

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

January 13, 2021

Logan County Commissioner Chairman Byron Pelton called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. via the Zoom web based application due to COVID-19, with Logan County Commissioner Joseph McBride, Logan County Commissioner Jane Bauder, Logan County Human Services' Director David Long, and Logan County Human Services' Recording Secretary Peggy Kircher, present.

Minutes from the Board of Human Services meeting held on December 9, 2020 were presented. Commissioner McBride moved to approve the Board meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long presented the Commissioners with the Expenditure Summaries report dated December, 2020, the Allocation Tracking report dated November, 2020, and the TANF Reserve Balances report dated November, 2020.

Director Long informed the Board that as the Family First program rolls out, the counties need foster care treatment available in the homes and none of rural Colorado has this available. He said that rural counties are making this need known. It is up to the State to provide this training, recruitment tool, certifications, and support.

Chairman Pelton said that he visited with Robin Smart and CCI regarding the child welfare funding system. He said that Ms. Smart is going to do a complete overhaul on this system. Chairman Pelton said that he wants to make sure that CCI and the Counties are part of this discussion.

Director Long thanked Chairman Pelton for his involvement in this process. Chairman Pelton said that he is going to bring Director Long with him to these meetings.

The Board reviewed the 2021 service agreement for legal services in the amount of \$177,424.00. Commissioner McBride moved to approve the 2021 Purchase of Service Agreement for legal services in the amount of \$177,424.00. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

The Board reviewed the 2021 Voting Proxy for CCI. Commissioner McBride moved to appoint Director Long as the CCI voting proxy, as needed, for all steering committees on behalf of the County Commissioners. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long informed the Board that the TANF service contract for Family Resource Center is an amendment to the meeting agenda due to being received after the final agenda was made of public record. Commissioner Bauder moved to amend the agenda to add the discussion of the TANF contract received from the Family Resource Center. Commissioner McBride seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the TANF service contract with Family Resource Center in the amount of \$18,820.00.

Chairman Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Commissioner McBride abstained from voting due to being a Family Resource Center board member.

Director Long gave the Board staffing updates.

Anthony Avalos was hired to fill the vacant caseworker position in the Core Services unit. His first day on the job was December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Director Long gave the Board COVID-19 updates. Since the alert has moved to Code Orange, LCDHS staff has been given the option to choose whether they want to wear masks. About 50% of the employees choose to continue wearing masks. There are still strict guidelines that continue for visitations with clients and workers. Currently clients are being checked for body temperature, answering COVID questions, and required to wear masks during visitations. Family Resource Center is going to be offering visitation services again in the near future. This will take some of the load off of the child welfare workers and will allow more availability for the families' visitations.

Director Long inquired about extending the option for employees to work remotely for other purposes other than COVID related situations.

The Commissioners agreed that this subject will need to be discussed with Diana Korbe in the County Human Resources office. The Board does not want employees to take inappropriate advantage of being able to work from home and as staff work from home due to COVID, they should only be able to be clocked in as working from home if they are being productive and doing their job. Director Long said that the work the employees are completing as they are working from home needs to be quantified to account for the work that is getting done. This subject will be on hold until there is more discussion with the HR department. Working from home/remote working will continue to be an option for only COVID related situations.

Commissioner McBride reminded the Board that the 80 hours of COVID emergency hours available to staff have been extended to March 31<sup>st</sup>. Director Long said that there are some employees that have been required to quarantine due to exposure and had to use the emergency hours, then later ended up catching COVID and had to quarantine again and use their own paid time off. Some employees do not think that it is fair because they have been required to quarantine and do not feel that they should have to use their own PTO. Chairman Pelton said that this is the way the rules are written and Commissioner Bauder said that the County is allowing the 80 emergency hours for COVID and any hours needed over that, employees will have to use their own paid time off.

Director Long informed the Board that clients that want to get their GED are having problems completing this because they do not have a laptop to complete this course remotely and this class is currently only being offered remotely. He inquired if the Commissioners would approve purchasing laptops from TANF funds for these specific situations where TANF clients need to get their GED. Commissioner McBride wondered about computers and funds being donated to this program. Chairman Pelton said that he knows there are laptops available for people taking GED classes in the evenings. Director Long said that Colorado Works staff is researching this to find out if the NJC GED program has these available for the students. Director Long inquired if laptops are not available directly through the program, would the Commissioner approve LCDHS to purchase laptops through the TANF program. The Board brought up that there is also the issue of whether the clients will have a wireless internet connection to use the laptops and attend the classes remotely. This will continue to be researched to find out more information.

Director Long said that Youth Link is going through a transition. Shiloh Adolph, RE-1 superintendent, is no longer willing to have this program's salary pass through the school district. Family Resource Center is willing to be the recipient to allow the program/salary to pass through their program. Rhonda Conger, Director of Youth Link, resigned from her position with Youth Link and will be opening her own private business.

Director Long said that the Youth Link Board is considering having a person work half time with Youth Link and half time as assistant director to Director Yvonne Draxler at the Family Resource Center. The Youth Link office would be housed at the Family Resource Center. The State legislature cut a lot of the money from programs with HB 1451. Youth Link has been in existence for around 16 years and Director Long said that it wouldn't surprise him if it starts to phase out due to funding and transition. There is a Community That Cares effort that the department of healthcare has had for the last 4 years. This funding grant will be over in June. There is some duplication in efforts with these programs and it might be helpful to blend/merge funding and goals of these programs.

Director Long informed the Commissioners about child support stimulus money that went to absent parent CSE clients. There was a duplication of what was sent out to these clients due to the IRS and the State sent this money out and it will need to be recovered by the counties. This is county only money.

Director Long said that the Trails Modernization transition from the Trails legacy system has been delayed due to many problems with the new system.

Director Long said that employees are asking if Covid vaccinations will be mandated for county employees. The Commissioners said that they are not in favor of requiring staff to get the vaccination. Director Long inquired about when the vaccinations will be available for Department of Human Services' staff. Commissioner McBride said that he saw on the news that the Feds are trying to get the vaccinations moved out quicker. Director Long would like the front line staff that work directly with the clients to have priority to have the option to receive the vaccinations.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on February 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom web based application due to COVID-19.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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David E. Long, Director

Approved by:

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Byron H. Pelton, Chairman  
Logan County Commissioner

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Joseph A. McBride, Logan County Commissioner

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Jane E. Bauder, Logan County Commissioner