

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE COCHISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION HELD ON
Tuesday, October 22, 2019**

A work session of the Cochise County Board of Supervisors was held on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board of Supervisors' Executive Conference Room, 1415 Melody Lane, Building G, Bisbee, Arizona.

Present: Thomas E. Borer, Chairman; Ann English, Vice-Chairman; Peggy Judd, Supervisor

Staff Present: Edward T. Gilligan, County Administrator
Sharon Gilman, Associate County Administrator
Britt W. Hanson, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney
Kim Lemons, Deputy Clerk of the Board
Amanda Baillie, Public Information Officer

Attendees: Elda Orduno, HR Director
Sara Dent, Civil Deputy County Attorney
Catherine Barney, Paralegal III
Keith Buonocore, Finance Director
Carrie Langley, Health & Social Services Director
Brian McIntyre, County Attorney
Daniel Duchon, Budget Manager
Mona Burns, County Attorney's Office
Rich Karwazcka, Public Defender
Xochitl Orozco, Legal Advocate

Chairman Borer called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

THE ORDER OR DELETION OF ANY ITEM ON THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION AT THE MEETING

INTRODUCTIONS

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Board of Supervisors

1. Discussion and possible direction about implementing a Mental Health Diversion Program to divert low level and nuisance offenders with mental illness from the criminal justice system to a program to treat their mental illness.

Chairman Borer asked for introductions.

Mr. McIntyre presented this item and started by defining how defendants are evaluated and ordered into Rule 11 restoration competency programs, where they are sent, and the associated costs. He gave examples of different types of patients, and how these orders may be reduced with better communication between County departments and other community stakeholders.

Mr. Duchon addressed the issue from a budget perspective. He outlined FY20's first quarter spending already over \$75,000 and annual cost projections that would require use of General Fund contingencies or reserves.

Mr. McIntyre stated the different types of services required for restoration and how the mental health program could address those specific issues and make improvements to the current system.

Mr. Duchon presented RTC caseload costs per individual, expenses per provider and comparisons to similar sized counties.

Mr. McIntyre said currently there are six potential individuals that seem to be good candidates to try a different approach.

The Board asked about the specifics of the diversion program, i.e.: housing and personnel and liability of the County.

Mr. Hanson outlined the duties of a Mental Health Diversion Coordinator specifically creating an infrastructure that gets the defendant the treatment needed.

The Board was receptive to implementing the program to address a need the state is not providing.

Mr. Gilligan cautioned that in creating, the program structure should be based on a successful model already in place. He reiterated the program need to invest in patients with incarceration as last resort, not first. The ultimate goal is to create an infrastructure with a stable environment for treatment.

The County Attorney's office agreed to refine the job description with salary and present to the Board for continued discussion.

The Board agreed this is a great first step in a collaborative County effort to create a viable program.

Chairman Borer adjourned the meeting at 2:34 p.m.

APPROVED:

Thomas E. Borer, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kim Lemons, Deputy Clerk of the Board