

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2022

CHAIRMAN TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairperson R. McKinley Elliott called the regular Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting to order at 8:36 A.M. in the Board of Commissioners' (BOC) room at the Berrien County Administration Center, 701 Main Street, St. Joseph, Michigan.

ROLL CALL:

The Chair instructed the Clerk to take a roll call with the following results:

11 PRESENT: Rayonte Bell, Jim Curran, Robert Harrison, Jon Hinkelman, James Martin, Michael Majerek (Arrived at 8:38 A.M.), Ezra Scott, David Vollrath, Julie Wuerfel, Mamie Yarbrough and R. McKinley Elliott.

1 ABSENT: Teri Sue Freehling.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2022 MEETING:

Commissioner Scott moved and seconded by Commissioner Vollrath, to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes held on August 11, 2022. Motion carried, no nays.

REQUISITION REVIEW - Annette Christie:

Executive Administrative Assistant Annette Christie presented the requisitions to the Board for their review and discussion.

SCHEDULED DISCUSSION:

- **Spectrum Health/Sacred Heart**
Dr. Loren Hamel, Spectrum Health
Tricia Johnson & Paula Nelson, Sacred Heart

Loren Hamel M.D., President, Spectrum Health Lakeland and Paula Nelson, CEO, Sacred Heart, gave a PowerPoint presentation on "Sacred Heart: Case for Support" and discussed the following:

- Serenity Hills Service Overview – Established in 2014
- Serenity Hills Impacts FY 2020 - 2021
- Serenity Hills Admissions – FY 2021
- Substance use disorders (SUD) Emergency Department (ED) Visits at SHL
- SUD ED (Visits by Top Zip Code)
- Overdose ED Visits – Berrien County
- Berrien County SUD Deaths – 2016 – 2021
- SHL Foundation Support (2018 – 2022)
- Serenity Hills Facility Costs
- Serenity Hills Feasibility Study
- Stories of Impact

Tricia Johnson, Sacred Heart, was available to answer questions. Discussion was held.

Administrator Brian Dissette spoke about having this on the County's radar as it relates to site planning with the Juvenile Center and a partnership. No action is sought today. Administration Committee spoke about the project. Further discussion was held.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS – Per the Berrien County Board of Commissioners’ Bylaws, those speaking during public comments may do so no longer than two minutes and shall identify themselves by name and city, township, or village. (Article III, 3.9B-C):

Marsha Gorbitz, Niles City, an employee of District Court Probation, concerned about the financing regarding Spectrum Health and Sacred Heart. She spoke about the Salary Study and non-union employees receiving raises retroactive.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 A.M.

R. McKinley Elliott, Chairperson

Sharon J. Tyler, County Clerk

Minutes are to be approved at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.