



Court Agenda

Special Session

February 6, 2017

10:00 a.m.

**1.0 Discussion Items:**

**1.1** Prevention Coordinator Position

**1.2** Executive Session in Accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel

**Adjourn Special Session**

*\*\*If necessary, an Executive Session may be held in accordance with:*

*ORS 192.660 (2) (d) Labor Negotiations    ORS 192.660 (2) (h) Legal Rights  
ORS 192.660 (2) (e) Property            ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel*



**SHERMAN COUNTY COURT  
SPECIAL SESSION  
OFFICE OF THE SHERMAN COUNTY COURT**

**February 6, 2017**

Present: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCoy, Commissioner Joe Dabulskis, Administrative Assistant Lauren Hernandez

Special Session was called to order by Judge Thompson at 10:00 a.m.

**1.1 Prevention Coordinator Position**

Present: Juvenile Director Amber DeGrange, Finance Director Debbie Hayden

The Prevention Coordinator is in charge of implementing strategies to prevent alcohol and drug use in the youth of Sherman County. Prevention can focus on any age group but typically is targeted towards youth. Amber DeGrange, Juvenile Director, explained the Prevention Coordinator job was advertised at a .5 FTE, and 8 applications were received. Those that applied for .5 FTE appear to be agreeable to the fact that the job is part-time. The concern with keeping the job .5 FTE is keeping someone in the position. Amber stated it will be easier for the new employee to get the certification training completed if they are not balancing hours with another job at the same time. The employee will have up to four years to become certified, and on-the-job hours count towards this. The previous coordinator was unable to make the position as flexible as needed due to holding a second job with more rigid hours.

Prevention funding has been used to continue programs implemented by the Commission on Children and Families (CCF) before it was disbanded. Technically, some of these programs may not be Prevention programs. Commissioner McCoy asked if the county wanted to continue funding the programs or if the school should find a way to take over the funding. Programs that specifically connect to the school include programs like Missoula Children's Theater, Paw Pals, and intramurals/The Pack. Amber can ask the school which programs are most valued and which ones should be carried forward. In conversations with Debbie Hayden, Finance Director, Debbie did not support the county supplementing the programs with other county funding. Commissioner McCoy stated the school is given \$1.6 million per year by the county, so there should be money for the school to pick up some of the programs if it values them. If the programs are not a priority for the school, the county should not be funding them. There have been discussions about if the school would like to keep Project Alert or transition away from it. Many of the programs may phase out naturally, or the school can pick up funding them if it chooses to.

Amber stated there are ways to make programs like Intramurals/The Pack evidence based so Prevention funding can cover them. The Prevention Coordinator could include curriculum in the program. However, the school is selective about who can deliver curriculum in the school. Amber believes it would make sense to leave money in the budget to allow for program development like this. Even if the court chooses not to directly fund programs at the school, the budget should not be maxed out to fund extra FTE so that no programs or

curriculum can be developed. There are many evidence-based programs that could be implemented by the new coordinator.

In the future, it is possible prevention strategies will be needed for Sherman County populations aside from the youth population. Prevention is typically most effective when started at a young age. Pocket Full of Feelings is an evidence-based program Amber would love to see implemented in the county to support this effort. The Prevention Coordinator in Wasco County is trained for the program and could provide it for the county through an outside contract. After a coordinator is hired in Sherman County, the employee can be trained to facilitate the program.

Spreading prevention messaging requires flexible hours. Amber feels it is possible to run an effective prevention program at .5 FTE. Commissioner McCoy stated the concern that the person hired halftime will spend most of their time becoming certified. Amber stated the certification teaches the employee how to do the job, and all office and meeting time is counted towards the certification.

In the past, the option of contracting with Mid-Columbia Center for Living (MCCFL) or North Central Public Health District (NCPHD) for Prevention services has been discussed. Amber explained the county could pay either entity to supervise the Sherman County Prevention Coordinator, or the county could send all Prevention funds to one of the entities in exchange for that entity hiring and managing a Prevention Coordinator for the county. This means the county may lose control over what the coordinator does. Amber pointed out contracting with MCCFL or NCPHD does not guarantee an employee will stay longer, as the position most likely will not expand to full-time. MCCFL is the entity that makes most sense to contract with because Prevention money comes from the state to MCCFL and then flows from MCCFL to Sherman County. Amber stated if the county received 8 applicants for the position opening, it doesn't make sense to move the position to a different agency.

When the CCF was functioning, the Prevention budget funded the Prevention Coordinator and the programs were funded through CCF and Prevention funds. When CCF disbanded, Amber provided temporary Prevention Coordinator services until a new coordinator was hired. Swim Bus was discontinued by CCF and was reinstated through Prevention funds. Although the program is beneficial, the county does not have to fund it. Before CCF disbanded, Amber believes Prevention was only funding about \$2,500 worth of programs because CCF funded the rest.

Commissioner McCoy suggested interviewing a few applicants to see if anyone fits the position, and if not, further discussing contracting with MCCFL. There are many programs like Paw Pals, Missoula Children's Theater, and intramurals that the school could be funding. Amber stated the most beneficial duty of the Prevention Coordinator is the coordination piece. Coordinating a volunteer base and building a coalition are essential to making programs successful. Amber gave a brief background of CCF to Commissioner Dabulskis.

Debbie asked if programs will be brought to the county if the county decides to contract with MCCFL or NCPHD for Prevention Coordinator services. She asked if the entities would use an employee they already have to bring services to the county instead of hiring out for the position. Amber stated she believes MCCFL would hire out for the position, and she feels the employee should live in and be based out of Sherman County to be most effective. Whether the county contracts out or hires a new employee, Prevention services will remain the same. Amber described Prevention services in Gilliam and Wheeler County.

The Prevention Coordinator should be attending town halls, city council meetings, County Court meetings, and spreading messaging instead of only funding programs. Debbie presented a spreadsheet of funds paid to benefit Sherman County's youth so the court could see the dollars actually being spent.

Commissioner Dabulskis asked why the county has had trouble maintaining an employee in this position. Amber replied the previous coordinator could not find flexible hours between holding two jobs. The position is

unstructured due to the need for flexibility, and there is no other Prevention employee in the county to coordinate or collaborate with. Discussion was held about Amber acting as supervisor to the Prevention Coordinator. Amber is familiar with the Prevention program and would help the new coordinator connect with other Prevention coordinators, programs, and resources. Debbie stated the Prevention position is difficult because it is not as defined as other positions, and necessary duties vary. The employee must be social and dynamic enough to adjust to the changing needs of the community and to create a program to respond to those needs.

Debbie stated the county has tried to avoid funding or supplementing state-funded programs. In the past, the court considered using the entirety of the Prevention budget to hire a .8 FTE coordinator and funding the programs with county dollars. The court would now like to move forward hiring a .5 FTE coordinator, which will leave enough money in the budget to cover some programs. Debbie asked about alternative funding sources that could be used to fund programs instead of the county using dollars outside of Prevention funding. The new coordinator can possibly find alternative funds to support programs. Commissioner Dabulskis asked how the court will know if the Prevention Coordinator is functioning successfully. Amber replied success equals an engaged community that knows who the Prevention Coordinator is and outcomes within the Prevention plan being met. The court assigned Amber to be Prevention Coordinator Supervisor.

Discussion was held about the Oregon Youth Conservation Corps (OYCC) program. The county provides funds in addition to grant funds received to support the program. The Prevention Coordinator coordinates the program and finds a crew leader to manage the work crew. The previous coordinator reported to Amber that the state was not pleased she had to use so much time to coordinate the OYCC program because it was not within the Prevention plan. The OYCC grant includes funds to support administration of the program. Debbie suggested adding management of the OYCC program to the Prevention Coordinator job description. Amber suggested before adding it to the job description, finding out if the state will allow OYCC to be added to the Prevention plan. The court feels OYCC is a valuable program to continue.

Amber clarified she will speak to the school to see which programs are still wanted, valued, and effective. If the programs are Prevention programs, the funds to pay for them should come from the Prevention budget, but if they are CCF youth programs not targeted towards prevention, other funding sources need to be found. The Prevention Coordinator can look into alternative funding sources, like using Greater Oregon Behavioral Health dollars to fund Swim Bus or applying for a Cultural Trust grant to fund Missoula Children's Theater.

## **1.2 Executive Session in Accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel**

Present: Judge Gary Thompson, Commissioner Tom McCoy, Commissioner Joe Dabulskis, Administrative Assistant Lauren Hernandez, Juvenile Director Amber DeGrange

The court went into executive session at 11:00 a.m.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Dabulskis, to enter into executive session in accordance with ORS 192.660 (2) (i) Personnel.**

**Vote: 3-0**

**Yes: Thompson, Dabulskis, McCoy**

**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

The court reviewed candidate applications for the Prevention Coordinator position.

Executive session closed at 11:25 a.m.

**Motion by Commissioner McCoy, second by Commissioner Dabulskis, to interview Amber Kuettel, Taylor Olsen, Kelli Kauzlarich, and Nancy Reynoldson for the position of Prevention Coordinator.**

**Vote: 3-0**

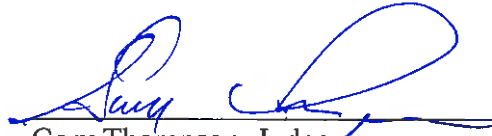
**Yes: Thompson, Dabulskis, McCoy**


**No: 0**

**Abstain: 0**

Being no further matters at issue, the special session was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Sherman County Court

  
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Gary Thompson, Judge

Attest:   
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Lauren Hernandez  
Administrative Assistant

  
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Tom McCoy, Commissioner

  
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Joe Dabulskis, Commissioner