

Ward County Human Service Zone Board

Minutes

April 19th , 2022 – 7:30 a.m.

Second Floor-Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Kristi Frederick, Zone Director
Rich Berg
Hiedi Folstad-Miller
John Pietsch
Shelly Weppler

ABSENT:

Mac McLeod
Matthew Ruby

Also present was Karen Schultz, Zone Board Secretary designee.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Weppler, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board that the Agenda for April 19th , 2022 be approved as presented.

MOTION:

It was moved by Rich Berg, seconded by John Pietsch and unanimously carried by the Board that the minutes for the regular board meeting of March 15th , 2022 be approved.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Weppler, seconded by Hiedi Folstad-Miller and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the March 2022 Expenditures, bills for April 5th and April 19th , 2022, Budget Recap and Budget Revenue for March 2022 and the FC R & R Report.

Director Frederick informed the Board that two employees from the In Home Unit had been recently recognized by the State for their outstanding work which was noted during a fidelity case review. Their exemplary documentation will now be used for training and guidance purposes. One employee has recently left the agency for out of state employment and one employee is currently with the agency. Both were sent letters of recognition.

MOTION:

It was moved Shelly Weppler, seconded by John Pietsch and unanimously carried by the Board to recognize these employees at the next meeting for their outstanding work.

In regards to personnel, job offers have been made and accepted for two In Home positions, one CPS and one Foster Care as well as an Office Assistant, pending a background check. Two positions remain open in the In Home Unit and one Supervisor position which is also with the In Home Unit.

A State HR Evaluation form has been finalized and will be implemented by the Zone. The new form will also identify key duties for the position and employees will be able to comment on the form.

The Zone currently has two centralized CPS Intake Workers with offices in the building but are supervised by another Zone. These workers receive reports, however, they do not have client contact in the office and do not go out in the field. Director Frederick is in support of the request to have these two employees work remotely from their homes.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Hiedi Folstad-Miller and unanimously carried by the Board to approve the two centralized CPS Intake Workers to work remote.

Shelly Wepler spoke in support of these employees remaining in the community. Rich Berg asked that if there was a decline in work output and productivity, that the Zone be notified to address the situation. Dir. Frederick indicated that the workers are monitored through their computers and believes that these workers will be more productive without the distraction of others in the office.

The Ward County Human Service Zone Plan was approved by the State on 04/08/22. The Plan has minimal changes/updates from the prior year. It will also be on the agenda for approval today at the Ward County Commissioner meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board to approve, sign and date the updated Ward County Human Service Zone Plan.

On 04/11/22, Director Frederick along with Zone Board Members Shelly Wepler and John Pietsch as well as Emily Yanish from Youthworks , travelled to the NW Youth Assessment Center in Williston. Overall impressions indicated that the current facility having been built 10 years ago was impressive. It is fully staffed with 12 county workers and an annual budget of 1.5 million dollars. They average 2.5 clients per day.

Shelly stated that Youthworks is researching the possibility of accessing ARPA funds as well as checking into other options in the community in regards to a different facility. She voiced that she would like to see the County own a building with another agency running the program and would not be opposed to leasing it out. John Pietsch supported the County moving forward with something, indicating the hope that the County Commission be in support moving forward, noting that there will need to be updates from Youthworks throughout the process.

Mtg adjourned at 8:16.

Kristi Frederick, Ward CHSZ Director

Date

Hiedi Folstad-Miller, Secretary