

Ward County Human Service Zone Board

Minutes

December 20, 2022 – 7:30 a.m.

Second Floor-Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Kristi Frederick
Mac McLeod
Hiedi Folstad-Miller
Matt Ruby

ABSENT:

Shelly Weppler
John Pietsch
Rich Berg

Also present was Karen Schultz, Zone Board Secretary designee.

Meeting was brought to order by Director Kristi Frederick.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Matt Ruby and unanimously carried by the Board that the Agenda for December 20th, 2022 be approved as presented.

MOTION:

It was moved by Hiedi Folstad-Miller, seconded by Matt Ruby, and unanimously carried by the Board that the minutes for the regular board meeting of November 15th, 2022, be approved.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Matt Ruby, and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the November 2022 Expenditures, bills for December 6th and 20th, 2022, Budget Recap and Budget Revenue for November 2022 and the FC R & R Report.

The personnel update indicated that interviews will be conducted in the next few weeks for the Direct Care Associate III and Eligibility Tech Support positions. The HSPA V Child Welfare Manager position has been extended through January 2nd. One FSS III – In Home position is pending acceptance of a job offer. The remaining 9 Child Welfare openings will be readvertised this week.

Director Frederick informed the Board that cellphones have been purchased as a direct expense for all of the Child Welfare Staff and the Child Welfare Supervisors as well as updating 2 cell phones for on call purposes. Information was provided to the Board members regarding bids from Alert Media and Safety Culture who provide safety features for cell phones. There is an increase in violent clients and drug use in the community which results in physical aggression and paranoia, leading to safety concerns for the employees. Available features as well as cost and information about the companies was discussed with the Board. Dir. Frederick indicated that the tether feature was preferred among the Child Welfare supervisors and discussion with the Board members also was in support of that feature offered by Alert Media. Director Frederick will report back to the Board when she has more information regarding this topic.

The agency has purchased a 2022 AWD Honda Pilot, with 7 seat capacity. The agency was in great need of a reliable third agency vehicle. Dir. Frederick will continue to monitor the need for next year as well.

Information was provided to the Board regarding Performance and Retention Bonuses being given to eligible employees of Ward County Human Service Zone. This was a topic of discussion

at the Directors Meeting and on the 21st of November Dir.Frederick was given the approval by the State to move forward with the bonuses as the current year budget had the available funds for the capacity to do so as a direct expense. There were employees that did not qualify due to being on a Performance Improvement Plan or not meeting other criteria. In early 2023, Dir. Frederick would like to have discussion to develop new criteria supported by the WCHS Zone Board. Board members expressed support of the bonuses and desire to provide input and criteria for future possible bonuses.

Mtg Adjourned at 8:04.



Kristi Frederick, Ward CHSZ Director

4/17/2023

Date

Hiedi Folstad-Miller, Secretary