

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



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

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Motion to dispense with the pledge of allegiance was made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Chairman Galusha.

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

Motion Passes.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to approve the agenda with no changes was made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Chairman Galusha.

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

Motion Passes.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Board of Human Services minutes approval: 12/19/2023

Motion to approve the December 19, 2023 minutes with no changes was made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Chairman Galusha.

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

Motion Passes.

B. Promotion of Kyle Gomez to Caseworker I.

Motion to approve the promotion of Kyle Gomez to Caseworker I was made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Chairman Galusha.

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

Motion Passes.

C. Reaffirm Memorandum of Understanding for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program.

Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding for the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program was made by Commissioner Sporleder, seconded by Commissioner Andreatta.

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

Motion Passes.

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



D. Contracted for continued services with Las Animas County Health Department.

Motion to approve the contract for continued services provided to the Huerfano Department of Human Services by the Las Animas County Health Department was made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

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

Motion Passes.

E. Reaffirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Colorado Works Program.

Motion to reaffirm the Memorandum of Understanding for the Colorado Works Program was made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Commissioner Sporleder.

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

Motion Passes.

F. Annual Merit Attestation

Motion to approve the Huerfano County Department of Human Services Merit attestation was made by Commissioner Sporleder, seconded by Commissioner Andreatta.

Discussion: The commissioners requested that we review the merit attestation against the county policy handbook and previous attestations to make sure we are consistent across the board.

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

Motion Passes.

STAFF REPORTS

A. Child Welfare

The unit reported an opening for Case-Aid. The unit space was also reconfigured to provide a space for “Red” teams. The department has 15 open cases representing 18 children. We currently have two foster homes in Huerfano County. Kyle Gomez completed his Caseworker certification and is beginning to work as a Caseworker. The team has been evaluating systems and working to improve systems across the board.

B. Adult Services

Mary Vigil officially retired on December 27, 2023. The unit is fully staffed. There were four adult protection cases in December: one transferred and three closed. There are 133 Single Entry Point cases and two new assessments completed in December. The unit continues to coordinate with Las Animas on the CCB and SEP merger. The Care and Share distribution has changed to the first Thursday of each month and serves approximately 200 households.

C. Assistance Payments Unit (Eligibility)

Olivia Cabrera had her baby. Carey Kaestner is fully operating the call center and has been covering the front office. In December there were 153 new benefits applications; 141 redeterminations for benefits; 39 active long term care nursing facility cases. Tayla has begun cross training on Colorado Works. The unit rearranged offices. Kathleen completed her CHATS training.

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



D. Family Resource Center

In December, the FRC has 7 new referrals; provided ongoing case management support to 15 families; provided basic needs services to 3 families; and had 11 playgroup attendees. The staff continues to complete trainings and engage in collaboration with community agencies. The staff also provided holiday gifts to 40 children.

E. Finance

Karina has been training in finance for two hours per day. All correct access has been achieved.

F. Organizational

The department has two openings. The staff are beginning to work on evaluations. Eligibility received 4.5/5 on member experience survey results. We had no errors in the month of December during quality assurance reviews. The director attended the legislative lunch and shared the legislative priorities for CDHS. The department has been asked to participate in the HCPF review. The PSSF grant review was satisfactorily completed. The state will have an onsite visit April 22.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter into executive session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. §24-6-402(2)(f) and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body or any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees. DHS Personnel and Salary Discussion was made by Commissioner Andreatta, seconded by Chairman Galusha.

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

Motion Passes.

Executive Session was closed at 12:24 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 pm.