

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

November 10, 2021

Logan County Commissioner Chair pro tem Jane Bauder called the Board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building. Logan County Commissioner Joseph McBride joined via Zoom web meeting, Logan County Human Services' Director David Long, and Logan County Human Services' Recording Secretary Peggy Kircher, were present.

Minutes from the Board of Human Service meeting held on October 13, 2021 were presented. Chair pro tem Bauder said that due to Commissioner Pelton being absent and Commissioner McBride not being able to attend the October meeting, the approval of minutes will be tabled until the Board meeting in December.

Director Long presented the Commissioners with the Expenditure Summaries report dated October 31, 2021, the September, 2021 Allocation Tracking report, and the September, 2021 TANF Reserve Balances report. Director Long said that the new childcare facility will be opening next year. He said that the State licensing is requiring every room in the childcare facility to have an exterior doorway. This will take extra expense and time.

Director Long gave the Board information regarding the need to replace the department's #9 2008 Chevy Impala with 176,719 miles. The state bid with Daniels Long Chevrolet for a 2022 Chevy Malibu is in the amount of \$17,335.00. Ms. Kircher said that she spoke to Mike Schadegg, manager at TransWest Auto, and he said that no dealer will be able to compete with the State bidding price unless they have been accepted within the State price agreement awards. Ms. Kircher spoke to Mitch Maltry, manager at Daniels Long Chevrolet, and he said that he ordered 20 extra 2022 Chevrolet Malibu cars with the State bid pricing. Commissioner McBride moved to approve the purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet Malibu from Daniels Long Chevrolet for the amount of \$17,335.00. Commissioner Bauder seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long gave the Commissioners the briefing highlights and staffing updates.

Director Long informed the Board that the Department still has three vacant caseworker positions and LCDHS has not received any applications for the vacant positions. He had an interesting discussion with other Human Services Directors regarding the education requirements for child welfare caseworkers and all agreed that it would be helpful if the State would lessen the educational requirements. All attending the discussion said that they are not able to fill their vacancies due to lack of applicants.

Director Long said that an interview will be conducted on Monday, November 15th to fill the upcoming vacancy in the Family Assistance Programs supervisor position. He said that other NE Directors will help with conducting the interview.

Director Long informed the Board regarding the Kinship Audit Review completed this year. He said that all 10 cases pulled for the Review passed. The Resource unit did a great job and Logan County was acknowledged as being one of the top 3 counties in the State. Due to this excellent Review, LCDHS kinship cases will not be audited as often.

Director Long informed the Board that the Department's program assistance units processed 100% of the expedite food assistance applications timely and there was only one out of 53 non expedite food assistance cases pulled that was not timely. This averaged a total of 81.11% timeliness.

Director Long inquired about having foster children, which are currently in Logan County's custody, vaccinated for COVID. He said that this subject came up due to foster parents inquired about having their foster children vaccinated. The Commissioners said that they would not be in favor of giving the COVID vaccination to children that are in the custody of Logan County. The Board agreed that if the foster parents adopt the children, they can then have the children vaccinated.

Director Long informed the Board that childcare paperwork is becoming more cumbersome to small counties due to not working with these cases on a regular basis and being short staffed. He inquired if the Board would be in favor for small counties to request Logan County DHS to process their CCCAP cases. Director Long said that this would not be a workload issue for Logan County, it would help the small counties, and Logan County DHS would get reimbursed for processing these cases. Commissioner Bauder said that she is open to the idea and Commissioner McBride said that he was also in agreement.

Director Long said that New Pathways sent LCDHS a request for a mental health grant. New Pathways inquired if ARPA money could be used to help pay for a mental health therapist position to sustain the position until the revenue from the Medicaid caseload is large enough. As the Medicaid caseload increases, less ARPA money will be needed. Director Long said that he will work on this proposal and the Board will be able to modify it prior to it being finalized. Commissioner McBride said that he spoke to a previous employee of Centennial Mental Health and it was explained to him that Centennial Mental Health is very short handed on therapists and by contract, they are required to serve the Medicaid clients first and due to this, they do not have therapists available for clients that are not receiving Medicaid assistance. Commissioner McBride would like LCDHS to reach out to all profit and nonprofit mental health providers in Logan County for ARPA fund requests so this is done in a standard manner. Commissioner McBride said that previously there was also some discussion about the child care centers using ARPA funds to supplement pay for employee's benefits and wages. Director Long said that he can include the justification in the proposal. Commissioner McBride said that the ARPA fund requests are coming to an end and if Logan County wants to accept fund requests for mental health, this needs to be opened up to make sure all mental health providers are being serviced to keep it equitable.

Director Long said that he is also working on the County Office of Behavior grant and this has to be submitted by November 30th, 2021. He said counties are working together to try and create a training grant to pay for higher level specialty programs that are done through the federal clearing house. Commissioner McBride said that he feels that the County needs to set a deadline date to accept ARPA fund requests. He said that the Commissioners will discuss this deadline date in their County Board meeting on Tuesday. Director Long and Commissioner Bauder reiterated that the plan for the ARPA funds can change as time passes over the next 4 years. Director Long said that the Commissioners might want to determine a cap on the amount of the ARPA funds that will be designated for mental health.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on December 8, 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 9:46 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, Chair pro tem
Logan County Commissioner