

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

September 9, 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 August 12, 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 Expenditure Summaries report dated August 31, 2020, the July 2020 Allocation Tracking report, the July 2020 TANF Reserve Balances report, and the Allocation Changes report.

Commissioner Pelton asked Director Long if he could attend the Child Welfare Allocation Committee meeting on his behalf on September 18th. Director Long said that he would be able to attend the meeting.

Director Long informed the Board about a foster child that recently became the age that he/she can receive a driver's permit. The current LCDHS foster care policy does not allow a foster child to drive a vehicle with the foster parents. The foster parents have agreed to pay for vehicle insurance for the foster child. Director Long requested the Board's acknowledgement and approval to authorize and expand the Foster Child Driver's Permit Driving Policy. Director Long said that this policy follows along with the Prudent Parent Standard law that was allowed or changed in rule about 4 or 5 years ago. This law allows foster kids to be kids and be able to participate in normal activities that kids enjoy. The Board approved the expanded Foster Child Driver's Permit Driving policy.

Director Long gave the Commissioners the briefing highlights.

The Board discussed the Childcare Focus Group updates. Director Long said that the Childcare Focus group met and looked at Steven's elementary building last week. The building looks promising to house a childcare facility but there are some questions with structural issues and cosmetic repairs of the building. There is a grant possibility from El Pomar foundation that has to be decided on. The question is if they will be ready to spend the grant money in the correct fashion that meets the grant requirements and will benefit the community. Representatives from Precision Homes are going to get back with Trae Miller, Economic Development Director, to discuss a wide range of what needs done to the Steven's elementary building and give estimated costs. Director Long said that the building will have to be financially viable for it to be purchased.

Commissioner McBride said that he doesn't think that the focus group is unified with what they want to do. It was brought up by Michelle Sharp, ECLPS director, that they currently do not have anyone to run a childcare facility. There was some discussion about looking at the vacant Small World daycare facility and the vacant Saint Anthony's School for a childcare facility. Director Long said that there is a State requirement to be able to push/roll a baby crib out of the facility to meet safety standards. Commissioner McBride said that someone from the Board on the Childcare Focus group will be contacting St. Anthony's to discuss the vacant school. Commissioner McBride said that there are many unknowns which include who will run the facility, people to work at the facility, finding a facility, benefits for people working at the facility, and the wages to pay people who work at the facility.

Karen Milner, finance supervisor, momentarily joined the meeting. She informed the Board that a few months ago, Shannon Graves, assistant finance manager, was offered a stay at home job making \$12,000 more per year than what she is currently being paid working for Logan County. Ms. Graves turned down the job because of the flex time and benefits Logan County offers. Ms. Milner excused herself from the meeting. The Board agreed that employees seem to enjoy the availability of the flex work schedule.

Director Long said that if the childcare project could be deemed as viable, Logan County or the City of Sterling could figure out a way to control the project and move on with it. When the project was completed, it could be divested to another entity with a Board and they would be able to incorporate all of the visions for the childcare facility.

Director Long said that the Childcare Focus Group needs to build a detailed presentation and put it in front of people. He believes that it will be accepted once everything is put in place.

Director Long gave the Board the Child Protection Ombudsman updates. Every year, LCDHS receives a list of the number of complaints to the Department that go to the child protection Ombudsman. The State totals were 469 complaints from all of the counties. There were 51 letters of compliance concern to those counties that rose to that level. LCDHS received one complaint that was logged and viable to look into but was closed due to lack of information. Director Long said that staff is doing an excellent job.

Director Long gave the Board information regarding future purchases of TANF dollars from other counties. Director Long visited with Adam Steinbach from Precision Homes and he gave Mr. Steinbach information about the process in purchasing TANF dollars. Mr. Steinbach said that he can pledge to get donors in the amount of \$45,000 to purchase \$300,000 TANF dollars from other counties.

Director Long gave the Board the staffing updates.

There is currently one caseworker vacancy in the Core Services unit. The vacancy is being advertised to get filled.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on October 14, 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 9:36 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