

Department of Human Services Unit Reports

Adult Services Unit

STAFF

- The Unit is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

Adult Protection:

- 2 cases received in September. One screened out; one offered LTC services.
- Guardianship: Hallie (3), Joanna (2)

Single Entry Point/Long Term Care Medicaid

142 clients, 9 intakes, 0 nursing home referrals, 3 denied

Hallie (70)

Joanna (72)

ACTIVITIES

Case Management Agency

- State of Colorado Health Care Policy and Finance recommended caseloads to be at 65. The addition of Morgan will assist case managers with higher caseload counts.
- We continue to remain with no outstanding PARs or untimely assessments despite continued system issues.
- Unit Supervisor Hallie Coulter attends up to 15 meetings a month to stay up to date with system issues, workarounds, and updates.
- The department remains timely in submitting Targeted Case Management Billing to Las Animas County Department of Human Services.

Adult Protective Services

- Case Managers attended National Adult Protection Services Association Conference September 16-18th in Albuquerque, NM. Joanna received 13 hours of continuing education and Hallie 14. Certificates are attached.
- Case Managers completed their Quality Assurance Survey. Compliance plan is attached.
- September's Commodities Food Distribution was canceled and rescheduled in September. Case managers contacted all clients that receive Commodities twice as well as several media blasts to notify the public of the changes. Case Managers and Case Aide also completed annual renewals for members.
- Morgan Vosburgh started in the unit September 23rd, 2024. She has completed 20 training hours and assisted in the Commodities Food distribution.

Assistance Payments Unit (Eligibility)

STAFF

- The Department is Fully Staffed

CASELOAD

New Applications

- Adult Financial (cash assistance): 11
- Colorado Works: 6
- Medicaid: 63
- SNAP: 49
- Expedited SNAP: 19

Redeterminations

- Adult Financial: 2
- Colorado Works: 7
- Medicaid: 38
- Snap: 73

Long-Term Care Nursing Facility cases

- 26 active cases

ACTIVITIES

- Heather and Kathleen participated in the HCPF Medication Eligibility review. This is an extensive process that involved about 80 hours of preparation. We then met for a full 8 hour day to answer questions. We have several follow up tasks but are expecting a good result from the review.
- All staff are current and on track for their training.
- We have been advised to continue shoring up our call center and to become an official call center in June for the next state fiscal year.
- We completed our SNAP Claim audit and passed.

Child Welfare Unit

STAFF

- The unit is currently fully staffed.

CASELOAD

- 16 open cases
 - 13 cases are open dependency or neglect cases
 - 3 voluntary case
- We have a total of 27 children
 - Foster care: 5 children
 - Kinship care: 21 children
 - Home with parents: 1 children
 - Youth in Office: 0
 - Medically fragile in hospital: 0
- Ashley Wilkins, Leadworker
 - 3 cases; 1 assessments
- April Romero, Caseworker I
 - 3 cases; 3 assessments
- Kyle Gomez, Caseworker I
 - 4 Cases; 3 assessment
- Krista Cordova, Caseworker I
 - 4 Cases; 3 Assessments

We currently have two county foster homes

ACTIVITY UPDATES

- Foster Audit completed on 10/1/2024. We received good feedback.
- We have non-certified kinship payments have started.
- We have two adoptions upcoming.
- Supervisor and lead worker will be going to training at the end of the month.
- Dreama is IV-E certified.
- We have another foster home prospect.
- Kinship audit passed. One case scored 98% and other case scored 89%.

Family Resource Center

STAFF

- FRC is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

Referrals

- 1 Total: 1 agency, 0 walk-ins.

Ongoing Case Management/Parent Support

- Huerfano: 5 families
- Las Animas: 6 families

Basic Needs/Services

- Huerfano: 1

Playgroup Participants

- 9 families

ACTIVITIES

Trainings and Meetings Held and/or Attended by FRC Director/Staff

- o 2024 Strengthening Colorado Families and Communities Conference
- o PSSF and CoSHI End-of-Year Data Planning Meeting
- o FRC at Walsenburg Jr/Sr High School Meeting
- o Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families Full Partnership Meeting
- o FRC at Peakview Elementary School Meeting
- o PSSF Intensive Case Management/Kinship/Adoption Support Guidelines Meeting
- o HULA Meeting
- o Effective Collaboration CMP Training Part 2
- o Collaborative Management Program State Steering Committee Meeting
- o Weekly Staff and Supervisor Case Planning Check-Ins
- o FRC Monthly Staff Meeting
- o Colorado Fatherhood Network September Convening
- o DHS Supervisors Meeting
- o ISST Auxiliary Webform Training
- o Las Animas County CMP Truancy Alternative Program Family Support Team
- o Holy Trinity Academy Teacher Inservice Director's Talk Meeting
- o Family Support Council Meeting
- Huerfano County DHS Second FEM Meeting
- o Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center's Health and Wellness Fair
- o FRCA Membership Policy and Fidelity Monitoring Update Webinar for Directors
- o Safe Baby Committee Meeting
- o Huerfano/Las Animas PSSF Check-In with PSSF State Administrator

2024 Strengthening Families and Communities Conference

FRC Staff Missy attended the 2024 Strengthening Families and Communities Conference held in Keystone on September 4-6. A partnership between CDHS, CDEC, and Illuminate, the Strengthening Families and Communities Conference had a theme of Connect, Empower, Thrive. Missy was able to fully immerse herself in professional development and peer networking. With topics such as Elevating Lived Experience, Family Support & Engagement, Getting to Equitable Practice, Innovation Space, Policy, Supporting Workforce Care, and Working Together to Maximize Resources, Missy returned with a wealth of knowledge and encouragement for the work she continues to do.

988 Mental Health Line Community Outreach

During September, the FRC participated in a community awareness project through SE2 and FRCA. 43 Colorado community partners participated and we reached more than 100,000 Coloradans with life-saving information. 988 Lifeline is available 24/7/365. Your conversations are free and confidential. Call, Text, or chat with a 988 Lifeline counselor during difficult moments anytime, day or night. Visit 988lifeline.org for more Information.

Promoting Safe and Stable Families

The Promoting Safe and Stable Families Grant completed procurement with the state in September, a process that began in May. The PSSF grant is a federal grant in year 4 of the current grant cycle. Huerfano County has applied for and been awarded this grant for many years, and it is proven to be a great fit for the communities we serve. The PSSF grant functions differently today than it has in the past, and it continues to be a grant that allows the FRC to expand services as the needs change for the clients we serve. Currently, this grant serves Child Welfare involved clients and the general public, through Intensive Case Management Services. Intensive Case Management allows the Family Resource Center to truly meet clients where they are and work on goals set by the clients. Through the Intensive Case Management process, Family Development work is implemented by highly trained FRC Family Development Workers who are also Lived Experience Experts. This unique approach promotes an authentic and genuine service delivery that is meaningful to those who participate as well as those who deliver the services.

Reconnecting Youth

The FRC offers Reconnecting Youth, an evidence-based prevention program for at-risk youth with goals of Increased School Achievement, Increased Mood Management, and Decreased Drug Involvement. During September, FRC Director Andrea and FRC Staff Giana met with some Huerfano school counselors to discuss the partnership and goals for working with youth. In addition to school-based offerings, Reconnecting Youth is also

available to child welfare-involved youth or any youth who might benefit from skill-building and mentorship.

Spanish Peaks Health Center Health and Wellness Fair

FRC Staff Giana and Missy participated in the Spanish Peaks Health Center's Health and Wellness Fair on Saturday, September 28th!

Organizational Report

STAFF

- Department is fully staffed
- Need cross training resources.

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- We have restarted FEM meetings with success
- Budgeting
 - Attended Finance training through the state association for finance directors.
 - We have the budget mostly complete, but we are still working to find an error from 2023 and it is throwing our forward numbers off.
- Starting professional development with Child Welfare Unit on Infant and Early childhood mental health along with all supervisors and the FRC staff.
- Participated in the state level Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health advisory council
- Attended CMP focused conference tract in Vail.
- Currently working through complete contracts review.
- Management Evaluation has been completed and we are waiting on results.
- 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.

September 2024

Total Households: 386

Total Adults: 601

Total Children: 83

Commodities

We distribute around 95 boxes per month.