

CASS HUMAN SERVICE ZONE BOARD MEETING

May 15, 2023

MINUTES

With quorum present, Chair Bollinger called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioner Tony Grindberg; Rick Steen; Julie Haugen; Dan Madler; Carey Fry; Brian Hagen; Michelle Kommer (via Teams); Gail Bollinger

Absent:

Presenter: Gail Bollinger, Zone Director;

I. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Grindberg made a motion to approve the April 3, 2023 Meeting minutes. Mr. Steen seconded. Motion carried.

II. **North Dakota 68th Legislative Session Review**

Chair Bollinger reviewed legislation impacting the Zone.

Senate Bill 2012, DHHS budget bills which includes Human Service Zone budgets included annual performance-based increases (effective July 1, 2023) for Zone employees of up to 6% in year one and up to 4% in year two. Senate Bill 2012 also provided \$3.75 M to address Zone equity needs statewide. The Zone is awaiting guidance which will be provided by DHHS. Late in the session an amendment was introduced to require state employment of all Zone personnel. The amendment failed.

House Bill 1046 provided new definitions for indirect costs, allows county to vacate a zone and enter a new zone or change host county, provides for a grievance process if DHHS takes formal action against a zone and provides a 60-day prior notice for the annual reporting to of the county wide cost allocation information. If not reported in the required timeline the county would be penalized.

House Bill 1091 supports foster care payments for approved kinship placements.

Senate Bill 2139 provides a uniform rate of \$3,500 for all general assistance burials with cremation as a default unless attestation of religious objection.

III. **Zone Board Member Appointment Recommendation**

Senate Bill 2012 requires Zone Advisory Boards to have at least one legislator appointed to their Board. Chair Bollinger invited board members to provide suggestions. Board members suggested Senator Kyle Davison as he has shown interest in Zone programs and services. It was also suggested to consider having two legislative representatives. Any new appointments to the Zone Board would need to be approved by the Commissioners. Chair Bollinger indicated she will connect with Commissioner Grindberg to reach out and provide the Board recommendation in July.

IV. Zone Board Meeting Frequency Discussion

Chair Bollinger revisited meetings frequently. She suggested since this meeting is taking place in the middle of May the June meeting should be canceled. The Board planned to meet again in July. Due to the first Monday being July 3 and so close to a major holiday, it was decided the next meeting would be scheduled for July 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Additional meetings will be held in September, November, and December.

V. Director's Report

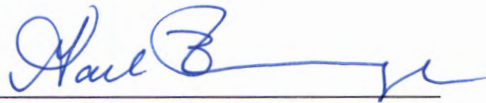
Chair Bollinger provided a review of Zone 1st quarter program metrics, recruitment, and personnel report. Additionally, Chair Bollinger shared Heather Collins, Human Resource and Operations Administrator resigned her position effective May 5, 2023. Chair Bollinger expressed appreciation of Ms. Collins' contributions to the Zone, and intention to fill the position after the role and responsibilities have been reviewed.

The Board discussed and reviewed the information provided. Moving forward, it was suggested to seek year-over-year data for comparison. A verbal update was provided on the statewide Economic Assistance Customer Support Center and statewide regional support provided due to high volume in Region Four, the EA region Cass Human Service Zone is part.

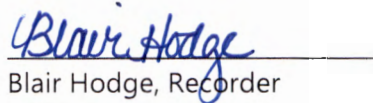
The Zone received approval for recruitment bonuses for specific positions in Family Services through July 2023.

VI. Adjournment

Mr. Steen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 p.m. Ms. Haugen seconded. Motion carried.



Gail Bollinger, Zone Director
Cass County Human Service Zone



Blair Hodge, Recorder