

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**County Assistance Department Overview**  
**January 20, 2015**  
**9:00 a.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chairman David Stewart, Commissioner Dan Green and Commissioner Marc Eberlein met to discuss the following agenda items. Also present were Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden, County Clerk Jim Brannon, Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee, County Assistance Claims Specialist and Interviewer Carrie McCrite and Deputy Clerk Meshell Missler.

- A. Call to Order:** Chairman David Stewart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- B. Introductions:** The Board introduced and welcomed Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Pat Braden and County Assistance Claims Specialist and Interviewer Carrie McCrite.
- C. Changes to the Agenda:** There were no changes to the agenda.
- D. Old Business:** There was no old business discussed.
- E. New Business:**

Chief Deputy Clerk Pat Raffee addressed the Board with an overview of the County Assistance department. Ms. Raffee explained the County Assistance program provides reimbursement to any Kootenai County resident who applies and qualifies under indigent laws. There are approximately 1400 applications received each year. County Assistance is a limited and temporary assistance for medical bills, medication costs, rent, utilities and/or indigent deceased expenses.

County Assistance Claims Specialist and Interviewer Carrie McCrite explained the application process to the Board. Ms. McCrite said the three requirements per statute are residency, indigency and medical necessity, and that applicants must meet all three of these criteria, not just one. Each applicant must provide personal information regarding their living situation, income, assets, insurance and any other resources available to them. Personal and independent medical interviews may be conducted to confirm the necessity of the procedures being requested. If an applicant is approved for assistance, the statute requires them to repay the County to the degree they are able.

Ms. Raffee said the other part of the County Assistance budget is involuntary police holds. If any law enforcement officer decides that a person is a danger to themselves or a danger to anyone else, they can be involuntarily held at a hospital or a behavioral health institute. This is a growing problem nationwide and a growing expense to the County.

**F. 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. There were no public comments.

Chairman Stewart adjourned the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JIM BRANNON, CLERK

DAVID STEWART, CHAIRMAN

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Meshell Missler, Deputy Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_