



**City of Great Falls - Cascade County Joint Commission Work  
Session**

**City Commission Special Minutes  
Gibson Room, Civic Center, Room 212  
April 16, 2018**

1. Call to Order: Commissioner Weber 4:00 p.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Introduction of City and County Commissioners present.

City Commission members present: Bob Kelly, Bill Bronson, Owen Robinson, Mary Sheehy Moe, and Tracy Houck arrived at 4:16 p.m.

City Staff present: City Manager Greg Doyon and Deputy City Manager Chuck Anderson; Police Chief Dave Bowen; IT Manager Jon Legan; Fire Chief Steve Hester; and, City Clerk Lisa Kunz.

County Commission members present: Jane Weber, Jim Larson, and Joe Briggs.

County Staff present: Undersheriff Dave Phillips; Lt. Keith Kaululaau; IT Director Sean Higginbotham; and, DES Coordinator John Stevens.

Cascade City County Health Department members present: Privacy Officer/Community Health Education Specialist Trisha Gardner; and, Family Health Services Division Manager JoViviane Jones.

Community Health Care Center members present: CEO Trista Besich, and Chief Strategic Officer Kelsey Gummer.

4. Presentation on the Zuercher software implemented in the City's 911-Center and the County Adult Detention Center (ADC).

Commissioner Briggs, Mayor Kelly, Undersheriff Dave Phillips, Lt. Keith Kaululaau, Police Chief Dave Bowen, IT Director Sean Higginbotham, and IT Manager Jon Legan reported that the joint City-County collaboration on the Zuercher software implementation at the 911 Center and Adult Detention Center was a positive move for everyone involved. This joint chosen product will save both agencies an estimated \$100,000 in contractual obligations over 10 years, as well as an estimated \$120,000 in hardware maintenance fees and software support services. Appreciation was expressed to all parties involved for their successful implementation which ultimately enhanced the delivery of public safety services to the citizens of the community.

5. Cascade City-County Health Department Accreditation.

Privacy Officer/Community Health Education Specialist Trisha Gardner reported that the Cascade City-County Health Department (CCHD) received notification that it achieved national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board on February 20, 2018. Accreditation is a voluntary process that CCHD

started working towards in 2013. To obtain accreditation, the CCHD addressed standards of community health assessment, surveillance, investigation, health education, enforcement, policy development, emergency response planning, workforce development, quality improvement, and health department management and administration. She explained that the process stimulated greater accountability and transparency, improved management processes and increased its competitiveness for funding opportunities. Moving forward, CCHD will continue to streamline efforts and processes, plan for submission of annual reports to maintain accreditation, and prepare for re-accreditation in five years.

6. Celebration of the Blue Ribbon Affiliation Award from the Family Services Sector of the City-County Health Department.

Family Health Services Division Manager JoViviane Jones reported that Parents as Teachers (PAT) is a national early childhood parent education and family support program that serves families from pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten. The Health Department has been an affiliate of PAT for 10 years. The program provides parents with child development information and parenting support. Program staff visit families about twice a month, or more if necessary, and offer parent group meetings for opportunities to share information. This program helps families identify and connect with needed resources in the community. She further reported that last year the agency went through a more detailed evaluation by the National Center. In addition to meeting 17 essential requirements, the agency met at least 75% of 100 quality standards and was awarded a blue ribbon endorsement from Parents as Teachers National. This agency was only one of two Montana Parents as Teachers programs to receive such an endorsement. The agency will go through the process again in five years.

Commissioner Houck left the meeting at 4:37 p.m.

Commissioner Weber noted that the City-County Health Department is funded by Cascade County, the City of Great Falls, and some major grants.

7. Update on the Satellite Clinic at Paris Gibson Education Center.

Community Health Care Center CEO Trista Besich reported that the Community Health Care Center operates as a federally qualified health center that receives grant funds to serve patients that are uninsured or underinsured. The Center has been in operation for 23 years providing medical, dental and mental health services to anyone that is 200% of federal poverty level and below. Chief Strategic Officer Kelsey Gummer provided an update on the satellite clinic at Paris Gibson Education Center. The Community Health Care Center (CHCC) partnered with Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) establishing its first school based health clinic at Paris Education Center to provide medical services to any GFPS student, staff member, and their immediate families. For now, this satellite clinic will be open on Wednesdays from 9 am to 6 pm and is staffed with a medical provider, nurse and a support staff person. Most insurances can be billed, including Medicaid and Medicare, and they also offer a sliding fee scale that allows patients to pay on a discount even if they have insurance. Services offered are similar to services offered at the Health Center including routine checkups, immunizations, physicals, urgent care visits, management of chronic illnesses, lab testing, and well-

women preventative exams. Patients are not turned away for their inability to pay. Based on the needs of the district, students and staff, the satellite clinic has the capacity and is prepared to be open more days.

CEO Besich announced that they are about four weeks away from also opening a dental clinic that will be located at 202 2nd Avenue South.

8. Recap of the Vigilante Guard Exercise.

DES Coordinator John Stevens and Fire Chief Steve Hester provided a recap of the Vigilante Guard Exercise that occurred in the first week in March. It was a National Guard driven exercise that involved 32 different agencies around Montana. There were five sites in the local area that included exercises at the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Calumet, College of Technology, Malmstrom Air Force Base and Montana Air National Guard. A great benefit of the exercise to the City of Great Falls and Cascade County was participation in the joint information center. Communication is imperative and mini exercises will take place to get the organizational structure reinforced at the EOC.

9. Opportunity Zone application submitted by County-City-GFDA.

Mayor Kelly and Commissioner Briggs discussed the Opportunity Zone application submitted by the County, City, and Great Falls Development Authority. A tax law was passed that allowed for an opportunity to create an opportunity zone, which is an economic incentive zone. It's an opportunity for people to alleviate capital gains liability by investing into an opportunity zone designated area.

Planning and Community Development Director Craig Raymond reported that potential opportunity zones are US census tracts designated as low income communities where the poverty rate is 20% or greater and the median family income is 80% or less of the median statewide income. The Governors Office is able to designate up to 25% of the 106 potential census tracts in Montana. Essentially, the submitted application is in competition with other areas across the state of Montana. Based on the criteria set forth by the Department of Commerce, the prioritized nominations in and around Great Falls included: Census Tract 108 includes a significant portion of the Downtown Master Plan area and the Downtown TIF District area; Census Tract 16 includes property to the west of the Missouri River, including West Bank area, West Bank One development and the County Fairgrounds property; Census Tract 7 includes the remainder of the Downtown Master Plan and TIF areas not included in Census Tract 108; and, Census Tract 21 includes much of the commercial corridor, 10th Avenue South to the east, and the Med-Tech District including medical and higher education institutions.

10. Public comment on any public matter that is not on the meeting agenda and that is within the Commissioners' jurisdiction.

None.

11. Adjournment.

In closing, Mayor Kelly commented that the product delivered to our citizens, being recognized by national organizations, accreditation boards, and great cooperation amongst our public safety officials, was a great opportunity to celebrate successes of the professionals working for the City and County. Commissioner Weber concurred.

There being no further business to come before the Commissions, Commissioner Weber adjourned the informal Joint City-County Commission Work Session at 5:16 p.m.