

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

May 13, 2020

Logan County Commissioner Chairman Joseph McBride called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building with Logan County Commissioner Byron Pelton, 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 April 8, 2020 were presented. Commissioner Pelton 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 Statement of Expenditure Summary dated April 30, 2020, March Allocation Tracking Report, and March 2019/2020 TANF Reserve Balances report.

Director Long presented the Board with the Request and Approval for TANF transfers from La Plata County DHS, Kit Carson County DHS, and Otero County DHS. Commissioner Pelton moved to purchase \$50,000 of TANF funds from Otero County DHS with a MOE in the amount of \$7,500, a purchase of \$45,000 of TANF funds from La Plata County DHS with a MOE in the amount of \$6,750, and a purchase of \$25,000 of TANF funds from Kit Carson DHS with a MOE in the amount of \$3,750. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long presented the ratified TANF Services Contract between Logan County DHS and Cooperating Ministry of Logan County for additional funding in the amount of \$2,884.22. Commissioner Pelton moved to ratify the services contract agreement between Logan County DHS and Cooperating Ministry in the amount of \$2,884.22 and allow the Chairman to sign the contract. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long presented a TANF Services Contract between Logan County DHS and Cooperating Ministry of Logan County for funding in the amount of \$31,389.09 to assist in continuing to provide the food bank to TANF eligible clients. This is an opportunity to provide help to the community and service people with fresher food. Commissioners McBride and Pelton asked if this can be published locally for positive reinforcement into the community. Commissioner Pelton also suggested that Director Long bring up areas of what previous TANF funds have been used for to help the community. Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the TANF funding Service Contract from Logan County DHS to Cooperating Ministry of Logan County in the amount of \$31,389.09. Commissioner Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long informed the Commissioners of Briefing Highlights and Staffing Updates.

Madison Applegate was hired to fill the vacant position in the Child Welfare Core Services Unit. She is graduating with a bachelor degree in May and the department had a small celebration to honor her.

Teresa Phillips was hired to fill the vacant technician position in the Adult Programs Unit.

Director Long inquired about the County's current policy regarding capital purchases. The Commissioner said that if the purchase is service based, these purchases can be competed. If the purchase is not service based, it should be delayed until next year if possible.

Director Long said that the front lobby is averaging 8-13 clients coming in per day.

The State gave a grant to assist the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. Logan County shifted a full time EF position to 2 half time positions to assist LEAP. Last year, there were 191 applications denied and this year there are currently 137 denials. Overall, the total number of

applications received is consistent with last year's number. The program was extended to August but Director Long predicts that these available funds will be used by the end of June.

Director Long said that the Department started allowing in person child welfare visitations this week. The clients coming in are asked to not bring unnecessary additional items in but if they do bring items in, they are being put in a vacant area to contain them rather than into the visitation rooms. This will continue to be a challenge.

Director Long said that he was on a call with other counties and State CDHS staff. There was recognition from CDHS Director Michelle Barnes that Human Services will be entering into a lot of unknown territory and will look very different in the future due to a large reduction of funding available. Tracy Garchar, Director of Mesa County DHS, brought up the fact that departments have been able to relax and have some waivers in child welfare and been able to verify safety and surroundings of children by virtual visits rather than physically driving to have face to face visits. This practice saves a lot of money and stress on staff. DHS offices would like to continue the practice of these efficiencies and build them into regular business practice.

Commissioner Pelton informed the Board that there have been some discussions with Commissioners from other counties about DHS budget issues. He asked Director Long what he would recommend the State taking back from the counties to absorb some of the unfunded mandates and cuts in allocations. The State decided to shut the counties down due to Covid-19 and people will not be able to pay their property taxes and do what they need to do to supply the government services. Director Long said that the State always expects counties to do more with less but now counties will have to do less with less and do it more effectively. He said that in 1990, Weld County attempted to give all of Human Services back to the State. This was also done in California at that time. California was successful with this transition but in Colorado, the State still made Weld County pay 27%. They lost more by losing local control and had to pay more than the 20/80 split. Commissioner Pelton said that County Commissioners discussed about giving certain areas/programs of Human Services back to the State but not all of their services. Director Long said that he can see where regionalizing services could help in some ways but this will cause the counties to lose local control, representation, and a loss of local jobs.

Director Long said that he feels the moral at the department is as good as it can be but asked the Commissioners to get clarification on the use of masks and said that employees have been harmed from wearing the masks.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on June 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building in the Logan conference room.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Long, Director

Approved by:

Joseph A. McBride, Chairman
Logan County Commissioner

Byron H. Pelton, Logan County Commissioner

Jane E. Bauder, Logan County Commissioner