



Official Proceedings of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board – July 5, 2022

At 11:02 a.m., Zone Director, Mandi Freije called the regular meeting (via Teams Meeting) of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board to order. Steve Cichos, Shawn Olauson, Gayle Nelson, Tracy Johnk, and Lisa Johnson was present. Absent was Tom Overn. Wanda Larson Site Supervisor (Barnes Office). Stephanie Morse Foster Care In Home Supervisor and Warren Abrahamson News Dakota attended.

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

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

Stephanie Morse Foster Care In Home Supervisor presented to the board Foster Care stats and program updates. She stated there are 42 youth in foster care including neighboring zones. Currently we are working with 20 families with the In-Home Case management program to keep the children out of foster homes. The foster care unit follows a program called Safety Frame Model to ensure children are kept in their homes and are kept safe. There is a total of 25 licensed foster homes in Stutsman and Barnes counties. At this time there is not much financial support for relatives, the state is trying to start a foster care parent support program which will allow more financial support for relatives.

Freije informed the board that our 2021 Budget recalculation was approved. We requested an increase in funds for laptops, headsets, safety permanency, overtime, mileage and on call pay and all was approved.

Freije updated the board on the open positions in the zone. A staff member from the Barnes office accepted the Foster Care In-Home Supervisor in the Barnes office. A Foster Care In Home worker from Barnes resigned her position to take a position with the CHINS program, we will submit a request to fill this position, if approved we will advertise for a CPS In-Home worker. A CPS worker in the Stutsman office accepted a position with the state as a Child Welfare CPS intake worker. We will be interviewing for this position on Friday. The Parent Aide position in the Jamestown office was filled by an eligibility worker from the Jamestown office, if approved to fill we will advertise to fill the eligibility worker vacated by this worker.

Barnes county commission met in June and discussed relocating the zones offices in the Barnes courthouse. Freije informed the commission she wants to be contacted and included in this discussion before the changes are made to be sure IRS rules and requirements, handicap accessibility is met. She has not heard back from the commission. Freije plans to meet with one of the commissioners on Thursday.

In other business, Freije informed the board that the travel rate increased from .585 per mile to .625 per mile. And updated the board on the status of the youth we have been housing.

The September 6, 2022, Zone Board meeting will be held both in person and virtually through Teams.

At 12:11 p.m., Cichos made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Olauson. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mandi Freije, Zone Director

Gayle Nelson, Secretary