



Official Proceedings of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board – August 1, 2023

At 11:01 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, Tracy Johnk, Allison Swenson, Tom Overn, Gayle Nelson, and Shawn Olauson were present. Absent was Steve Cichos. Also present were Heather Brothers Child Welfare Worker, Shera Joramo Eligibility Worker, Stephanie Wieland Child Welfare Worker, Sean Ryan Eligibility Supervisor, Susan Reichenberger Eligibility Supervisor, Jessica Alonge, Wanda Larson, and Shannon Davis.

Johnk 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.

Shera Joramo, Eligibility worker was introduced to the board. Joramo works remotely from Bismarck for the call center and has been with the agency for nine years. Stephanie Wieland, Child Welfare worker introduced herself to the board. Wieland is a CPS worker housed in the Jamestown office. Wieland began employment with the agency in 2013 as a Human Service Aide, in 2015 she became a CPS worker. Heather Brothers was also introduced to the board. Brothers is a CPS worker housed in the Valley City office and has been with the agency for one year.

Sean Ryan and Susan Reichenberger, Eligibility Supervisors presented a power point to the board updating the board on the eligibility redesign.

Freije informed the board of the new General Assistant burial rates that took effect on August 1, 2023. The statewide burial rate is now \$3500.00 for both cremation and full burial.

Freije updated the board on the Child Welfare unit. Freije told the board the child welfare workers have some very intense cases right now, dealing with mental health and behavioral needs. An all-staff child welfare meeting was held where the workers could discuss what is going well and what is not going well. Cass County reached out statewide asking for assistance with their cases. At this time, we do not have the capacity to help them.

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

At 12:17 p.m., Overn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Olauson. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mandi Freije, Zone Director

Gayle Nelson, Secretary