

Department of Human Services Unit Reports

Adult Services Unit

STAFF

- We would like to hire a new Case Manager.

CASELOAD

Adult Protection:

- 1 new case.
- Hallie Coulter: 3 guardianship cases
- Joanna Hribar: 2 guardianship cases | 1 court report completed

Single Entry Point/Long Term Care Medicaid

- 149 total clients | 1 intake | 1 nursing home referral | 0 denied
- Hallie Coulter: 74 cases
- Joanna Hribar: 75 cases

Commodities

- 106 Clients served in January.

ACTIVITIES

- State of Colorado Health Care Policy and Finance recommend caseloads be at 65.
- Case managers will be completing 17 hours of training through July 25. Training topics will include Well Education Benefit for HCBS Members, The New Children with Complex Health Needs Waiver, and the Community First Choice program and system training.
- Case Managers continue to build best practices within the Las Animas County Case Management Agency and Huerfano County DHS to meet the growing demand for HCBS Services in our area and ensure that members have access to care and community resources in a timely manner.
- Adult Protection Team Meeting was held on January 8th and the South Central Council of Governments Huerfano County Office. The Adult Protection Team is excited to have Captain Bill LaPort with the Huerfano County Sheriff's office join the team. The team was able to tour the new Senior Center and is looking forward to a new space for Huerfano County Seniors to congregate. The Adult Protection Team Currently has 15 members from various community organizations that support Huerfano County Seniors.
- Pueblo County received a grant for 2025 and Commodities Recipients will receive Pueblo Green Chili in the February distribution and Turkeys for Easter in the April distribution.
- Enrollment for Commodities is currently open.
- Adult Services staff appreciates the support from Public Works staff to include Ron Vigil, Randy Martinez, and Lester Berry. As well as our Volunteers Nick Vigil, Larry Bullock, Brian Lalander, and Micky D'Ambrosia.

Assistance Payments Unit (Eligibility)

STAFF

- The Unit is Fully Staffed
- Heather Pacheco has been with us for two years.

CASELOAD

New Applications

- Adult Financial (cash assistance): 8
- Colorado Works: 11
- Medicaid: 28
- SNAP: 29
- Expedited SNAP: 14

Redeterminations

- Adult Financial: 3
- Colorado Works: 10
- Medicaid: 27
- Behavioral Health: 0
- Snap: 97

Long-Term Care Nursing Facility cases

- 24 active cases

ACTIVITIES

- December was a challenging month for the Department as we saw several rounds of illness go through the department. The technicians also experienced system outages that prevented them from processing cases. This has been an ongoing issue and the state is working on solutions.
- Beth is working on updating our cases for the Social Security COLA, and it is quite an extensive list, due to be completed by the end of the month.
- Our CCCAP (Colorado Child Care Assistance Program) has been put on a freeze due to funding issues throughout the state. This means we are not able to approve any new applications received after 01/15/2025, but we are able to continue benefits for ongoing cases, and cases that are referred through Child Welfare and Colorado Works. Huerfano County did see the Daycare center close in December, however, we do have several Qualified Exempt Providers (providing care in home) in the community and La Veta has a daycare/preschool program.

Child Welfare Unit

STAFF

- The Unit is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

- 20 open cases
- We have a total of 27 children
 - Foster care: 6 children
 - Kinship care: 13 children
 - Home with parents: 7 children
 - Youth in Office: 0
 - Medically fragile in hospital: 0
- Ashley Wilkins, Leadworker
 - 8 cases; 1 open assessments
- April Romero, Caseworker I
 - 6 cases; 2 open assessments
- Krista Cordova, Caseworker I
 - 6 Cases; 0 open assessments
- Foster Home/Kinship Care
 - 3 County Foster Homes, 10 Kinship Homes

ACTIVITY UPDATES

- 5 Referrals have been made to the FRC- (Family Resource Center)
- Referrals have been a little lower, which is normal around the holidays.
- Caseloads are averaging about 6-8 per worker right now, which is also on the lower side. There is a lot of supervised Family Time and we have had to become creative with all of them. However, Michelle Trujillo will be supervising Family Time that is after hours. The Case Aide, Lindsay Martinez started and has completed most of her trainings. She has been a huge help and has started taking on supervised family time and many other case aide duties. She has been a huge help to the Unit.
- The CW Unit is completing their own random UA's which has helped significantly. The CW staff completed a SB-94 Training and everyone is certified and can screen kids for PYC.
- The CW Unit has implemented "Safe Baby Court" which helps parents with children 3 and under. This program is very intense but helps parents get their children returned to their care Sooner.
- We have Court twice a month, which has been very productive and smooth. Mrs. Catlin Young is very knowledgeable and keeps all our Court Orders up to date. The Court and Respondent Council has complemented the Department on their timeliness, communication and professionalism.
- The CW Unit has Family Engagement Meetings (FEM), and Team Decision Meetings (TDM) twice a month in person. The facilitator, Lindsey Hart does a great job.
- The CW Unit has a unit meeting every Monday morning. We have made many changes and updated some protocols, and set goals to raise CSTAT scores. Supervisor Dreama is no longer going out on assessments or home visits. Caseworkers are becoming more independent. Although, change is hard, ALL of the CW staff was very positive and excited to move forward.

Family Resource Center

STAFF

- FRC is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

Referrals

- 4 - agency; 1 Self Referral

Ongoing Case Management/Parent Support

- Huerfano: 9
- Las Animas: 6

Basic Needs/Services

- Huerfano: 1

Playgroup Participants

- 13 families

ACTIVITIES

- Huerfano Las Animas Counties IOG Meeting
- Family Resource Center Association Membership Meeting
- Family Resource Center Association Post Committee Debrief
- Collaborative Management Program Legislative Training
- Apricot Data System New User Training
- Family Resource Center Association Annual Site Visit
- Juvenile Services Planning Committee Meeting
- FRC Monthly Staff Meeting
- HCDHS Supervisor Meeting
- 3rd Judicial District Truancy Alternative Program Planning Committee Meeting
- HCDHS Staff Holiday Party

- Seasonal Celebrations

Building Blocks Playgroup and Paintbrush Therapy provided gifts for 45 children this year! Donations from HULA and Paintbrush Therapy contributed to the gift-giving and are very much appreciated. A special thank you to Amy and Andrea for making the holidays special for families!

The Family Resource Center hosted the space for the Huerfano County DHS Holiday Party again this year. The potluck meal was a great treat for everyone, and the games were well participated in and came with many laughs and much enjoyment. Thank you to everyone at DHS who helped plan and coordinate the get-together!

Organizational Report

STAFF

- Hiring for new Case Manager for Adult Services
- We had a rash of illness in the office in late November and through December
- Looking at a slight restructuring at the front of house.

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- ME Review has been challenging. All cures to findings have been submitted and awaiting approval from HCPF.
- Finishing end of year activities that includes updating plans and reviewing contracts.
- Our only 0-3 childcare provider has closed in the county.
- We entered a CCCAP freeze beginning on January 15.
- Started new work flows in Child Welfare in January.
 - We are in the process of working with Anthony to purchase tablets.
- 2025 goals are being developed will center on cleaning up our contracts and contracting process, developing and revising policies to align to current rule and requirements, professional development for all units, building in strong budget and finance processes, and improving office environment and communication.
- LEAP advertising has started and materials are out. LEAP is open for applications. We are in the process of purchasing other advertising and support materials. We did a big Leap push in Gardner this month.
- We are beginning to refine some processes between Adult Services and Assistance Payments and are continuing to create a data driven, front of house process. We have meetings scheduled to help us develop some SOPs for the organization.
- Hunger Relief:

Care and Share

The Huerfano County DHS office runs a Care and Share distribution program one time per month. The program is run by Deah Weller with support from the HC Road and Bridge Department and with volunteers comprised of DHS family members.

December 2024

Total Households: 375(added nearly 60 families)

Total Adults: 576 (added nearly 100 adults)

Total Children: 106 (added 110 new children)

Commodities

We distribute around 106 boxes per month.