

Operations Minutes September 28, 2021

The Berks County Board of Commissioners met Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. via Microsoft Teams Live pursuant to due notice to Board members and the public.

The following matters were discussed:

Approval of the Minutes

The September 14, 2021 Operations Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Items:

1. RFP# 21-15-KL - Study for the Delivery of Health and Public Health Services in Berks County – Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt and Kelly Laubach, Director of Contracts and Procurement – Decision requested on releasing the RFP

Commissioner Barnhardt spoke about the Request for Proposal (“RFP”) and gave a brief breakdown of what the study entails. The study of the Delivery of Health and Public Health Services in Berks is to understand the ratifications of our community's health needs. The study can assist us in determining what we do well and what we need to improve on when it comes to the delivery of Health Services.

Kelly Laubach, Director of Contracts and Procurement, gave an overview of what the study includes. Some of the items of the study will include social-economic factors, physical environment, health behaviors, health care demographics, health statistic indicators, mental health behavior, emergency response and preparedness, existing network of public health services, and the results of community health needs assessments which all three hospitals in the area do each year. The study will also include focus groups and public interviews throughout the entire process.

Commissioner Leinbach indicated that he recommends the addition of language and wants to reinforce that cost is a factor. Still, we also do not want to ignore the most efficient methods of delivering said services. We should not prejudge the study but instead wait for the study's results to judge based on accurate information collected.

Commissioner Rivera indicated he agrees with the addition of the language Commissioner Leinbach recommended. In addition, Commissioner Rivera recommends some language be stricken to clarify the study is not focusing on whether we should have a county-based health department.

Commissioner Barnhardt brought forward the study when we became aware of the rescue dollars coming to the county, and we agreed to take over oversight of specific areas. American Rescue Plan dollars will fund the cost of the study as it falls within the guidelines.

Commissioner Barnhardt asked Mrs. Laubach to expand on the timeline for finding a firm, vetting and going out for bids. Mrs. Laubach indicated that it could be approximately 12-14 weeks before it is presented at a Commissioners' meeting. Mrs. Laubach spoke of three but no more than five individuals to be on the committee. Commissioner Leinbach clarified that the committee would be a group of individuals to evaluate the responses to the RFP and not evaluate the study results.

Commissioner Barnhardt motioned to approve RFP and get it released. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Rivera. Seeing no further discussion, motion carried.

2. "On the Road" public meetings - Letter to municipalities – Commissioner Christian Leinbach and Ron Seaman, CAO – Decision requested

Commissioner Leinbach spoke about a letter in the works which may be sent out to municipalities inviting them to participate on our On the Road meetings. Asked Brittney Frankowski to finalize the letter and send to Commissioners for review and approval. Commissioner Leinbach express concerns with the date in the month of December for 2023. He indicated that we should revisit the dates due to not all months listed having a 5th Thursday as indicated on the letter.

Commissioners asked that IS reach out to all the municipalities that have submitted their request to hold an "On the Road" meetings to make sure they are technologically equipped to hold the meetings. They will revisit the letter at another operations meeting.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Comments - None

Respectfully Submitted,



Carmen Torres, Chief Clerk

Source	Type	Identity	Timestamp	Conversation Id	Content
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/10/2021 19:31	324abee7-f5f8-4622-be13-9a41ff0aa55	Public comment will be accepted in person and through the Q&A function. Please include your first name, last name and municipality for all comments. Any comments without name and municipality will not be considered. Each citizen can submit one comment. Comment length is dictated by limitations of the platform being used (Teams Q&A). In person comments will be accepted first, followed by comments submitted virtually. The meeting comment period is limited to a total of 30 minutes including both in person and virtual comments. This time period may be extended at the discretion of the Board. Please be concise. Comments that are germane to County business will be read during the meeting and should not be considered to be interactive dialog with the Commissioners. The County Solicitor shall be the final arbiter of whether a comment is germane and should be read. Any Commissioner response to public comment will be done at the discretion of the Commissioners. Thank you for your questions and comments. This Q&A is closed as the public comments have been addressed.
Moderator	Announcement	Berger, Heather (HBerger@countyofberks.com)	9/28/2021 14:15	f6bb1af4-540e-4945-ad16-a90cc7a544df	