

Huerfano Board of Human Services
Huerfano County Department of Human Services
Minutes: April 16, 2024



The Huerfano County Board of Human Services regular meeting was held on April 16, 2024. It was called to order at 11:00 am. In attendance were Chairman John Galusha, Commissioner Arica Andreatta, and Commissioner Karl Sporleder. Also in attendance were Department of Human Services Director, Dr. Heather Wellman; and County Administrator, Carl Young.

1. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Commissioner Andretta and seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

Voting: Yes: Commissioner Andreatta, Commissioner Sporleder Commissioner Galusha

Motion Passes

2. ACTION ITEMS

a. March Board of Human Services Minutes Approval

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Sporleder and seconded by Commissioner Andreatta.

Voting: Yes: Commissioner Andreatta, Commissioner Sporleder

Abstaining: Commissioner Galusha

Motion Passes

b. March Financial Reports Approval

Motion to approve the financial reports was made by Commissioner Sporleder and seconded by Commissioner Andreatta.

Voting: Yes: Commissioner Andreatta, Commissioner Sporleder Commissioner Galusha

Motion Passes

c. Drug Testing Policy and Contract

Motion to approve Drug testing policy in house was made by Commissioner Andreatta and seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

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

Motion Passes

d. HCDHS Attorney Contract

Motion to approve the attorney contract was made by Commissioner Andreatta and seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

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

Motion Passes

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4. STAFF REPORTS

a. EBT Card in Hand Procedure

New EBT card in hand procedure. Not needing approval, making the BOCC aware of changes per state level. Bringing the areas of foreseeable confusion to the BOCC. Commissioner Galusha praised on procedure.

b. Call Center Operations

Not needing approval, showing BOCC our new procedures for Call Center and Front Desk. Very similar to our previous call center model, but adjusted to work better for current staff. Firm hours for Call Center, additional training on what exactly front and call center do. Showing pictures of how we've redone a living room visitation room, bedroom room, and storage room. Purging files and organization happening in office.

c. Staff Reports

A. Adult Services Unit

The caseload and number of intakes has remained steady. The move to a Case Management Agency with new platforms continues to cause issues. June 14th "World elder abuse awareness day" Roughly 20 agencies participating.

B. Assistance Payments Unit

Down this month w/ apps and redeterminations numbers. Shelby and Dylan have completed training. Tayla finished COWORKS training, filling that program back in. Marcie still on extended leave.. Trying new systems out with EBT card in hand. Almost caught up, significantly seeing the differences.

C. Family Resource Center

Increased case management support and referrals. Several meetings between DHS office and FRC. Working on bridging gaps, that is reflected in the case management increase this month from FRC. At state wide conference next week.

D. Child Welfare Unit

Uptake in cases and referrals. 20 open cases. Everyone is worn out in this unit. Comp time usages being used to give everyone a breather. Any chance that they are allotted a break, pressing to have them take that time. Difficulty with placement. 10-15 referrals a week at the moment.

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E. Organizational Update

Fully staffed, Volunteers for food distribution have increased. Dr Wellmans contract is up in the end of May. Deciding to stay on contract. Will provide a contract in June. Commissioner Galusha would like to see a 3 year contract. Dr Wellman would agree to 3 years. Equinox has been returned! Tahoe is now in the shop for Traction light. VM and Phone operational. Computers refreshed next week. Two state level liaisons in the office next week during the same time. Updates- Child Welfare allocation model, they want to change that to a funding model. Asking for safeguards to be put in place, we can't overspend due to budget constraints in the county. We support floors and ceilings and incremental budget changes in either direction. Attended a court best practices conference. Access and functional needs conference in Springs attended by Dr Wellman, learned a lot that can be applied to the office. DHS Office meeting will be happening 4/19. This will move forward with staff meetings quarterly. Karina is doing very well bringing the accounting back to accurate. Deah attended a food conference, working with other agencies within the county to expand our services.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjournment at 11:50 am was made by Commissioner Sporleder and seconded by Commissioner Andreatta.

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

Motion Passes

John Galusah
Chairman, HCBOCC

Heather Wellman, PhD, HCDHS Director