

## Department of Human Services Staff Reports

### Child Welfare

#### *Staff*

The Child Welfare Unit is fully staffed.

#### *Caseload*

17 open cases:

- 15 Cases are open Dependency and Neglect Cases
- 2 Voluntary Case
- 1 Youth In Transition Case

We have a total of 20 children

- Foster Care: 7
- Kinship Care: 10
- Home with Parents: 3
- Youth In Transition: 1- (18 year old mom living on her own with her baby)

Ashley: Lead Worker

- 8 Cases/3 Assessments

April: Caseworker I

- 4 Cases/ 2 Assessments

Kyle: Case Aide/ Caseworker

- 3 Cases/ 1 Assessment

#### *Activities*

- Our new Case Aide starts Tuesday 2/20/24
- Michelle Trujillo has been helping with Family Time (supervised visits)
- We currently have two County Foster homes.
- We had a IVE audit and passed and will not have another one for 3 years.
- Had a meeting with the state and had 100% compliance with monthly contacts for a whole year.

## **Adult Services Unit**

### ***Staff***

The Adult Services unit is fully staffed.

### **Single Entry Point**

January's Case Load Count:

- 133 current clients
- 4 Initial assessments completed
- 2 nursing home assessments completed

### ***Activities***

- Community Forums will be held Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the FRC to discuss the merger of SEP and CCB to the new CMA.
- We received our new car and promptly put 120 miles on it in one day.

### **Adult Protection**

- We had four APS Cases in January, all four cases have been closed. One case is in the top three for hardest cases we have ever dealt with.
- We held our first in person Adult Protection Team Meeting since COVID at SCCOG on 2/7/24, ten community partners attended.
- We are planning a Senior Resource Fair to be held in conjunction with World Elder Abuse Awareness day on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Fair will be held at the new COG Senior Center if it is complete, if it is not complete we will host it at COG's office. We have four community partners committed to hosting a booth.
- We will be applying for a scholarship through the State APS Team and ARPA funds to attend NAPSA in September. The NAPSA conference will be held in Albuquerque and we are asking for permission to attend an out of state conference if scholarship funds are received.

## **Assistance Payments Unit (Eligibility)**

### ***Staff***

- A new Eligibility Technician has been hired and is set to start on February 20, 2024.
- One eligibility case manager is out on sick leave
- Olivia started back from Maternity Leave on 02/12/2024. She is currently working from home and will make a slow transition returning back to the office.

### ***Caseload***

#### **New Applications**

- Adult Financial (cash): 7 (decreased from 13 in December)
- Colorado Works: 7 (increased from 6 in December)
- Medicaid: 67 (increased from 49 in December)
- SNAP: 54 (decreased by 1 from December)
- Expedited SNAP: 24 (decreased from 25 in December)

#### **Redeterminations**

- Adult Financial: 3 (increased from 1 in December)
- Colorado Works: 2 (decreased from 14 in December)
- Medicaid: 47 (decreased from 55 in December)
- - SNAP-82 (increased from 71 in November)
- We currently have 38 active Long-Term Care Nursing Facility cases.

### ***Activities***

- Tayla Wilkins has completed all Web-based training for CW (Colorado Works) and is in the process of completing the required Instructor Led Training
- Carey Kaestner has received all of his access from the State of Colorado and has completed his Medicaid training and is in the process of completing his training for SNAP (food assistance). He has been a huge asset by answering phones and greeting the public, as well as pending Applications and Redeterminations and scanning in all documents.
- Kathleen has received Supervisory access for the CCCAP (Colorado Child Care Assistance Program) and is working with the state to update fiscal agreements with our providers. The State has helped her in getting all correspondences up-to-date and sent out. Las Animas County has offered to assist with the processing of CCCAP and CW cases and Kathleen will be working with them to process any new applications and complete any redeterminations.
- Evaluations will be completed by the end of February for all staff and Individual Goals will be documented along with the evaluations. Unit goals for 2024 have been submitted to the Director

## **Family Resource Center**

### ***Staff***

The Family Resource Center is fully staffed.

### ***Caseload***

#### New Referrals

- 5: 3 agency, 2 walk-in

#### Numbers Served

- Ongoing Case Management/Parent Support:
  - Huerfano: 6 families (1 CW involvement, 5 no current CW involvement)
  - Las Animas: 5 families (5 CW involvement)
- Basic Needs/Services:
  - Huerfano: 1
  - Las Animas: 1
- Playgroup Participants:
  - 16 families

### ***Activities***

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

- OSS – Speaker Series – Sextortion; Pornography; Powers and Risks of AI; Bullying/Cyberbullying Prevention Through Empathy Building
- DHS PSH Discussion Meeting
- Cultural Excellence: Ideas and Discussions Sessions 1 and 2 hosted by State CMP
- Truancy Alternative Program Truancy Court– Las Animas County
- LACDHS Child Welfare Leadership Meeting
- CMP State Steering Committee Meeting
- HCDHS Family Meetings Check-In
- SAMHSA Grant Collaboration Meeting
- CMP Southeast Regional Affinity Group
- Meeting – 3rd, 15th and 16th JDs
- HULA Meeting
- CMP SSC Outcome Subcommittee Meetings
- Spark The Change Inservice at the FRC
- FRC Monthly Staff Meeting

## **Organizational**

### ***Staff***

As of 2/2024, the department is fully staffed. Since December, we have onboarded

- New Director
- New Accountant/Bookkeeper
- New Office Manager
- New Caseworker
- New Case Aide
- New Call Center Operator
- New Eligibility Technician

We currently have one staff member out on extended leave.

### ***Activities***

- We will be closing the office on March 15, 2024 for a whole staff training.
- Our voicemail system is broken and is intermittently operating. CenturyLink/Lumen have found a temporary solution to deploy, but we will be investigating a long term solution.
- We have been collaborating across counties to find creative solutions to our workforce interruptions.
- We are investigating alternative drug testing options and will be bringing that to a future meeting.
- We are currently completing evaluations and will have a goals and evaluation report at our March meeting.
  - Currently, we are focusing our goals around collaboration, work optimization, and improved quality metrics.
- We will be starting our HCPF audit this week.
- We currently have two hearing disputes and one active court case that is coming up for eligibility.
- We are working on sprucing up the front office and creating a welcoming environment for clients.
- Our office manager will be ready to take over the front office at the end of this week, and our current office manager will transition to accounting full time.
- We have planned several collaborative work shadowing opportunities for staff to visit other counties.