

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

October 13, 2021

Logan County Commissioner Chairman Byron Pelton called the Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building with Logan County Commissioner Jane Bauder, Logan County Human Services Finance and Accounting manager Karen Milner, Logan County Human Services Assistant Finance manager Shannon Graves, Logan County Finance Manager Debbie Unrein, 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 September 8, 2021 were presented. Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the Board meeting minutes as written. Chairman Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long presented the Commissioners with the Expenditure Summaries report dated September 30, 2021, the August, 2021 Allocation Tracking report, and the September, 2021 TANF Reserve Balances report.

The Board reviewed the Logan County DHS 2022 budget. Ms. Milner gave the Board detailed information regarding the upcoming budget and the Board received a hard copy of the 2022 budget letter and budget. Commissioner Pelton suggested that the current mill levy for LCDHS stay the same and re-evaluate it in 2022. The Board did not have any questions regarding the budget and the Commissioners will include it in the Public meeting November 2nd. The LCDHS budget will be put into the formal county budget and will be formally approved in November.

Ms. Milner, Ms. Unrein, and Ms. Graves excused themselves from the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

Director Long informed the Commissioners that LCDHS has been having a lot of problems with a lack of phone service with New Cloud Network. The phone system is constantly down and not working properly. The Commissioners will research other options and request bids for this service for the next three years. New Cloud's three year phone service contract with LCDHS expires in February, 2022.

Director Long presented the TANF service contracts from Baby Bear Hugs, Cooperating Ministry of Logan County, Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips, and Sedgwick, Help for Abused Partners, and Trinity Lutheran School Age program. The Board reviewed and discussed the requests in all of the service contracts.

Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the TANF service contract with Baby Bear Hugs in the amount of \$27,485.00. Chairman Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the TANF service contract with Cooperating Ministry of Logan County in the amount of \$78,297.00. Chairman Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the TANF service contract with Early Childhood Council of Logan, Phillips, and Sedgwick in the amount of \$38,963.00. Chairman Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the TANF service contract with Help for Abused Partner in the amount of \$39,993.00. Chairman Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Commissioner Bauder moved to approve the TANF service contract with Trinity Lutheran School Age Program in the amount of \$115,810.77. Chairman Pelton seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long gave the Board the staffing updates.

Marsha Schuppe, family assistance programs supervisor, submitted her retirement resignation. She will be leaving employment on December 30th. The job description for this position is getting revised to reflect current job duties. This vacancy will be advertised internally.

Currently, there are 3 vacant child welfare caseworker positions. Director Long said that he might attempt to recruit individuals that are leaving CMHC to fill vacant caseworker positions at Logan County DHS. There is an individual that might be leaving CMHC and she is an early childhood

specialist and has a master's degree in psychology and early childhood and might be interested in coming to work at LCDHS. Director Long inquired about the Office of Behavioral Health county grant fund opportunity and said that this may potentially be available to use to help pay for the salary for an in-house therapist. Chairman Pelton said that Dr. Werthwein said that counties approved for the grant will pay 25% and the OBH will pay 75%. Director Long said that the ARPA money could be used to help cover the county's expense. LCDHS will need to have their RFP for the OBH grant submitted by Monday, November 8th. Director Long will contact Michelle McCauley, program manager and CEO of New Pathways to Wellness and Recovery counseling, to discuss recruiting caseworkers/therapists.

CMHC is requiring staff to receive the COVID vaccination. The Board discussed exemptions from mandatory vaccinations.

Kristina Scheele was hired to fill the administrative specialist position in the front office. Theresa Steger, previously in the front office unit, was promoted to the vacant position in the adult programs unit.

Director Long gave the Commissioners the briefing highlights.

Director Long thanked the Commissioners for the employees' one time ARPA premium pay bonus to be paid in October and 4% salary increase in 2022. All employees are very happy and appreciate this bonus and salary increase very much.

Director Long said that the Kemp Center holds an annual child welfare conference every year. This conference was held via Zoom last year and this year. The LCDHS caseworkers are able to use attendance to this conference towards training hours and it is beneficial to them. Several caseworkers received scholarships to attend and the department paid \$100 per person for the other caseworkers that attended. Director Long said that he wanted to bring a key note speaker's presentations to the Commissioners' attention. One of the key note speakers this year blasted child welfare in a very negative way. It made these caseworkers that attended feel horrible about the jobs they are doing. Director Long said that he contacted Joe Holmar, CDHS child welfare, and informed him about this poor presentation. Mr. Holmar said that he is hearing a lot of negated feedback regarding this speaker's message. Director Long is going to forward a copy of the presentation to Mr. Holmar so he can listen to it. There was another key note speaker that did a great job presenting similar material putting a positive spin on it that made the caseworker in attendance feel better about the information and their professions.

Director Long said that Carrie Jackson, a case aide in child welfare intake, currently has her associate's degree in psychology and is working on getting her BA through the University of Northern Colorado. Erica Frevert, CW intake supervisor, received authorization from the State that Ms. Jackson can start working in provisional casework. Director Long asked the Commissioners if the County would consider paying for some of her college expenses while she is working under a contract with LCDHS to stay for a certain amount of time after she completes her bachelor's degree. Commissioner Bauder said that it makes sense to invest in an employee that is capable and would be a good investment. Director Long will get numbers and documents together to present to the Board of County Commissioners.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on November 10, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Long, Director

Approved by:

Byron H. Pelton, Chairman
Logan County Commissioner

Joseph A. McBride, Logan County Commissioner

Jane E. Bauder, Logan County Commissioner