Department of Human Services Unit Reports

Adult Services Unit

STAFF

• Our new case manager Sarah Pineda started on March 17th.

CASELOAD

Adult Protection:

- 0 accepted cases; 2 screened out cases.
- Hallie Coulter: 3 guardianship cases | 2 court reports completed
- Joanna Hribar: 2 guardianship cases

Single Entry Point/Long Term Care Medicaid

- 151 total clients | 6 intakes | 1 nursing home referral | 0 denied
- Hallie Coulter: 75 cases
- Joanna Hribar: 76 cases

Commodities

- 112 Clients served in January. February distribution moved to 2/19 as a result of weather conditions.
- Enrollment is open

ACTIVITIES

Case Management Agency

- State of Colorado Health Care Policy and Finance recommend caseloads be at 65.
- Case Managers completed The Community Frist Choice Program introductions.
- Case Managers have started implementing the new WEB Benefit for HCBS members
- Case Managers are working on enrollment steps for The Community First Choice Program and Children with Complex Healthcare Need Waiver that will begin 7/1/2025.

Adult Protection

• Hallie Coulter and Joanna Hribar received scholarships through the State of Colorado Adult Protection to attend Safe Training April 29-30th in Aurora Colorado. Safe Training will cover safe, accessible forensic interviewing for elders to assist in the victim-centered and trauma informed interviewing for older adults.

Commodities

• All commodities clients are being re-enrolled into an electronic enrollment system provided by Pueblo County Commodities Program.

• Completed interviews for Call Center Technician

CASELOAD

New Applications

- Adult Financial (cash assistance): 11
- Colorado Works: 7
- Medicaid: 22
- SNAP: 24
- Expedited SNAP: 11

Redeterminations

- Adult Financial: 1
- Colorado Works: 9
- Medicaid: 35
- Behavioral Health: 0
- Snap: 92

Long-Term Care Nursing Facility cases

• 27 active cases

ACTIVITIES

- Medical Assistance state case review had no errors.
- Dylan has been with us for one year!
- Until we can fill the Call Center Technician and get that person fully trained, the eligibility technicians will be Pending, Scanning, and logging all new applications and Redeterminations. The Eligibility technicians will also be helping the front operations by assisting clients with questions, by phone and in-person.
- February was a productive month that saw processing numbers increase across all program areas. The increase was the result of all full-time techs working Overtime for a 2-week period, which greatly helped our Redetermination timeliness measures. Our unit was able to complete all February Redeterminations by the 1 st week of March, 2025, which put us right back on track.
- We are also making gains in our new Application timeliness, with our approval percentage increasing to 66% in February, 2025.
- Currently, we only have one (1) Adult Financial application that is past due as it is pending for verifications, so we anticipate a significant increase in timeliness for March, 2025
- We have already completed 29 out of a total of 104 Redeterminations received so for in March, 2025. The last time we were able to get that early of a start on the current month of Redeterminations was October, 2024.

• The Unit is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

- 13 open cases
- We have a total of 21 children
 - Foster care: 7 children
 - Kinship care: 6 children
 - Home with parents: 8 children
 - Youth in Office: 0
 - Medically fragile in hospital: 0
- Ashley Wilkins, Leadworker
 - 5 cases; 1 open assessments
- April Romero, Caseworker I
 - 3 cases; 1 open assessments
- Krista Cordova, Caseworker I
 - 5 Cases; 1 open assessments (one case expected to close next court hearing).
- Lindsay: Case Aide:
 - Lindsay has completed all her mandatory trainings and completed the IVE training. Which is a huge help as she can now complete the IVE's. She has also taken on the coordinator for our (ARD) Administrator Reviews. She also continues to supervise Family Time.
- Michelle Trujillo has been helping with Family Time (supervised visits) when they overlap.
- We currently have two County Foster homes and a new home in the process of getting certified.

ACTIVITY UPDATES

- 3 Referrals have been made to the FRC- (Family Resource Center)
- 2 Referrals have been made to H.U.L.A.
- Caseloads are on the lower side, however we still have had many referrals coming in (14 so far).
- We continue to 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 and able to meet Permanency for the children sooner.
- Attorney Pam Nelson has taken over the five conflicting court cases.
- The CW Unit continues to improve weekly and have adapted to all the changes.
- The State will be completing a site visit on Tuesday, March 18 th .

• FRC is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

Referrals

• 5- agency; 1-Self Referral

Ongoing Case Management/Parent Support

- Huerfano: 11
- Las Animas: 5

Basic Needs/Services

• Huerfano: 2

Playgroup Participants

• 7 families

ACTIVITIES

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

- Huerfano Las Animas Counties IOG Meeting
- Collaborative Management Program Restorative Justice Training
- FRCA Connecting in Times of Uncertainty Executive Director Meeting
- Las Animas County Truancy Court Staffings and Hearings
- Trauma-Informed Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Disclosures Training
- Family Voice Grant Planning Session
- Collaborative Management Program State Steering Committee Meeting
- HULA Meeting
- Health and Mental Health Services Advisory Committee Meeting
- Apricot Import Batch Uploading Training
- Community Coalition Connecting In Times of Change
- DHS All Staff Meeting and Training
- DHS Supervisor Monthly Meeting
- Collaborative Management Program Truancy Check-In Huerfano School District RE-1
- Weekly Staff and Supervisor Case Planning Check-Ins
- FRC Monthly Staff Meeting

- Hiring for new Case Manager for Adult Services
- We are hiring for a Call Center Technician
- Hiring for Veteran's Service Officer

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- Beginning RFP process for family voice grant
- Whole staff development on time management in a self directed role
- Continue to have federal updates several times a week.
- Anticipating CCCAP funding currently proposed will help us come off freeze.
- Implementation of HB22-1259 will have impact on TANF and TANF reserves. I am currently working on determining the impact for our county.
- Participating in the accounting firm selection and the change to Tyler.
- Met with La Veta schools to build relationship and deepen partnership.
- Continue to serve on the IECMH steering and advisory committee.
- Started new work flows in Child Welfare in January.
 - We are seeing results as we close cases and have all our documentation entered, on time, correctly.
- VSO hiring and determining goals and plan for the position needs to be discussed.
- The team including our attorneys and court partners will be attending the Best Practices Court team Convening at the end of April.
- 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 nearly caught up on our timeliness!
- 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. We started a new data tracking system, so our numbers are not correct. We are working with Care and share to correct that.

February 2024 Total Households: 387 Total Adults: 632 Total Children: 37

