bills dated July 2, 2024. All bills were approved as presented.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA - Alan Samber added a review of the revised draft BNSF contract. Jennifer Crow stated that Sheriff Brett Powell dropped off an agreement he would like to have signed.

NEW VISION WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT – Sarah Arntt with New Vision Withdrawal Management met with the Board. She explained that New Vision is hospital admitted withdrawal management. They help people withdrawal from all substances, alcohol, opioids, medications, etc. Because when patients are in the hospital, it is billed as a medical event, they can take insurance such as Medicaid and Medicare. Most detox services do not accept Medicare because they bill it as behavioral. For those that are on disability that have Medicare primary and Medicaid secondary who also have a substance use disorder, they are able to help with withdrawal management and then do all the discharge planning with them to get them into a treatment service of choice.

Anybody over the age of 18 is able to voluntarily call New Vision to start the process or pre-screen and schedule an intake assessment, depending on their substance use. For those that have alcohol and some co-occurring disorders, it's important that they do a medical detox because alcohol withdrawal can be deadly. People can have seizures, or they can go into delirium tremens, which can cause unsafe behaviors. Ms. Arntt wanted to bring this to the Commissioner's attention because there is a high need in Logan County and in the surrounding areas for additional substance use detox support.

Prior to taking on this role with New Vision, Ms. Arntt worked with another facility in Greeley which could not take certain patients if they were insulin dependent diabetics or if they had sleep apnea and wore a CPAP machine because it was a safety risk. With this being in the hospital, they're able to manage those comorbidity medical issues. Most detoxes wait until a person presents with a certain score before they administer any medications on the withdrawal scale. New Vision has scheduled medications that they're able to use, so they're not having to wait until patients are in discomfort, and it sets them up for better success.

This is a voluntary withdrawal management treatment. They will respond and help in a crisis for community responder calls. They want the voluntary patients to be motivated, because ultimately, they will do the discharge planning to get them into some kind of program afterwards whether it is medication assisted, AA or NA for sober support and working the 12 steps. They want to get them into a substance use program, whether that be outpatient, residential, whichever that patient wants, because it is purely patient driven.

Ms. Arntt has visited with Dave Long at Logan County Department of Human Services. She would like to talk with him again along with members of the DHS team. Arntt is also working on a pool of resources in the area of what's available for substance use treatment so that they are not just limited to the resources here. She has made

contacts with people in Aurora, Ft. Collins and Loveland that have residential programs that accept commercial and Medicaid insurance for substance use programming, so that when people come in, there are multiple options to present.

TELEHEALTH KIOSK COURTHOUSE SPONSORSHIP – Michelle Pemberton of Northeast Colorado Health Department met with the Board. A group of partners in Logan County have formed a telehealth kiosk work group. It's made up of Karla Rosas from Centennial Mental Health, Dennis Kahn, and Brenda Valdez from the CSU Engagement Center, Kevin Blankenship from the City of Sterling, Cindy Carrie with NJC, Alicia Conover with Banner Health, and Caitlin Baseggio with the Logan County Chamber of Commerce. Pemberton is representing the Northeast Colorado Health Department.

CSU Engagement Center hosted meetings last fall concerning mental health services and how to make mental health services more accessible in Logan County. They broke down into smaller groups and the smaller group that she is a part of has a vision for having kiosks around Logan County that would be able to connect people to telehealth resources. There are initially some issues with HIPAA that will probably limit it to business hours instead of them being available 24/7. Initially, it will just connect people to resources. They chose three different groups, health and wellness, crisis and emergency and food. Jeremy Kaus from T-Mobile and Premier is also helping the group with the ads.

They are calling them kiosks but what they actually will be is a secured iPad. The sites that they have committed right now are Centennial Mental Health, NJC, the City of Sterling, Northeast Colorado Health Department and the Family Resource Center. They are still having conversations with Banner Health. They hope to reach different populations, like the students at NJC, the health department would be reaching people who are on WIC and family planning and some of those people who are low income. Centennial Mental Health would be a place where people are coming for mental health services already, but they might have other needs that they need to connect to.

They are asking the County Commissioners if the Logan County Courthouse could have an iPad “kiosk” because it is county wide. Everyone in the county comes to pay taxes and license their vehicles and vote, so they feel like it might be a good place to place one of them. They are also looking for sponsors. Currently, the City of Sterling, the health department, Centennial Mental Health Center and Bank of Colorado have all committed \$500 each to get the project up and going.

Ms. Pemberton is not sure how the iPads are to be secured. The Board agreed that a location could be found in the Courthouse to secure an iPad kiosk, but they do not want to secure it to a wall. If the iPad could be secured without harming the building, they are in favor of the project. They would also be in favor of using TANF dollars to fund the project or if TANF dollars are not available, they agreed to fund the project in the amount of \$500.

REVIEW BNSF REVISED DRAFT – Alan Samber reviewed the revised BNSF draft agreement with the Board. The work items that the Road and Bridge Department agreed that they can do are included. The County's cost will go down from \$139,000 to \$105,000. They increased some of the estimates because the prior estimate was done in 2023.

Commissioner Sonnenberg asked what would happen if the county did not sign the contract. The PUC rules specify that the county is to pay half. Alan answered that somebody could initiate litigation. The before and after numbers for the items called “Overhead and Equipment Expenses” went up considerably more than all of the others. Alan emailed Rafer and asked him about that. He said that it is due to some recent success their union had in negotiating more favorable contracts. It must have something to do with the personnel manning the

equipment. The overhead went from \$24,000 to \$36,000 and equipment expenses went up from \$11,000 to \$25,000. The contingencies went down from \$54,900 to \$21,500. Alan thinks it is probably due to the County taking on some of the extra work that previously would have been contracted out.

Commissioner Sonnenberg asked Alan Samber to research if any county had ever refused to pay for the railroad's upgrades. The railroad would probably do the work themselves and file suit to recover the costs. The railroad originally contacted Jeff Reeves in 2023 and wanted to do the project then. He got them to put it off until 2024 so that he could budget for it.

TURN KEY JAIL BASED BEHAVIORAL SERVICES CONTRACT – Jennifer Crow stated that Brett Powell had left the contract on her desk yesterday asking the Board to sign it today. The terms of the amendment are effective July 1, 2024. Alan Samber recommended that the Board approve this amendment in the next business meeting. The amended agreement will be placed on the July 16th business meeting agenda.

FAIRGROUNDS FEES – Rick Cullip reported the fairgrounds fee schedule is done.

EVENT CENTER RIBBON CUTTING - Rick Cullip reported that he just received confirmation moments ago that the Chamber of Commerce cannot do Business After Hours on July 16th, it will be a ribbon cutting only at 1:00 p.m. Commissioner McBride suggested if the ribbon cutting was held on July 25th with Business After Hours following, it seems like it would be a better event, then people can hang around and there is something to do after the ribbon cutting. This would be like a kickoff for Fair. Commissioner Sonnenberg will send an email to Judy Mitchek and let her know the situation. Some of the family members were going to travel to attend the ribbon cutting.

KUES GRAVEL PIT – Alan Samber asked if Jeff Reeves had talked to Harold Kues about the three-year extension on the gravel pit lease. The Board did not know whether he had talked to Mr. Kues.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.