



## **Official Proceedings of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board – July 10, 2023**

At 11:04 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, Tracy Johnk, Allison Swenson, Tom Overn, were present. Absent was Gayle Nelson and Shawn Olauson. Becka Scherr Child Welfare Worker, Lucas Maurer Eligibility Worker, Brenna Pritchert Parent Aide, Jessica Alonge, Wanda Larson, and Shannon Davis were also present.

Cichos made a motion, seconded by Swenson, 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.

Becka Scherr, Child Welfare worker. Lucas Maurer, Eligibility Worker and Brenna Pritchert, Parent Aide were introduced to the board. Scherr and Pritchert are housed in the Barnes office and Maurer is housed in the Stutsman office.

Freije discussed the equity increase that will be effective in July with the board. Freije told the board this does not include the legislative increase which she will share with the board once the numbers are given to us from the State. Freije informed the board of the criteria the state used when determining the amounts of these raises.

Freije informed the board of the cost allocation plan regarding indirect and direct expenses. Effective in the 2024 budget indirect expense will become direct expenses. Freije told the board this will be discussed in more detail at the July 11<sup>th</sup> director's meetings.,

In other business, Freije updated the board on the job openings and promotions within the zone. We have a CPS position open which has been posted for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. The first posting we did not have the right applicants and the second posting the applicant declined an interview due to accepting a different job. We also have an Eligibility position open due to an eligibility worker's promotion to Lead Worker. Another Eligibility worker was promoted to eligibility supervisor. We now have an eligibility supervisor housed in both offices.

In-person zone meetings were discussed. Freije suggested having an in-person meeting for September's meeting. This will be decided during August's zone board meeting.

Freije updated the board on challenging foster care youth within the state.

The September 5, 2023, Zone Board meeting will be held both in person and virtually through Teams.

At 11:51 a.m., Johnk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Overn. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

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Mandi Freije, Zone Director

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Gayle Nelson, Secretary