

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES

August 9, 2023

Logan County Commissioner Chairman Jerry A. Sonnenberg called the Board meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building with Logan County Commissioner Mike Brownell, 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 July 12, 2023 were presented. Commissioner Brownell moved to approve the Board meeting minutes as written. Commissioner Chairman Sonnenberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Director Long presented the Commissioners with the Expenditure Summary report dated July 31, 2023, the June Allocation Tracking report, and the TANF Reserve Balances report dated June 30 SFY 2022/2023. Director Long informed the Board that if the mill levy for the department needs to be lowered, that would be fine because LCDHS has a healthy fund balance. He is one of few county human services' directors in the State that offers the mill levy to be lowered but he feels it is the right think to do.

Commissioner Chairman Sonnenberg inquired about the additional TANF funds being purchased from other counties. He wondered if the funds being provided per capita, are providing more services and has it been evaluated if services are being provided too easily. He wondered why LCDHS is buying TANF dollars from other counties that are not using the funds as much as Logan County and why LCDHS is using more. Director Long said that it is the philosophy of the Commissioners either wanting to save tax payer money and not reaching out to the programs or wanting to help the local programs. He said that El Paso County has a whole different structure and they contract a lot of their services out. He does not know how to measure services per capita. He does know that in the TANF contracts, the services provided have to be commensurate to TANF eligible clients. Director Long said it is difficult to count the people being served and what effect is being made. He said that the county is investing in people that will not be seen in the system and that he thinks the reduction in the child welfare caseloads are reflective of the effectiveness in the programs being funded with TANF dollars. Due to the lower caseloads, the Department is not having to fill the job vacancies in child welfare.

Chairman Sonnenberg inquired if the multi-generational families are continuing to be in the system because they know how to work it. Director Long said that some of these families definitely know how to work the system. He said that it is frustrating that the courts determine the outcome of the child welfare cases but LCDHS caseworkers will continue doing what the law says and know that it is not the Department's decision if there is a child fatality.

Director Long presented the Core Services Plan to the Board. Commissioner Brownell moved to approve the Core Services Plan and allow the Chairman to sign. Commissioner Chairman Sonnenberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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

Susan Marostica resigned from her child welfare case aide position. There are some vacancies in the ongoing child welfare, child support, and family assistance programs units. Director Long said that he would like to have a work session with the Commissioners in the near future to discuss benefits, PTO, and ways to avoid future issues with retaining employees and filling vacancies. The work session will happen on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. at the Logan County Central Services building.

Director Long inquired about Logan County's outside employment memo, policy, and the county form that is to be completed when employees have secondary employment. Director Long said that he feels this policy is invasive of employees' personal time. He said that different Boards have different perspectives and different ways of doing things and he would like it to be known what the Commissioners would like LCDHS to be following. The Commissioners will review this policy and determine whether it needs to be changed.

The Board discussed the upcoming community meeting with Senator John Hickenlooper attending.

The next Logan County Board of Human Services meeting will be held on September 13, 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 9:52 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