

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the August 22, 2019 Personnel and Human Services Committee Meeting.

Meeting held in Conference Room 4B. Attendance was as follows:

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	ALSO PRESENT
William Chickering	X		Mac Elliott, Bill Wolf, Ric Compton, Bette
Teri Sue Freehling		X	Spearritt, Melissa Clapper, John Matusak
Dave Vollrath	X		Jerry Sirk
			Shelley Jasper

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

- Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.
- Motion by Commissioner Vollrath, supported by Commissioner Chickering to approve the minutes of August 15, 2019 as presented. 2 yeas, 0 nays, motion carried.
- Resolution P1908279, a Resolution to establish a policy regarding speed studies, was signed by all Committee members present.

BERRIEN MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (RIVERWOOD)

Bette Spearritt, the Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Supervisor presented information about Riverwood’s Substance Use Disorder Program. Bette said the data gathered showed that the most misused drug in Berrien County is still alcohol. Heroin ranks second. She also provided race and gender information that showed most service consumers were white males. Addiction is defined as an uncontrollable urge to seek and use drugs and/or alcohol despite the problems they cause. It is a chronic, relapsing brain disease that changes how the brain works and affects behavior. She explained that when a consumer presents for services an assessment is completed first to determine the appropriate level of care. Riverwood has two main therapeutic interventions, those being individual therapy and group therapy. There are many forms of group therapy. The group therapy intervention is tailored to the consumer’s need and where they are in the recovery process. She also discussed future treatment options – primarily Medication Assisted treatment (MAT), specifically Vivitrol. Vivitrol is a non-addictive, once a month treatment for opioid and alcohol dependency. It blocks the receptor in the brain, thus helping to prevent relapse to opioid dependence, following detox, and relief from cravings for alcohol dependence, allowing the individual to focus on recovery. She said the SUD Program is located in both the Niles and Benton Harbor Riverwood offices and the hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The program is staffed by five therapists, one case manager, one peer recovery coach and two support staff. Bette also advised the Committee that September is “recovery month” and invited them to attend the picnic on September 21st from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. held at Riverview Park in St. Joseph. Recovering persons, their families and friends are all encouraged to attend.

DRAIN COMMISSIONER

Drain Commissioner Chris Quattrin addressed the Committee regarding his desire to employ “day labor” to assist the Drain Maintenance Supervisor in performance of some tasks. Quattrin was directed to contract with a temporary placement agency who can satisfy any necessary requirements for the day labor. He was further cautioned not to send a person to said agency, but rather to let the Agency send someone to the Drain Office to protect for liability purposes.

CHAIRMAN/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Administrator Wolf provided a copy of the salary study packet intended for Department Heads. There was much discussion regarding the Parks millage, specifically the anticipated increase.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Both Jerry Sirk and Melissa Clapper asked presentation specific questions when Riverwood was presenting.

Adjourned 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Jasper
Human Resources Director