

**Association of Oregon Counties  
Legislative Committee**

**Monday, December 12, 2011  
2:10 p.m.**

**Multnomah County Board Room  
Portland, Oregon**

*Present: President Tammy Baney, Commissioner Mary Stern, Judge Pat Shaw, Commissioner Earl Fisher, Commissioner Janet Carlson, Commissioner Wayne Fording, Commissioner Greg Malinowski, Commissioner Craig Pope, Commissioner Tony Hyde, Commissioner Mark Labhart, Commissioner Jim Bernard, Commissioner Diane McKeel, Commissioner Annabelle Jaramillo*

*Via telephone: Commissioner Joe Laurance, Commissioner Sam Brentano, Commissioner Simon Hare, Commissioner Peter Huhtala, Commissioner Larry Givens, Commissioner John Rachor, Commissioner Jay Dixon, Commissioner John Lindsey, Commissioner Alan Unger, Administrator Ralph Wyatt, Public Works Director Robb Paul*

*Guests: Commissioner Don Skundrick (by phone), Jim McCauley, Troy Rayburn, Jared Anderson, Joel Shapiro, Andy Smith, Cherryl Ramirez, Kevin Campbell, Susan Montgomery, Nancy Bennett*

*Staff and consultants: Mike McArthur, Cara Fischer, Gil Riddell, Emily Ackland, Mark Nystrom, Mike Eliason, Paul Snider, Eric Schmidt, Laura Cleland, JoAnn Hendrix*

President Tammy Baney called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. and asked for self-introductions.

***AOCMHP Executive Director Cherryl Ramirez***

Mike McArthur introduced the newly appointed AOCMHP Executive Director Cherryl Ramirez. Ms. Ramirez started employment with AOCMHP in mid-November. Most recently, Ms. Ramirez served as executive director of the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois. Her career has focused on policy development, legislation, training, collaboration with other human service interest groups and advocacy for community behavioral health systems.

While in Illinois, Ms. Ramirez served a three-year term on the Champaign County Board of Health. She holds master's degrees in both public health and public administration.

Ms. Ramirez said she appreciates the guidance she has received from AOC staff and looks forward to her new venture as executive director.

***GOBHI***

Kevin Campbell, director of Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI) reported on the work and efforts of his association. He stated that through a contract with the State of Oregon, GOBHI represents 17 counties in rural Oregon providing services through the community mental health programs. GOBHI's intent is to create a system of coordinated care organizations (CCOs) throughout the state that become responsible for the quality, cost and overall care for

the individuals they serve. GOHBI also wishes to serve as the focal point for achieving what is known as the Triple Aim: (1) better care for individuals, (2) better health for populations and (3) slower growth in healthcare expenditures.

Mr. Campbell provided a copy of a working draft " Fixing the Healthcare System in America: A Rural Oregon Approach."

### ***Action or possible action items***

#### **Resolutions**

Mr. Riddell presented three resolutions introduced by steering committees at the annual conference

#### ***Importance of Water and County Involvement in Water Planning Efforts***

AOC encourages and supports, to the extent practicable and requested, efforts by counties to convene and develop regional solutions for long-term, sustainable supply of clean water.

**Commissioner Earl Fisher moved approval of the resolution for efforts by counties to convene and develop regional solutions for long-term, sustainable supply of clean water, seconded by Commissioner Craig Pope. Motion carried.**

#### ***Restrictions against use of land in proximity to Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas***

AOC opposes any *de facto* federal restrictions not explicitly enacted on use of public or private lands in proximity to a designated Wilderness or a Wilderness Study Area.

**Judge Pat Shaw moved approval of the resolution on restrictions against use of land in proximity to Wilderness or Wilderness Study Areas, seconded by Commissioner Tony Hyde. Motion carried.**

#### ***Support for implementation of the Oregon Wolf Management Plan***

AOC supports efforts by ODFW to implement the plan as amended in 2010, including but not limited to, the lethal removal of chronically depredating wolves.

**Commissioner Larry Givens moved to approve the resolution on implementation of the Oregon Wolf Management Plan, seconded by Commissioner Wayne Fording. Motion carried. Commissioner John Lindsey opposed.**

#### ***Court Revenues***

Mr. Snider reviewed a recommendation by the Public Safety Committee to support legislation to restore revenue neutrality for justice courts to the revenue distribution provisions of HB 2712 (2011 Session).

**Commissioner Jim Bernard moved to support legislation to restore revenue neutrality for justice courts to the revenue distribution provisions of HB 2712,**

**seconded by Commissioner Mary Stern. Motion carried. Commissioner Lindsey opposed.**

### ***Health Transformation***

Commissioner Carlson reviewed the County Coordinated Care Organization Agreements: Analysis of Issues and Guidance for Development. Ms. Carlson stated that in the context of a rapid transformation of our publicly funded healthcare system, this document is intended to serve as an implementation guidepost for both CCO leadership and county officials who must work in collaboration to construct efficient and effective public health, mental health and addictions systems. These guidelines are also intended for developing a written agreement or memorandum of understanding (MOU) that CCOs and their partnering counties could use to comply with Section 24 and more broadly, to advance the larger health care system transformation intended by HB 3650. The outcome metrics included in these agreements must mirror any requirements that are enacted by the Oregon Legislature in 2012.

The county's responsibility of assuring that the local system of care is responsive to the needs of the community is crucial to the CCO's success. Commissioner Carlson requested permission to utilize the AOC logo on this document.

Discussion ensued regarding the emergency of the AOC logo being utilized on this document prior to the AOC membership having time to review the contents.

After further discussion, it was decided to refer to the AOC Board of Directors agenda for action on the concept of the document.

### ***Environment and Energy***

#### ***Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy***

Emily Ackland reported on the BLM Greater Sage-Grouse Planning Strategy in Oregon. She stated that in early 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determined that the greater sage-grouse warranted but precluded being listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The USFWS has a deadline in 2015 to make a decision on whether or not the bird should be listed under the ESA. Because of this deadline, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is acting to update its Resource Management Plans (RMP), in the states that have sage-grouse present, by 2014 to avoid an ESA listing. In Oregon, the BLM has already been working on this effort in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy. This cooperative effort will continue so that the Oregon Strategy will be incorporated into the BLM's RMP for Oregon.

A 60-day public scoping period began on December 9. There will be a series of public meetings scheduled and county governments will be notified.

#### ***Juniper-use stakeholders***

Ms. Ackland stated that a juniper-use stakeholder group was convened on December 8 by Oregon Solutions. The group continued discussions on ways to expand and grow businesses that are using juniper removed from lands in eastern Oregon. A small team agreed to meet outside of

the stakeholder group and focus on projects that were submitted by four counties – Crook, Lake, Harney and Wheeler. They team will assess the projects and identify ways that will help the businesses move forward to achieve success.

### *EPA and CWA*

Ms. Ackland reported that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that it intends on using the draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected Under the Clean Water Act to develop the rule on Waters of the U.S. The rule will expand the number of waterways protected under the Clean Water Act. This will likely mean more permits required for projects (particularly road construction) be obtained by the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and Oregon Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) and trigger consultations with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

AOC has submitted a letter to the EPA with four primary requests

1. The ACOE should continue to honor existing exemptions for maintaining transportation related structures;
2. The ACOE should continue to offer Nationwide Permits with 401 Certifications and Regional Conditions;
3. Other federal agencies, such as NMFS, should develop programmatic ways for consultation to expedite permitting;
4. The rule should include the flexibility to honor state regulatory processes to avoid redundancies, particularly around mitigation.

NACo is also submitting comments and continues to be engaged with the EPA on this process. Staff will know more in January about the EPA's timeline for the rule.

### ***Steering Committee Reports***

President Baney requested all steering committee federal agenda items are submitted at the January 9 Legislative Committee Meeting.

**Communications Policy** – no report

**Community Development and Transportation** – no report

**Environment & Energy** – no report in addition to issues discussed by Ms. Ackland.

**Governance** – no report

### **Human Services**

Commissioner Carlson reported that the Human Services Committee is working on issues for 2012 legislative session. The two important issues are the Health Care Transformation and Early Learning Initiative. Mark Nystrom is making sure that AOC members are updated on these subjects.

**Public Lands & Natural Resources** – no report

**Public Safety** – no report

**Transportation** – no report

**Water Policy** – Next meeting on Monday, January 9.

***Affiliate Organizations Reports***

**Assessors** – no report

**Clerks** – no report

**County Administrators** – no report

**District Attorneys** – no report

**Engineers & Surveyors**

Robb Paul reported that he attended a meeting of the Oregon Travel Council where it discussed taking the maintenance of rest areas located on the I-5 corridor. Council members talked about monies from the state off the top from counties and ODOT for the maintenance of rest areas.

**Justices of the Peace** – no report

**Sheriffs** – no report

**Tax Collectors** - no report

**Treasurers** – no report

***Other Business***

Mr. McArthur discussed obtaining electronic signatures from Legislative Committee members for use by AOC on documents approved for signature.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.