

Minutes of Meeting
Northern Idaho Crisis Center
May 14, 2018
10:00 a.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Marc Eberlein and Commissioner Bob Bingham met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Sheriff Ben Wolfinger and Deputy Clerk Ronnie Davisson. Also present was Northern Idaho Crisis Center Executive Director Don Robinson and Scott Frazer, representing the Washington Fallen Heroes Project. Commissioner Chris Fillios was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Marc Eberlein called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Action:**

Don Robinson and Claudia Miewald from Northern Idaho Crisis Center to Give the Board an Update

Northern Idaho Crisis Center (NICC) Executive Director Don Robinson said comparing this year to last year, the first quarter of 2017 had 210 client encounters and the first quarter of 2018 had 422, equaling a 100% increase. He said it was significant because there were more cases of people presenting with psychiatric conditions paired with some type of substance abuse, which was approximately 85% of the clients seen at NICC. Mr. Robinson then pointed out that with the help of local healthcare providers, NICC was able to connect the clients to services in the community that would help resolve the crisis at hand.

Mr. Robinson explained that because NICC had implemented scheduled visits, it had reduced the need for clients going to the Emergency Room. He also said that for certain patients, they keep them at NICC for 24-48 hours for evaluation in a supervised environment. Mr. Robinson said that the core mission of NICC had stayed the same, but they had added more robust case management and the ability to follow clients for multiple days.

Judge John Mitchell joined via teleconference at 10:13 a.m.

Judge Mitchell spoke to NICC, stating that he had noticed good results from the program for those that needed their assistance. Sheriff Ben Wolfinger said that the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) had provided approximately 150 rides to NICC; Mr. Robinson said there were rides requested from as far as Bonner's Ferry. Sheriff Wolfinger said that to him and his staff, they consider this time well spent.

Chairman Eberlein asked Scott Frazer how many veterans he saw with psychiatric concerns, in need or in jail. Mr. Frazer said the number fluctuates, but generally, the number was approximately 15% to 20%. Mr. Robinson said that NICC had more options

when handling veterans, as NICC had a great working relationship with the local VA clinic and the VA Hospital in Spokane.

Chairman Eberlein asked Mr. Frazer how NICC, North Idaho Recovery Center, KCSO and the Court system could better assist him. Mr. Frazer said that Judge Peterson with Spokane Veterans Court had done some amazing work with the veterans and currently had the lowest recidivism rate in the nation with that program. He said he would like to know what it would take for Kootenai County to implement a Veteran's Court. Sheriff Wolfinger agreed and said the Veteran's Court works very well in Spokane. Judge Mitchell said he spoke to Judge Peterson before and had shown interest in beginning a Veteran's Court here in Kootenai County. He said he believed Kootenai County needed a Veteran's Court because he felt veterans worked better in a group setting, reflecting a "unit" type environment. He further stated the common criminal worked better on an individual basis, not a group setting. Mr. Frazer told Judge Mitchell that he had avenues and resources to use to assist Kootenai County in developing a Veteran's Court. Mr. Robinson also offered NICC's assistance by providing data and metrics related to veterans.

Chairman Eberlein asked Judge Mitchell to get together with Sheriff Wolfinger, Mr. Frazer and Mr. Robinson and see if they could collectively come up with a plan for a Veteran's Court and Judge Mitchell said he would be happy to be involved.

Mr. Robinson said they were the only Crisis Center in the state to be funded at 100% for the next two years, as the Crisis Center in Idaho Falls had to take a 10% reduction for each of the following years. He said he believed the State of Idaho would continue to fund the Crisis Centers because of the results they had provided in the communities.

- D. Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.

Chairman Eberlein adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

MARC EBERLEIN, CHAIRMAN

BY: _____
Ronnie Davisson, Deputy Clerk
