

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**Jail/CHP Meeting**  
**September 17, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman Pro Tem Chris Fillios and Commissioner Bob Bingham met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were KCSO Sheriff Ben Wolfinger, KCSO Undersheriff Dan Mattos, KCSO Captain John Holecek, KCSO Captain Lee Richardson, KCSO Lieutenant Nancy Ellis, BOCC Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present, from CHP (Correctional Health Partners) were CEO and President Jeff Archambeau, Vice President of Business Operations Greg Lockman, Manager of Business Operations Mark Overturf, and Account Manager Lou Tuccitto. Also present were Kootenai County Residents Bill Brooks and Ruben Miranda. Chairman Marc Eberlein was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman Pro Tem Chris Fillios called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**Inmate Medical Costs (Action)**

Commissioner Bob Bingham noted that inmate medical expenses seemed to have increased substantially for FY2018 and explained he hoped to learn why and find ways to reduce them in the future.

CHP CEO and President Jeff Archambeau observed that there was a general trend of people entering into the prison system having more needs than in the past, partly due to the nationwide opiate crisis and partly because they simply have neglected their own health needs. He said that one cause of the cost spike between the last Fiscal Year and the present one was the Jail Expansion. He also pointed out that having only a very few inmates with serious medical conditions could cause a massive increase in costs.

CHP Vice President of Business Operations Greg Lockman explained that with the expansion of the Jail also came the ability to offer more services on site and a need to hire additional staff. He said this resulted in a spike in costs that should not be repeated in the future. He pointed out that an increased number of inmates meant more patients needing service and would naturally lead to increased costs for pharmacy items and both medical and office supplies. Mr. Lockman echoed an assertion made by Undersheriff Mattos that the County's request to add mental health services was a large part of the jump, adding about \$200,000 to their fees.

Mr. Archambeau reminded the Board that the State mandates certain standards of care for inmates that the County must meet or risk liability claims.

CHP Manager of Business Operations Mark Overturf reviewed the data sheets he provided the Commissioners. He went over the different categories of charges that CHP

covered, including Ambulance, Emergency Room, Inpatient Facility, Outpatient Facility, and Specialist fees from FY2017 and FY2018. He characterized the FY2017 charges as being from a “good year,” meaning one with lower than average costs. He characterized the FY2018 charges, setting aside the increased expenses previously discussed, as being more of an “average year,” based on his observations of similar facilities around the country. Mr. Overturf pointed out that there was a large increase in patients treated in both the under \$5,000 and the over \$5,000 categories from FY2017 to FY2018. He also offered a breakdown of claims by clinical classification/general diagnosis. Mr. Overturf detailed savings to the County from CHP’s use of mobile x-ray and mobile dental services that eliminated all the related costs of transporting an inmate to a facility for services and providing guards for the off-site time.

Kootenai County Resident Bill Brooks was given permission by the Commissioners to ask a question. He asked whether the Jail or CHP investigated the possibility of other entities being primarily responsible for inmates’ medical expenses, such as Medicare, Medicaid, or veterans’ benefits programs. Mr. Lockman said that Medicare specifically excludes coverage for services while incarcerated, while Medicaid will consider coverage of inpatient stays, but only in Medicaid Expansion States. Sheriff Wolfinger said he thought that veterans’ benefits programs followed the same rules as Medicare.

Commissioner Bingham encouraged the KCSO and CHP to investigate any potential sources of repayment for County expenses. He said that the County Indigent Assistance program placed liens on people who received funds and asked whether this could be used to compel released inmates to make reimbursement for medical costs. Sheriff Wolfinger indicated this was not possible.

CHP Account Manager Lou Tuccitto explained that his company had negotiated a contract with various local providers and with Kootenai Health, with differing levels of discounts offered. He said Kootenai Health definitely had the advantage in their negotiations because they were the only facility of their kind within a reasonable distance. He said they demanded 80% of billed charges, which was not a large discount but was, at least, something.

Commissioner Bingham referenced the data CHP provided regarding their Kootenai Medical Contractual Savings Analysis. He asked whether CHP had sufficient access to actual fees for individual services to ensure that the County was charged the correct rates. Mr. Tuccitto indicated that was a difficulty. Commissioner Bingham suggested that the County could possibly get access to that information for them.

Commissioner Bingham suggested that Senior Business Analyst Nanci Plouffe work with CHP on these questions and bring in the Legal Department to help search for access to actual charges and options for reimbursement for the County.

- D. Public Comment (Discussion):** 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 was no public comment.

Chairman Pro Tem Fillios adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

CHRIS FILLIOS, CHAIRMAN PRO TEM

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk

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