

Department of Human Services Unit Reports

Adult Services Unit

STAFF

- The Unit is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

Adult Protection:

- 0 Cases received in October
- Guardianship: Hallie (3), Joanna (2)

Single Entry Point/Long Term Care Medicaid

149 clients, 7 intakes, 1 nursing home referrals, 0 denied

Hallie (73)

Joanna (76)

ACTIVITIES

- State of Colorado Health Care Policy and Finance recommended caseloads to be at 65. Case managers have had an increase in referrals in the last three months. Case managers remain timely with all referrals.
- We continue to remain with no outstanding PARs or untimely assessments despite continued system issues.
- Morgan continues to be an asset and is learning more programs as well as assisting with Commodities. Morgan will hand out Commodities in November unassisted.

Assistance Payments Unit (Eligibility)

STAFF

- The Unit is Fully Staffed

CASELOAD

New Applications

- Adult Financial (cash assistance): 9
- Colorado Works: 3
- Medicaid: 52
- SNAP: 35
- Expedited SNAP: 29

Redeterminations

- Adult Financial: 4
- Colorado Works: 9
- Medicaid: 31
- Behavioral Health: 1
- Snap: 80

Long-Term Care Nursing Facility cases

- 26 active cases

ACTIVITIES

- MA Error Free QA case
- All technicians have been diligently working together to combat the system outages that have created obstacles for us in meeting our deadlines. The teamwork among all technicians has been exemplary!!!!
- LONG TERM CARE (LTC) Back-up: Heather Pacheco has completed all Web-based trainings and is currently taking Instructor Led Trainings to be certified in LTC processing. Heather will begin training with Beth Clowe to provide back-up support for Beth, who is semi-retired and only works part-time.
- SNAP/Cash Assistance Stolen EBT Benefits: In October, we saw a rash of stolen EBT benefits from what is believed to have been from card-skimming. The claims of stolen benefits were all founded and the benefits have been, or will be, replaced. We had a total of 4 stolen Cash reports and approximately 26 stolen SNAP reports.
- SYSTEM OUTAGES: We have been experiencing a rising trend of System Outages which hinders our processing times and puts us in jeopardy of Exceeding Processing Deadlines. The state is working on a resolution, however, regardless of any down time, we are still held by program deadlines. The technicians have worked diligently to keep up with those requirements.

Child Welfare Unit

STAFF

- The Unit had one resignation, Kyle Gomez.
- The Unit has an opening for a Case Aide.

CASELOAD

- 17 open cases
- We have a total of 21 children
 - Foster care: 7 children
 - Kinship care: 11 children
 - Home with parents: 3 children
 - Youth in Office: 0
 - Medically fragile in hospital: 0
- Ashley Wilkins, Leadworker
 - 16 cases; 1 assessments
- April Romero, Caseworker I
 - 6 cases; 3 assessments
- Krista Cordova, Caseworker I
 - 6 Cases; 2 Assessments
 - 2 County Foster Homes, 7 Kinship Homes

ACTIVITY UPDATES

- Referrals to FRC: 9
- We are having more supervised visits so we are needing to have help with supervision.
- Kyle Gomez's last day was Nov. 8. The team has picked up his cases, and they have a positive outlook.

Family Resource Center

STAFF

- FRC is fully staffed.

CASELOAD

Referrals

- 7 Total: 6 agency, 1 walk-ins.

Ongoing Case Management/Parent Support

- Huerfano: 11 families
- Las Animas: 3 families

Basic Needs/Services

- Huerfano: 2

Playgroup Participants

- 9 families

ACTIVITIES

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

- o 2024 Collaborative Management Program Retreat
- o Community Coalition - Creating the Change
- o Las Animas County Truancy Court Staffings and Court
- o HCDHS All Staff Training
- o Huerfano Las Animas Counties IOG Meeting
- o State CMP Annual Reports Meeting
- o CMP Southeastern Affinity Group Meeting
- o HULA Meeting
- o Empathy in Action Book Study
- o FRC and Safe Baby FTM Meeting Check-In
- o Open Enrollment Learning Sessions
- o Open Enrollment One-on-One Sessions
- o Weekly Staff and Supervisor Case Planning Check-Ins
- o FRC Monthly Staff Meeting
- o DHS Supervisors Meeting

Collaborative Management Program

Andrea Montoya attended the 2024 Collaborative Management Retreat in Vail, CO. The retreat had topics such as HB23-1249 Data Planning, Using Evidence-Based Assessments in Collaborative Management Programs, Service Arrays, Networking for Coordinators, and a baby shower celebration! The CYDC Conference followed the retreat and was attended by Heather Wellman.

The Family Meetings Program was re-launched in October! Holding two in-person meeting dates with the newly contracted facilitator, HCDHS Child Welfare completed six meetings! It was a great beginning to hopefully a strong Family Meetings Program for Huerfano County. Family Meetings are offered to at-risk or multi-system involved families and coordinated through the Family Resource Center as a CMP service. The collaborative and multi-agency approach provides an evidence-based, supportive, and non-judgmental environment where families can explore issues, identify personal strengths, and take an active role in overcoming challenges.

Building Blocks Playgroup

Building Block Playgroup, under the direction of Facilitator Amy Vallejos and Aide Andrea Garcia, held their annual Pumpkin Patch Playgroup on October 29th. Participants were able to walk the Playgroup Pumpkin Patch at Fiesta Park and choose a pumpkin to keep. The facilitators also coordinated Building Blocks Playgroup's annual Trick-Or-Treating Special Event on October 31st to businesses around downtown Walsenburg. The October events are as fun for staff as they are for families!

Organizational Report

STAFF

- Department has one vacancy. Currently posted for CW Case-Aide
- Need cross training resources.

OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT

- We have restarted FEM meetings with success
- Started professional development with Child Welfare Unit on Infant and Early childhood mental health along with all supervisors and the FRC staff.
- Starting Policy review for compliance with our DHS attorney
- Currently working through complete contracts review.
- Entire staff had a Halloween celebration and it built so much camaraderie.
- LEAP advertising has started and materials are out. LEAP is open for applications. We are in the process of purchasing other advertising and support materials.
- Continue to refine Front of House operations and have set a FOH team to review processes.
- Started new Green Team process to help with financial hardship decisions.
- Deah began finance training to back up Karina and provide support.
- Attending CYDC conference with a focus on CMP.
- Held all staff meeting and engaged in Continuous Quality Improvement Activity.
- Hunger Relief:

Care and Share

The Huerfano County DHS office runs a Care and Share distribution program one time per month. The program is run by Deah Weller with support from the HC Road and Bridge Department and with volunteers comprised of DHS family members.

October 2024

Total Households: 357

Total Adults: 569

Total Children: 77

Commodities

We distribute around 95 boxes per month.