

**COLUMBIA RIVER COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
EAST WENATCHEE, WA
10/12/2023**

Members Present – Cindy Carter, Kevin Overbay, Rob Coffman, Mike Garza, and Chris Branch via Zoom

Staff Present – Bruce Buckles, Debbie Peterson, Erin Nelson, Diane Tribble, Ken Sterner, Josh Hamilton, Nicole Buak

Guests – Christine Johnson: Union Employee Representative and Tom Cash, Union Representative

Meeting – Cindy Carter called the Columbia River Council of Governments (COG) meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Public Comment – None

Minutes – Rob Coffman moved to approve the minutes from the September 14th meeting. Mike Garza seconded, and the motion carried.

Budget & Expenditures – Expenditures were reviewed for August 2023 Checks 71458-71566, DD21749-DD21868, DRS15-2023, DRS16-2023, PRT8-2023. Kevin Overbay made a motion to approve expenditures for checks. Rob Coffman seconded, and the motion carried.

Discretionary Fund Requests – Two discretionary fund requests were made. The first request was from the Davenport Senior Center for a Yo Link Temperature Monitor Hub with 7 sensors for \$180.11. The second request was from the Brewster Senior Center for a Northair Commercial Ice Maker for \$596.74. Both requests were reviewed. Mike Garza made a motion to approve both requests for equipment. Kevin Overbay seconded, and the motion carried.

Personnel Update – Nicole Buak reviewed the personnel update.

Executive Director's Report – Bruce Buckles reported that our agency prevailed on audits regarding I&A, nursing/CM, and financial. We had a perfect financial audit, a credit to Tammy Harvey and her staff. Ken Sterner provided an update on acquiring a security contract. Ken discussed how vulnerabilities exist in all three offices. We would like to contract to bring someone in to do a professional audit and get guidance moving into the future. Currently, the best proposal is around \$7,500.00. Josh Hamilton shared that he has changed out our backup server here locally, but the problem is that server is vulnerable. He explained that you want as little of an entry point as possible. He suggested obtaining an immutable storage device where the backups would be stored. The advantage is that a security key is required. This device would

have 64 terabytes of storage and allow for 7 years of backups. Bruce shared that we run all capital purchases through AL TSA. Debbie Peterson shared that the complexity of cases has risen and will continue to rise. Many of these require nursing services. Bruce and Debbie shared how the education system for caregivers has failed and that we continue to have a caregiver shortage. Ken added that the crisis in the workforce is predicted to last up to two decades and will impact most AAA services especially programs like MAC/T SOA that are moving to a unit rate for reimbursement. The nature of these cases can be extremely complex and may include behavioral health and substance abuse issues. This means that there is a need to make sure that the people we hire have some knowledge in these realms. Diane Tribble added that as the needs of clients rise it becomes more challenging for staff. It is also expected that the MAC/T SOA clients will begin to be served by Individual Providers (IP's) starting in 2024.

Executive Session – The COG voted to go into Executive Session Re: Contract Language at 2:15 p.m., motion made by Kevin Overbay.

Meeting Adjourned – Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be on November 9th at 1:30 p.m.