

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

September 13, 2023

Logan County Commissioner Chairman Jerry A. Sonnenberg called the Board meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building with Logan County Commissioner Mike Brownell, Logan County Commissioner Joseph A. McBride, 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 9, 2023 were presented. Commissioner McBride moved to approve the Board meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Brownell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long presented the Commissioners with the Expenditure Summary report dated August 31, 2023, the July Allocation Tracking report, and the TANF Reserve Balances report dated July 31, for SFY 2023/2024. Director Long said that LEAP will not be offering water payment assistance this year. This will cause LCDHS to pay for the clients' water bills out of the diversion program paying with TANF dollars. Commissioner McBride inquired about how much the department pays to the City of Sterling for clients' outstanding water bills. He wondered if we can negotiate the cost or get a discount since this is being paid on behalf of the needy citizens. Chairman Sonnenberg said that the high cost of the City of Sterling water was driven by the CDPHE due to them determining that the water numbers were not acceptable which caused the city to update the treatment facility costing 30 million dollars.

Director Long presented the TANF service contract from Help for Abused Partners in the amount of \$25,889.00. Commissioner McBride moved to approve the TANF service contract between Logan County Department of Human Services and Help for Abused Partners in the amount of \$25,889.00 and authorized the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Brownell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director McBride said that he enjoyed the tours of the Help for Abused Partners facility and the Cooperating Ministry facility. He would like to tour more of the facilities that LCDHS gives TANF funds to. Director Long will contact some of the other entities receiving TANF dollars and get tours set up.

Director Long gave the Commissioners the briefing highlights and staffing updates. Celeste Skeels, currently an eligibility specialist, will be transferring over to the child welfare ongoing unit to fill the case aide vacancy. Renee Galvin-Marin, currently an eligibility specialist, will be transferring over to the child support unit to fill the human services specialist-legal vacancy. Ted Desormeaux was hired to fill one of the eligibility specialist vacancies in the family medical and SNAP assistance unit. Brianna Kemerer was hired to fill one of the eligibility specialist vacancies in the family medical and SNAP assistance unit.

Sandi Shaw was hired to fill one of the eligibility specialist vacancies in the family medical and SNAP assistance unit.

Director Long said that the additional eligibility specialist position that was added to the department's family assistance programs unit will be paid out of the \$70,000 received from the HC PF PHE Incentive dollars through next year. This will not come out of County or State funds due to the application for PHE incentive dollars was amended to be able to pay for this employee out of this fund. The employee hired for this position will fill the vacancy of an eligibility worker that will be retiring next year.

Director Long said that Kevin Blankenship, the City of Sterling Manager, was charged by the City Council to coordinate and put a resource booklet together to help the citizens' awareness of what programs and resources are available in Sterling. Family Resource Center took it upon themselves to help with this project since they already have a resource guide put together that needs updated. They have a person who is working on this project and her working hours are being paid out of AmeriCorps funds.

Director Long informed the Board that he attended a County Director's teleconference and it was recognized by a number of the Directors in the meeting that there is much turmoil across the State. It was consensus of all of the Directors attending, that it seems that nobody at the State knows what is going on and there is no coordination between the State and the Counties. Chairman Sonnenberg inquired if this would be a good opportunity to have the counties weigh in at the State level during the Smart Act hearings. He said that these are hearings by the committees that have oversight in each of the State departments and the hearings allow public testimony. Chairman Sonnenberg wondered if it would help to have him testify in general without pointing out some of the issues to prevent any kind of retaliation to the counties. Director Long said that he will bring this up to the County Directors to see if they think this would be helpful.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on October 11, 2023 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 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David E. Long, Director

Approved by:

Jerry A. Sonnenberg, Chairman
Logan County Commissioner

Joseph A. McBride, Logan County Commissioner

Mike Brownell, Logan County Commissioner