

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITTTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM
SPECIAL MEETING**

THURSDAY

9:00 A.M.

FEBRUARY 26, 2009

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman Paul Jewell; Absent- Commissioner Mark McClain.

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Rick Weaver, CEO Comprehensive Mental Health.

SPECIAL MEETING

RSN UPDATES

COMMISSIONERS

At 9:00 a.m. Chairman Crankovich opened a special meeting to meet with Rick Weaver, CEO of Central Washington Comprehensive Mental Health to discuss proposed amendments to the Regional Support Network (RSN) Inter-local Agreement.

Rick Weaver, CEO of Central Washington Comprehensive handed out materials for the Commissioners review. He explained that the last time the agreement had major modifications made to it was in 1989 but over the years, there have been many minor adjustments. He explained that Benton County Commissioner Max Bennett has been driving a majority of the changes to take the Yakima Nation out of the Inter-local. Rick indicated that RSN has been struggling to get Commissioner involvement. He explained that currently there is a funding committee formed and they make the tough decisions and put forth proposals for the group. Benton County Commissioner Max Bennett wants to eliminate the funding committee and have the Commissioners make all the decisions.

Commissioner Jewell indicated that he called the meeting because he has been attending the RSN meetings as the Kittitas County Commissioner representative and he felt he would be more of an asset to the group if he could get a better understanding of some of the pressing issues.

Chairman Crankovich indicated that he feels it is important to leave the individuals that are professionals in that area in the committee to make the decisions since they specialize in those areas.

Commissioner Jewell questioned the cost expense if the new inter-local is implemented. He asked Rick for his opinion on what type of support it will get from the other members of the RSN Group.

Rick expressed that he felt the inter-local would need unanimous support to be passed and he reviewed what he has picked up on so far from the other Commissioners and members. He explained that the agreement should be presented next Friday. He explained that there has been discussion on new proposed by-laws but he has yet to see them.

There was discussion on the issues with Yakima County and what they want to do and what they are planning for with funding. Rick explained that they intend to take between three and four hundred thousand dollars.

Rick explained what qualifies someone to be listed in their case loads. He indicated that Kittitas County has four to five cases every month. Rick explained that they would continue to pay the bills for our cases until the matter is resolved.

Rick indicated that they are currently going through the recruitment process for hiring a new RSN Director. He touched on some issues that make one of the candidates very controversial. He discussed his stance on employment contracts. Commissioner Jewell felt that if there were obvious issues with a potential candidate then we should look at going back out for candidates.

There was discussion on what qualifies someone for the position of director.

The Board thanked Rick for coming in and giving them updates.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

Mandy Robinson

Alan Crankovich, Chairman