



Official Proceedings of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board – March 6, 2023

At 10:02 a.m., Zone Director, Mandi Freije called the regular meeting (via Teams Meeting) of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board to order. Zone Board Members Steve Cichos, Gayle Nelson, Tracy Johnk, Allison Swenson, and Shawn Olauson were present. Absent was Tom Overn. Talara Latt, Eligibility Worker, Atif Ahadujjaman, Child Welfare Worker, Sean Ryan, Eligibility Program Manager, Wanda Larson, Jessica Alonge and Shannon Davis were present.

Cichos made a motion, seconded by Johnk, to approve the presented minutes. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried.

Johnk made a motion to approve the presented vouchers, seconded by Swenson. Roll call vote taken. Motion carried.

Talara Latt, Eligibility Worker was introduced to the board. Latt has been with the agency for 1½ years and works in all eligibility programs as a maintenance worker. Latt felt the transition to the redesign went smooth.

Atif Ahadujjaman, a Foster Care/In-Home Case Manager in the Child Welfare Unit was introduced to the board. Ahadujjaman has been with Buffalo Bridges for over two years. Ahadujjaman explained his role is to help families ensuring child safety and unification is his first goal.

Sean Ryan, Program Manager for the Eligibility Unit presented the board with a PowerPoint that consisted of the redesign changes and processes. He explained that we are now a region instead of a zone. He explained how paper documents are now handled and that walk in clients will still be seen by a worker in the office. Freije told the board due to the backlog of cases within the state overtime has been opened up for eligibility worker to catch up with the backlog.

In other business, Freije told the board that the Burial Rate is being discussed in legislation and there will be one statewide rate. Tough placements are also being discussed.

The April 4, 2023, Zone Board meeting will be held both in person and virtually through Teams.

At 11:04 a.m., Johnk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

---

Mandi Freije, Zone Director

---

Gayle Nelson, Secretary