

December 20, 2017

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners met for a special session on December 20, 2017, in the Lincoln County Courthouse, Libby, Montana. Present were Commissioner Cole, Eureka via VisionNet, Commissioner Bennett, Commissioner Peck, County Administrator Darren Coldwell and Clerk and Recorder Robin Benson.

2:00 PM **Crisis Intervention/Mental Health:** Present were Public Health Manager Jennifer McCully, Sheriff Bowe, Undersheriff Huff, County Attorney Marcia Boris, Deputy County Attorney Jeffrey Zwang, and Environmental Health Kathi Hooper. Also present from Cabinet Peaks Medical Center were Laura Larson Crismore, Stacey Wood, Bruce Whitfield, and John P. Thornton.

Jennifer McCully announced that as of January 1, 2018, Western Montana Mental Health (WMMH) facility in Libby will be closing its door due to lack of funding, and Medicaid cuts. Jennifer said Dillon and Livingston Montana Mental Health facilities will also be closing its doors. Jennifer expressed that we need to figure out how we are going to move those services. Jennifer said we are here to discuss solutions since there is currently no place to have people evaluated in Libby which creates a dilemma for the County Attorney's Office, Sheriff's Department and the patient.

Commissioner Peck asked about contracting out with other mental health organizations. Jennifer mentioned potential incentive for private organizations to help. Commissioner Peck said the county was paying \$18,500 annually to WMMH; could we look at a part time position, especially when you think about transport costs. Commissioner Peck stated the county really does not have options regarding offering this service since it is required. Commissioner Peck said we need to come up with a quick solution and modify as needs arise.

Commissioner Peck stated that we need qualified people to respond to come up with a new process and suggested a group of 4 or 5 people to look into a cost analysis for the position, research funding available and other resources to help. We need to also be calling the Governor asking questions.

Commissioner Bennett said this is a political move, that when you affect a large amount of people at a local level it politically motivates a larger group of people and is a very poor way of conducting state business.

Commissioner Peck said we need to meet again after we collect the data, costs and resources. Jennifer McCully, Brandon Huff, Jeffrey Zwang and Bruce Whitfield volunteered to meet and attain information before the next follow up meeting scheduled next Wednesday December 27, 2017.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Mike Cole, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Robin A. Benson, Clerk of the Board