

Minutes of Meeting
Heritage Health
March 28, 2023
3:00 p.m.

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan, Commissioner Bruce Mattare and Commissioner Bill Brooks met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were Finance Director Brandi Falcon, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Sierra Hansen. Also present were Heritage Health Chief Executive Officer Mike Baker and Kootenai County Resident Charity Myser.

- A. **Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.
- B. **Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. **Business:**

FY24 Heritage Health Budget Request with Chief Financial Officer Mark Hampe and Chief Executive Officer Mike Baker (Discussion)

Heritage Health Chief Executive Officer Mike Baker reviewed the history of his organization and the purposes it served. He described their client base and noted that about 8% of their patients were wholly uninsured. He said they had a specific fund which was drawn upon to cover expenses of the indigent clients and that was where all the money given to them by Kootenai County was channeled. He stated that none of the County funds were used for any other purpose.

Mr. Baker commented that Heritage Health would find other revenue streams if it became necessary to replace County funding. In response to a question from Commissioner Bruce Mattare, he explained that Heritage Health did not operate under the same requirements to treat everyone who came to them that Emergency Rooms did. He said there were statutes which applied to them, but they were somewhat more lenient.

Commissioner Mattare indicated that he felt the BOCC needed to address its own state mandated services before considering other requests.

Chair Duncan remarked that the Board was hearing from community partners first during this new budget season because the County departments' presentations were not yet due.

Mr. Baker thanked the Commissioners for their time.

- D. **Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing.

Kootenai County Resident Charity Myser said it was her belief that it was not the proper role of government to be charitable with taxpayer money. She remarked that, if the County had surplus funds, putting them in a rainy day fund or returning them to the taxpayers would be more appropriate.

Ms. Myser pointed out that Heritage Health was a nonprofit entity and did not need County tax dollars. She indicated that they also promoted and sponsored programs which the community did not support and made reference to an event held last summer. She said that providing funds to any part of an organization's budget indirectly linked the County to whatever initiatives adopted by that group. She urged the Commissioners to fund the needs of County offices not private sector groups.

E. Adjournment (Action): Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: _____
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk