

Ward County Human Service Zone Board

Minutes

June 20, 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 and Amy Boyle, Account Budget Specialist.

Meeting was brought to order by Director Kristi Frederick.

MOTION:

It was moved by Rich Berg, seconded by Matt Ruby and unanimously carried by the Board that the Agenda for June 20th, 2023 be approved as presented.

MOTION:

It was moved by Mac McLeod, seconded by Matt Ruby, and unanimously carried by the Board that the minutes for the regular board meeting of May 16th, 2023, be approved.

MOTION:

It was moved by Shelly Wepler, seconded by Rich Berg, and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the May 2023 Expenditures, bills for June 6th and June 20th, 2023, Budget Recap and Budget Revenue for May 2023 and the FC R & R Report.

Amy Boyle was present for discussion and questions regarding the 2023 Budget Recalculation which was provided in an attachment for the Board Members, as well as any questions relating to the 2024 Budget. Ms. Boyle addressed such things as cell phone expense, VOIP telephone costs in relation to the Eligibility Unit remote transition, Alert Media and Language Link. Amy stated that if needed, surplus funding could be utilized to aid in the July 1st employee salary increases. Amy indicated there will be changes to indirect costs in the 2024 budget, reflecting true expenses that are direct expenses of the Zone.

The Board was provided with the FTE report indicating vacancies and recent new hires. The agency has recently made job offers to 5 employees who will soon begin employment with the Zone.

Kristin Sowitch, Eligibility Supervisor, will be receiving her 10 year service award today at the Ward County Commissioner Meeting. Jenna Hansen recently received the Dandelion Award for her excellence in application of the Safety Framework Model which was awarded by the State.

The customer support center for the Economic Assistance program has gone back to standard operating hours and wait times have decreased. Remote work transition has started with the next group of employees moving out of office within a week. It is the agency goal to have all eligibility workers remote by the end of August. One eligibility worker will be on staff daily to assist walk in clients needing assistance. By the end of the year the administrative staff should be relocated to 3rd floor.

A Directors meeting will be held later today regarding discussion of different community options for youth in need of care when other placements are not available. Custody orders have been vacated for our most recent youth in office. Brd Member Wepler asked that a report from Youth Works be obtained as to feedback of numbers of youth that have been and are being served by their facility.

A copy of the 2024 proposed Ward County HSZ Budget was sent in to the State and the agency is waiting for any feedback if changes are needing to be made.

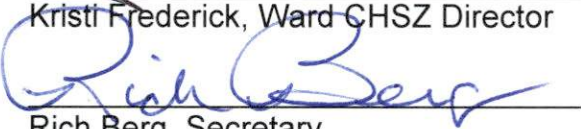
Mtg Adjourned at 8:09.



Kristi Frederick, Ward CHSZ Director

7/10/2023

Date



Rich Berg, Secretary