

## Department of Human Services Unit Reports

### Child Welfare Unit

#### STAFF

- The unit is currently fully staffed.

#### CASELOAD

- 16 open cases
  - 15 cases are open dependency or neglect cases
  - 1 voluntary case
- We have a total of 24 children
  - Foster care: 9 children
  - Kinship care: 5 children
  - Home with parents: 9 children
  - Youth in transition: 1 (18 year old mother and baby)
- Ashley Wilkins, Leadworker
  - 8 cases; 3 assessments
- April Romero, Caseworker I
  - 4 cases; 3 assessments
- Kyle Gomez, Caseworker I
  - 3 cases; 0 assessment
- Dreama Ortivez, Supervisor
  - Completing courtesy case for Las Animas (Trinidad)
  - Completed a relinquishment counseling for Crowley County
- We currently have two county foster homes

#### ACTIVITY UPDATES

- This month, the CPS team had an incredibly challenging experience on March 13.
  - A child was removed from the home.
  - A teen had a mental health crisis and was rushed to the hospital for an evaluation.
    - The teen was released and stayed in an Air BnB with staff overnight.
    - On March 14, with the aid of the state and with partnering medical facilities a more suitable placement was found.
  - A child had a medical emergency and was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery.
    - The child's family was located and he has been reunited with family.
    - The team worked through a language barrier to ensure the child was safe and reunited with family.
  - An accident left a child in the supervision the department.
- The new case aide is going through caseworker training and is beginning foster home training.

## Adult Services Unit

### STAFF

- The unit is currently fully staffed.

### CASELOAD

#### Adult Protection

- Two referrals
- Three new cases

#### Single Entry Point/Long Term Care Medicaid

- 135 open cases
  - 4 completed intakes
  - 3 nursing home assessments

### ACTIVITIES

#### Single Entry Point/Long Term Care Medicaid

- Single Entry Points (SEP's) new name is Case Management Agency (CMA) as of March 1st.
- The merger between CCB (Community Centered Board) and SEP was completed March 1st.
- All case managers from Southern Colorado Developmental Disabilities Services (SCDDS) Join the Las Animas County DHS CMA Team as part of the merger.
- Due to system updates and error we have been unable to complete our Prior Authorizations Requests for client services such as care services, home modification projects, life alert buttons, medication reminders, ect. The state has no estimated time of resolution for the issue. Letters have been sent to service providers such as SCCOG, Alta Vista, Sangre De Cristo HHC, American Medical Alert, Thornton Medical, ect. We continue to attend meetings and trainings to stay up to date on issues and system updates.

#### Adult Protection

- Joanna Hribar and Hallie Coulter submitted applications for scholarships to the National Adult Protection Services Association Conference to be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico September 16-19th 2024. Scholarship recipients are to be announced soon.
- 16 local agencies have been contacted to participate in our World Elder Abuse Awareness Resource Fair to be held June 14th 2024 at South Central Council of Governments Walsenburg Office. The Huerfano County APS Team will have a booth and intend to hand out tote bags, Emergency Preparedness Handbooks provided by Huerfano County, and information about our Commodities Program.
- February had two referrals with all being screened out due to not meeting APS criteria.
- APS was called out after hours four out of seven days last week with three separate cases

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

### **STAFF**

- Two new eligibility techs started.
- One tech is out on extended leave.

### **CASELOAD**

#### New Applications

- Adult Financial (cash assistance): 10
- Colorado Works: 1
- Medicaid: 63
- SNAP: 43
- Expedited SNAP: 17

#### Redeterminations

- Adult Financial: 1
- Colorado Works: 4
- Medicaid: 52
- Snap: 69

#### Long-Term Care Nursing Facility cases

- 38 active cases

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Tayla completed her cross training for Colorado Works. Tayla and Kathleen are taking over the Colorado Works caseload.
- Dylan Brunmeier completed CCCAP training and has been able to get the department current on payments, added a new facility, and has stated to expand the program. He is currently completing instructor led training for the systems we use and has been a huge support to the office.
- New tech Shelby Ore has started training for office systems.

## Family Resource Center

### STAFF

- FRC is fully staffed.

### CASELOAD

#### Referrals

- 8 Total: 5 agency, 3 walk-ins.

#### Ongoing Case Management/Parent Support

- Huerfano: 10 families
- Las Animas: 7 families

#### Basic Needs/Services

- Huerfano: 1

#### Playgroup Participants

- 12 families

### ACTIVITIES

- Staff Trainings and meetings held by FRC Director/Staff:

Huerfano Las Animas IOG Meeting  
3rd Judicial District JSPC Meeting  
CEID Cultural Excellence: Ideas and  
Discussions Training

Truancy Alternative Program Truancy Court  
– Las Animas County

Community Coalition Meeting  
CMP State Steering Committee Meeting  
FRCA FRC Program RFP Webinar  
Trinidad School District Truancy  
Alternative

Program Meeting  
Rights, Respect, Responsibility (3Rs)  
Curriculum Training

CMP Southeast Regional Affinity Group  
Meeting – 3rd, 15th and 16th JDs

HULA Meeting  
CMP SSC Outcome Subcommittee  
Meetings

CMA Community Forums Day 1 and 2

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## **Organizational Report**

### **STAFF**

- One staff member is out on extended leave.
- Evaluation packets are nearly completed.
- The new family visitation room has been cleaned out and we are starting the redecoration.

### **ACTIVITIES**

- Quality Assurance: No errors in eligibility for the month of February.
- The phone system continues to be an issue, and we are exploring other options
- The Equinox has not returned from the shop. Vehicle usage and reliability continues to be a concern.
- We continue to have heating issues in one side of the building.
- We have new training in our time management system and are updating our ease of use and reporting.
- Our EBT reporting has been incorrect since August, we worked with the state to correct the issue and are updating EBT reporting.
- We are starting a new Safe Baby Court in our district. We are working on establishing a process and procedure that is aligned to current court models. We are reinvigorating our DANSR Court.
- I was able to attend the Southeast Director's meeting in person. There are still many bills and legislative issues related to funding in the current legislative session. There are proposed changes to allocation that would significantly impact our count. The state and CDHSA are working to provide meaningful feedback to lessen impact on small counties.
- Las Animas County Director is providing support in budget training and best practices adoption.
- We will have an onsite visit from the state on April 22, 2024 for support and review.