

Ward County Human Service Zone Board

Minutes

October 19th, 2021 – 7:30 a.m.

Second Floor-Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Melissa Bliss, Zone Director
Clayton Fegley
Mac McLeod
John Fjeldahl
John Pietsch
Shelly Wepler
Rich Berg
Hiedi Folstad-Miller

ABSENT:

Also present was Karen Schultz, Zone Board Secretary designee.

MOTION:

It was moved by Rich Berg, seconded by John Pietsch and unanimously carried by the Board that the Agenda for October 19th, 2021 be approved.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Mac McLeod and unanimously carried by the Board that the minutes for the regular board meeting of September 21st, 2021 be approved.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the September 2021 Expenditures and bills for October 5th and October 19th, 2021.

MOTION:

It was moved by Rich Berg, seconded by Mac McLeod and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the Budget Recap Expense Report for September 2021.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the September 2021 Budget Revenue Report.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the September 2021 Foster Care Recruitment and Retention report .

Old Business:

Melissa informed the Board that she met with Jen Wiechmann in Emergency Management who has agreed to take over the responsibility of making arrangements for those needing placement in the Covid Shelter, upon Melissa's departure the end of November.

The Board was informed that our contracted days for Shelter Care have all been used up with the recent placement of two youth. This will result in all placements now costing \$330 per day. There was discussion about the difference between Shelter Care and Attendant Care which

Director Bliss explained to the Board. She indicated that we would not be asking to extend our contracted days at this time because it is the intention of Youth Works to increase the daily rate above \$330 which would affect our cost. It was clarified that \$50 per day is paid to the county by other agencies utilizing the shelter for children who are not in Ward County custody.

New Business:

Director Bliss notified that Board that there are now 3 videos available for Human Service Zone Board training which she will make available at the next HSZ Board meeting. Shelly Weppler inquired if the videos could be made available for the Board to watch online prior to that meeting and Dir. Bliss indicated she will check into that. It was noted again that Clayton Fegley and John Fjeldahl's terms will be done at the end of this year and that if Clayton remains on the Board as our legislative representative that there will not be a vacancy on the Board.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Weppler, seconded by John Pietsch and unanimously carried by the board to recommend that Clayton Fegley be appointed to the Ward County Human Service Zone Board for an additional two year term, if this is proper to bring to the Ward County Commission.

Director Bliss will review the policy as to whether the Commission needs to appoint or approve new Board Members.

Project Bee is a new facility which is open from 7 PM to 8 AM as a warming facility which will also provide meals, laundry and a place to sleep for those in need. It opened October 1st. As the building is in proximity to this agency, it could possibly bring in more clientele needing to be served here as well.

At this time service awards were presented to Ward County employees achieving 3 years and 5 years of service.

Director's Report

Interviews for the Ward County Human Service Zone Board Director will be held this Friday.

Second interviews for the Family Service Specialist – Foster Care Position will be held on Thursday.

The Foster Home Licensing redesign is underway with plans to be implemented early 2022. The Eligibility Unit redesign start date has again been pushed back. The State is planning to add an additional CPS Intake staff member as well as additional staff being added to the State Long Term Care Unit.

Dir Bliss reported that the agency has had approximately 10 positive and close contact Covid cases over the last few months and we continue with mask protocols being in place.

The Board was informed that the pending lawsuit from a former employee from 2017 has been dismissed as all options for appeals have been exhausted and denied.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Melissa Bliss, Ward CHSZ Director

Date

Mac McLeod, Secretary