



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2022

BENTON FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKING MEMBERS

Kennewick, WA – Benton and Franklin Counties have begun the process of gathering nominations and applications for the newly formed Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2022, the Boards of Benton and Franklin County Commissioners approved the formation of the Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee. The purpose of the committee is to gather input on the behavioral health needs of the community and to provide recommendations to the Boards of County Commissioners on how to best spend the revenues generated by the 0.1% sales tax for chemical dependency or mental health treatment services.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Committee membership will be made up of the following groups, with an attached document outlining specific voting versus non-voting members and numbers of representatives for each group:

- Experts or practitioners in Mental Health
- Experts or practitioners in Substance Use Disorder
- Persons with lived experience
 - *Defined as a person who is: a certified peer counselor, in recovery themselves for at least one year, or has close family members with substance use disorder and/or mental health issues.*
- Hospital Emergency Room Managers
- Law Enforcement and Corrections
- Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Responders
- Community Members / General Public
- Benton County Administrator (or designee)
- Franklin County Administrator (or designee)
- Benton County Human Services Manager (or designee)
- Benton-Franklin Health District Executive Director (or designee)
- Benton-Franklin Superior Court Administrator (or designee) – Adult & Juvenile Drug Court
- Benton County District Court Administrator (or designee) – Mental Health Court & Veterans Court
- Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are due by Saturday, April 30, 2022. To apply, use the following online form: [Benton Franklin Behavioral Health Advisory Committee](#) (also available at www.co.benton.wa.us)

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Benton County Contact:

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509-786-5600

Franklin County Contact:

Keith Johnson, County Administrator
kjohnson@franklincountywa.gov
509-545-3578.

BENTON FRANKLIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

VOTING MEMBERS

Appointed by Benton County

- (1) Law enforcement
- (1) Fire / EMS
- (1) Hospital representative
- (1) Mental Health Practitioner
- (1) Substance Use Disorder Practitioner
- (1) Persons w/ lived experience
- (2) General Public

Appointed by Franklin County

- (1) Law enforcement
- (1) Fire / EMS
- (1) Hospital representative
- (1) Mental Health Practitioner
- (1) Substance Use Disorder Practitioner
- (1) Persons w/ lived experience
- (2) General Public

Appointed by Committee Members

- (1) Persons w/ lived experience

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- Benton County Administrator (or designee)
- Franklin County Administrator (or designee)
- Benton County Human Services Manager (or designee)
- Benton-Franklin Health District Executive Director (or designee)
- Benton-Franklin Superior Court Administrator (or designee)
 - *Adult & Juvenile Drug Court
- Benton County District Court Administrator (or designee)
 - *Mental Health Court & Veterans Court
- Benton Franklin Recovery Coalition

