

**Ward County Human Service Zone Board**

Minutes

May 16, 2023

Second Floor-Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

**PRESENT:**

Kristi Frederick  
Shelly Wepler  
Mac McLeod  
Matt Ruby  
Rich Berg  
Jason Olson  
Hiedi Folstad-Miller

**ABSENT:**

Also present was Karen Schultz, Zone Board Secretary designee.

Meeting was brought to order by Director Kristi Frederick.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Rich Berg and unanimously carried by the Board that the Agenda for May 16th, 2023 be approved as presented.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Jason Olson, seconded by Mac McLeod, and unanimously carried by the Board that the minutes for the regular board meeting of April 18th, 2023, be approved.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Rich Berg, and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the April 2023 Expenditures, bills for May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Budget Recap and Budget Revenue for April 2023 and the FC R & R Report.

The Board was provided with the FTE report indicating vacancies and recent new hires within the agencies.

The centralized processing for Eligibility continues to move forward with some issues being noted with issuance of EBT cards and the length of time on hold for the customer support center. The State is aware of the issues and we are also trying to problem solve locally.

The Morgan building is no longer being pursued as an option for temporary housing when we have youth in office needing care. This is due to zoning issues. The Zone Directors hope to meet in the coming weeks to find alternative options which could include finding a centralized location in either Minot or Bismarck and look to finding an agency to bring in staff for monitoring of the youth. Board member Wepler suggested finding a foster home to take higher needs youth and possibly being paid at a higher rate. Director Frederick will meet with the Foster Home Licensor to discuss this, stating that all options are being explored.


Regarding the budget recalculation for 2023, no major issues were identified. Indirect costs versus direct costs are being clarified for the 2024 budget.

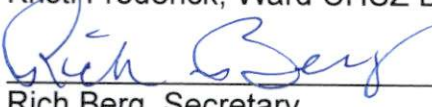
Application software is being set up for the Economic Assistance unit to work remote. By the end of 2023, all EA unit staff will be transitioned. The remaining administrative staff on 4<sup>th</sup> floor will be vacated and moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor once the EA unit is fully remote.

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Regarding the Foster Care Recruitment and Retention Fund, Dir. Frederick stated that the funds have been utilized recently for miscellaneous needs not being able to be financially met by foster parents. The Zone no longer has a Foster Parent R & R program as that has moved to being a State program. The Zone has been encouraged to spend down the remaining grant money since there is no longer expenses related to recruitment and retention. Board Member Wepler indicated that she will have a conversation with a member that was associated with the Oppen Foundation and inquire as to how the money was intended to be utilized.

Mtg Adjourned at 8:36.

  
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Kristi Frederick, Ward CHSZ Director

  
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Rich Berg, Secretary

6/20/2023  
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Date