

Ward County Human Service Zone Board
Minutes
February 20, 2024
Second Floor-Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Kristi Frederick
Virginia Lee
Mac McLeod
Jason Olson
Mark Roth
Matthew Ruby
Shelly Wepler

ABSENT:

Also present was Karen Schultz, appointed Zone Board Secretary, Amy Boyle, Account Budget Specialist and Nicole Lang, Child Welfare Division Manager. In attendance from NDHHS was Kristen Hasbargen, Director of Zone Operations and Jason Coffey, Accounting Manager for the Zones.

Meeting was called to order by Director Frederick.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mac McLeod, Seconded by Shelly Wepler and unanimously approved by the Board to accept the Agenda for February 20, 2024, with the addition under 'Other Items' of a Save the Date item and JP Morgan payment update regarding Verizon bills.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Virginia Lee and unanimously carried by the Board that the Minutes from the January 16th, 2024 Board Meeting be approved with corrections as recommended by Shelly Wepler.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Mac McLeod and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file all financial documents as presented.

MOTION:

It was moved by Virginia Lee, seconded by Mark Roth and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the Adjunct Data Reports as presented.

Director Frederick informed the Board that the 2024 Ward County HSZ Plan has been returned to the State and is awaiting approval.

Payment to local funeral homes for indigent burials will now be paid via check, going forward. The Verizon bill will continue to be paid with the JP Morgan credit card.

Save the date reminder that all Board members are invited to attend the all staff meeting to be held on March 6th at 8:15 am in the 1st floor meeting rooms.

Four entries for the t-shirt design contest were provided to the Board to vote on. Discussion was held on the interpretation and messaging of the designs.

MOTION:

It was moved by Virginia Lee, seconded by Mac McLeod and unanimously approved by the Board to accept submission #2 as the winning t-shirt design for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Information was provided in the WCHSZ Board packets that relate to having employees work from another state while residing outside of ND. Two current employees have made requests to Director Frederick to reside out of State, one in Minnesota and one in Arizona, and retain employment with the Zone.

MOTION:

It was moved by Virginia Lee and seconded by Jason Olson to consider allowing economic assistance employees to work for Ward CHS Zone while residing in another State outside of ND. Discussion was held and the motion failed with all Board Members voting 'no'.

Director Frederick will look into the possibility of indicating on a job posting that a chosen applicant for employment must reside in the county of Ward or State of ND. That is currently not a policy or indicated on current or past job postings for WCHSZ.

Kristen Hasbargen, Director of Zone Operations for DHHS and Jason Coffey, Accounting Manager for the Zones, employed by DHHS were present. Jason presented a slide show on DHHS Zone Collaboration, focusing on direct versus indirect costs. HB1046 at the 2023 Legislative Session clarified the definition of indirect costs. Direct costs are paid directly by the state and indirect costs are reimbursed to the county at 25% from the State. He explained how costs can differ from zone to zone, many times attributable to the size of a particular zone. Mr. Coffey engaged in discussed with the Board members and answered any questions asked of hm, with the assistance of Kristen Hasbargen. The meeting was informative in providing clarification.

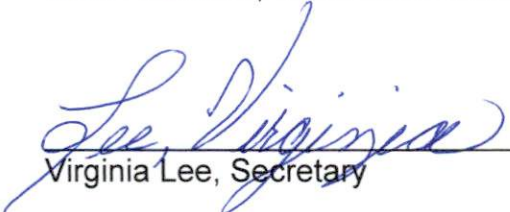
Mtg Adjourned at 8:58



Kristi Frederick, Ward CHSZ Director

3/19/2024

Date



Virginia Lee, Secretary