

Ward County Human Service Zone Board

Minutes

October 18th, 2022 – 7:30 a.m.

Second Floor-Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Mac McLeod
Hiedi Folstad-Miller
John Pietsch
Matt Ruby
Shelly Wepler

ABSENT:

Rich Berg
Kristi Frederick, Zone Director

Also present was Karen Schultz, Zone Board Secretary designee.

Meeting was brought to order by Vice Chairperson, Shelly Wepler.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Matt Ruby and unanimously carried by the Board that the Agenda for October 18th, 2022 be approved as presented.

MOTION:

It was moved by Matt Ruby, seconded by Hiedi Folstad-Miller, and unanimously carried by the Board that the minutes for the regular board meeting of September 20th, 2022, be approved.

MOTION:

It was moved by Matt Ruby, seconded by Mac McLeod, and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the September 2022 Expenditures, bills for October 4th and 18th, 2022, Budget Recap and Budget Revenue for September 2022 and the FC R & R Report.

An update of personnel was given by Karen Schultz, stating that the 6 Family Service Specialist positions, 2-In Home, 2 CPS and 2 Foster Care, were recently advertised and interviews should be taking place in the next week once the list of applicants is received. An additional FSS III- FC Placement Desk Worker will be advertised this week.

Ward County Human Service Zone had two employees from the Eligibility Unit participate in the Day of Hope on October 4th at the Pursuit Church. Information about our services and assistance with applications was provided to about 120 community members that stopped by our booth. Mac McLeod was also present for the event and indicated that there were over 300 people in attendance as many services were available that day.

The Board was informed that effective October 17th, EBT Cards for SNAP benefits will no longer be issued locally at the Ward CHSZ Board office but rather, this will be handled by another vendor and all cards will now be mailed with no exceptions for being able to issue in office. Messaging has been posted in the building and recipients are being notified of the change. It is felt that this may lead to an increase in need from the food pantries since emergency benefits will not be immediately available. There was discussion regarding the surge in numbers of community members looking to the pantries for assistance. Mac McCleod indicated that there are various soup kitchens in the Minot area also offering meals. An updated list will be provided to the Zone so that the information can be relayed to anyone needing this service.

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Informational sheets were provided to the Ward CHSZ Board members regarding the CHINS unit which is fully operational at this time.

It was noted that the 3 year Board Member terms for Mac McLeod and John Pietsch will expire at the end of this year. The Ward County Auditor's office will be called upon to assist with advertising for the vacant community member position on the Board as this needs to be completed 6 weeks in advance of the existing term ending. The Ward County Commission will appoint a new member to serve as the Ward County Commissioner representative for a 3 year term. This will be done once the November election has been completed.

Board member Matt Ruby inquired as to whether there was discussion at the NDACO meeting regarding Zone employees becoming State employees. Shelly Weppner, who was present at the meeting, stated that there was a proposed resolution that mainly addressed equity compensation and she read that resolution to the Board members but it did not directly address the subject of becoming State employees. Mr. Ruby stated that it will likely depend on how Aaron Birst, NDACO Executive Director, presents the resolution to the Committee and whether there is full support.

Mtg adjourned at 8:05.



Kristi Frederick, Ward CHSZ Director

11/28/2022

Date



Hiedi Folstad-Miller, Secretary