

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

November 18, 2020

Logan County Commissioner Chairman Joseph McBride called the Board meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. via the Zoom web based application due to COVID-19, with Logan County Commissioner Byron Pelton, Logan County Commissioner Jane Bauder, Logan County Human Services' Director David Long, Logan County Emergency Manager Jerry Casebolt, and Logan County Human Services' Recording Secretary Peggy Kircher, present.

Minutes from the Board of Human Services meeting held on October 14, 2020 were presented. Commissioner Pelton moved to approve the Board meeting minutes as written. Commissioner McBride seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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

Commissioner Pelton inquired about the emergency session that the Governor called for. The fear is that any kind of stimulus that the Governor takes out from the budget, a lot of it will be taken from Human Services. Director Long hadn't heard much about this session but said that Human Services is usually the first place that it is taken out of and it is usually TANF money. Commissioner Pelton said that this puts the burden back on the local governments to use their budget to supplement the LCDHS budget.

Director Long gave the Commissioners the briefing highlights.

The department received a job application from an individual for a caseworker position in the Core Services unit. The individual will be scheduled for an interview within the next couple weeks.

Director Long said that employees are getting tested for COVID-19. Some employees are testing positive and some are being doctor prescribed as presumed positive. The Department is following the county guidelines that the county set up to keep business moving forward. There are not many child welfare visits happening right now. There are several employees out in each unit. Coverage in all areas is continuing and the Department is not overly struggling in one unit compared to another. Some employees who are quarantined are able to work from home if they are feeling healthy enough to do so. Commissioner Bauder inquired about the 40 emergency laptops that were received from the State and if employees can use these to work from home. Director Long said that employees are using the laptops and all but two have been disbursed to employees.

The supervisors in some units had their employees work from home one day to make sure they had everything they need to complete their jobs in the event they are required to work from home. Most employees have their own offices, are keeping their office doors shut, and are wearing masks in the hallways. Director Long said that the spread of COVID has not been spread within the office and is coming in from outside into the employees' families. There was only one circumstance where COVID spread within a unit in the office and it was at the beginning of employees testing positive.

Director Long said that the Family Resource Center is providing the services for the Preserving Safe and Stable Families grant. FRC made vast expenditures at the end of this year. LCDHS does not oversee this grant closely but is the fiscal agent for the PSSF grant. The Family Resource Center has spent a high amount of dollars that did not meet the grant guidelines and is being critiqued at the State level. They might have to pay some of this grant money back. Director Long said that LCDHS has had to contact them about the Logan County TANF grant also. Director Long said that FRC needs to pull their financial piece together for all of their funding sources.

Commissioner McBride said that the Board does not get the whole program picture by sitting on the Family Resource Center Board. Commissioner McBride will bring this issue up in the next Board meeting. He is not sure he will continue being a board member after his term lapses.

Director Long said that this financial issue is worrisome for LCDHS.

Director Long said that he visited with the Rural Solutions group yesterday regarding them being the 501c3, possibly for the interim, for a new child care entity. The group seemed very positive about this idea and felt that it fits with their mission. This would be a great way for Rural Solutions to utilize their 501c3 for this child care purpose. This might spur other counties or regions to use them for their 501c3 needs in the future. Director Long said that Rural Solutions would be a better place to hold the financial piece rather than Logan County. He said other grantors would look positively at the child care facility using Rural Solution's 501c3 rather than a government entity handling the financial piece. El Pomar was informed about the financial portion and they were fine with this process.

Director Long said that he received a request from Shila Adolph, the Superintendent for RE-1 Valley School district. She requested that a food distribution box be put into place in the front of the Central Services building. She said that individuals would fill the box with food and people in need could come get the food. Commissioner Pelton said that Logan County also has Cooperating Ministries that offers food to the community. He said that this should be a partnership with RE-1 school district and Cooperating Ministries. He said that if Cooperating Ministries does not want to coordinate this effort with RE-1, then Logan County could discuss this with Ms. Adolph. Director Long agreed with this and will try to coordinate this endeavor with Ms. Adolph and Cooperating Ministry. Commissioner McBride said that he thought that there was discussion a while back with the Health Department with potential to have drop off pantries and wondered if the outdoor food pantries would be a risk of food being tainted and cause someone to get sick which would be a health code violation. Commissioner Bauder said that the more people that get involved, the more complicated projects get and this slows things down. She asked about the cold weather and food freezing in the distribution box. Director Long will ask Ms. Adolph about this possibility.

Director Long gave the Commissioners an update regarding the department's computer system internet connection bandwidth. There are many internet based meetings happening in the building due to COVID which is slowing the State system way down. There are two routers in the building that can be used for WIFI purposes to help the state network operate more smoothly. Istonish, the company that controls the department's state server and network, is reviewing the system to see if there are hardware problems causing slowness issues. Director Long said that a new fiber optics line might need to be brought into the building to expand the network capabilities if it is determined that it is needed to make the state programs run appropriately. Ms. Kircher said that all of the State programs utilized by Logan County DHS are web based except for the Trails legacy system and ACSES child support system. The web based programs use the fiber optic line that runs through Kentec Communication. The two T1 lines are not moving much data anymore since most of the state programs are web based.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on December 9, 2020 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 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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David E. Long, Director

Approved by:

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Joseph A. McBride, Chairman  
Logan County Commissioner

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Byron H. Pelton, Logan County Commissioner

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Jane E. Bauder, Logan County Commissioner