

Huerfano Board of Human Services
Huerfano County Department of Human Services
Minutes: December, 19, 2023



The Huerfano County Board of Human Services regular meeting was held on December 19, 2023. It was called to order at 11:00 am. In attendance were Commissioner Chairman John Galusha, Commissioner Karl Sporleder, and Commissioner Arica Andreatta. Also in attendance were Department of Human Services Director, Heather Wellman; and County Administrator, Carl Young.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Board of Human Services minutes approval: 11/21/2023

Motion to approve the November 21, 2023 Board of Human Services Meeting made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

Voting Yes: Chairman Galusha, Commissioner Andreatta, Commissioner Sporleder.

Motion Passes

B. Fleet Purchase: 2023 Ford Explorer

The total price for the 2023 Ford Explorer with License fee is \$42,866. The agreement is similar to a lease with an option to purchase. At the end of the term, the county will own the vehicle outright. Expected delivery is in early January.

Motion to approve the purchase of a 2023 Ford Explorer from Enterprise made by Commissioner Sporleder, seconded by Commissioner Andreatta.

Voting Yes: Chairman Galusha, Commissioner Andreatta, Commissioner Sporleder.

Motion Passes

C. Resignation of John Rodriguez

John Rodriguez, Caseworker II, submitted his resignation effective December 15, 2023.

Motion to accept the resignation of John Rodriguez made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

Voting Yes: Chairman Galusha, Commissioner Andreatta, Commissioner Sporleder.

Motion Passes

D. Letter to Care and Share supporting mobile market food distribution in Gardner

The community of Gardner would like to have a mobile market food distribution once per month through Care and Share. The county already has a mobile market in La Veta and regular distributions in Walsenburg through the department of human services and Dorcas. This expansion would provide additional resources to food insecure residents in the Gardner area.

Motion to support a Care and Share mobile market in Gardner made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

Voting Yes: Chairman Galusha, Commissioner Andreatta, Commissioner Sporleder.

Motion Passes

STAFF REPORTS

A. Child Welfare

The Child Welfare Unit reported on caseloads and the increase in assessments. With the resignation of a caseworker, Michelle Trujillo has agreed to stay on in a part-time capacity to continue to support foster families and visitations.

The unit is working to bring all case files into compliance and has developed a plan to remediate any areas that have fallen behind schedule.

The unit is also beginning to host monthly meetings with the family resource center to increase collaboration between the two units.

B. Adult Services

The Adult Services Unit reported on caseloads. Adult Services will be accepting the supervision of the Veterans Service Officer starting in the new year. The salary for the part-time position will be part of DHS's budget moving forward.

Adult Services has coordinated with Dorcas and with Care and Share to ensure that there is one food distribution in Huerfano county per week.

Mary Vigil is retiring effective December 27, 2023. She will have a retirement breakfast that morning and all the commissioners are invited to attend.

C. Eligibility

The Eligibility Unit reported on the sharp increase in New applications from the previous month. The unit is behind on processing applications and redeterminations but has a plan in place to address the delays.

The unit welcomed Carey Kaestner as the new Call Center technician. He has begun training and is settling into the team nicely. The Unit also met with Catholic Charities to refine the referral process for Employment First support.

D. Family Resource Center

The Unit provided an update on caseloads. The Unit and specifically the Family Resource Center Director were able to participate in many community engagement meetings and in stakeholder meetings for community based organizations. The FRC continues to work with Las Animas county and surrounding communities to provide high quality services and to inform policies at the state and county level.

E. Organizational

The director presented a proposal for staff pay equalization in order to make the pay range for positions more equitable. The commissioners asked for refined information including a comparison of department head salaries in surrounding counties. The commissioners also asked the Director to look into retirement recognition for an employee who retired during the transition. The director also provided an update on how getting the financials in order is going post-transition. The director also reported on new staff meetings and training opportunities in the department.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 am.