

## **Ward County Human Service Zone Board**

### Minutes

August 16th, 2022 – 7:30 a.m.

Second Floor-Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

#### **PRESENT:**

Kristi Frederick, Zone Director  
Rich Berg  
Hiedi Folstad-Miller  
John Pietsch  
Mac McLeod  
Shelly Wepler

#### **ABSENT:**

Matthew Ruby

Also present was Karen Schultz, Zone Board Secretary designee.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board that the Agenda for August 16th, 2022 be approved as presented.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Hiedi Folstad-Miller and unanimously carried by the Board that the minutes for the regular board meeting of July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 be approved.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the July 2022 Expenditures, bills for August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 16th, 2022, Budget Recap and Budget Revenue for July 2022 and the FC R & R Report.

An update of personnel included the following: The HSPA IV – CPS Supervisor has been filled internally; 2 CPS-Family Service Specialist positions will be advertised this week and 1 position has been filled internally; 2 Foster Care-Family Service Specialists are currently open as well as 2 In Home Family Service Specialists. Interviews have taken place for 2 Eligibility Worker positions and 1 recently vacated EW position has not yet been submitted for approval to fill.

Felicia Engel, Eligibility Worker with our agency, will be recognized and receiving her 10 year service award at the Ward County Commission Meeting this morning.

Director Frederick updated the Board that the Eligibility unit has implemented a call center within the unit, in anticipation of the full Eligibility redesign. This call center process will allow for more immediate response to clients.

The grant application for assistance with obtaining an additional county vehicle has been submitted to the St. Joseph's Community Health Foundation for consideration

Dir. Frederick informed the Board that Youth Works has purchased a home that is suitable to meet the needs for Attendant Care and Shelter Care. They are now awaiting inspections of the home and expect to close on the purchase on September 1, 2022. In the meantime, when shelter is needed, all foster homes are being called to seek placement as well as the case managers working diligently with families and kinship placement. In the event that no placement can be found, the staff will need to provide 24/7 care within the office.

Discussion led to the immense need in the community for families in need of assistance. Mac McLeod, MAHC, stated that they have recently given out 125 bags of items to families, with the need for about 75 more at this time. Rich Berg, United Way, also stated that Backpack Buddies is a program widely utilized and may be even more now that there are no free breakfasts given in the school system at the start of this school year. These are all needs that directly impact the families and children that this agency serves.

Allison Schmill and Kristy Voecks, both of whom are Foster Care Supervisors, gave a presentation to the Board. A handout was provided which gave statistical data for the children in care across the State of North Dakota as well as within Ward County. The FC Unit consists of 2 supervisors and 8 full time case managers, when fully staffed. Information was provided as to expectations of the case managers, State and Federal guidelines that must be followed, and attempts to secure foster care placements which sometimes results in placement with extended family members and kinship care. Children come into foster care with the goal of reunification with their family, though a number of placements end with termination of parental rights and sometimes the children ultimately ended up being adopted by their placement families. The difficulty of finding homes for teens was expressed as a pressing issue at this time. Allison and Kristy indicated the need for more foster care homes for teens and gave a brief overview of the licensing process.

Mtg adjourned at 8:25.

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Kristi Frederick, Ward CHSZ Director

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Date

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Hiedi Folstad-Miller, Secretary