



Official Proceedings of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board – May 7, 2024

At 11:04 a.m., Zone Director, Mandi Freije called the regular meeting (In person and via Teams Meeting) of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board to order. Zone Board Members, Tracy Johnk, Jerry Bergquist, Cole Conley, Gayle Nelson, Allison Swenson, and Shawn Olauson were present. Also, present was Wanda Larson, Eligibility Supervisors Sean Ryan and Susan Reichenberger. Zone board member Tom Overn was also present.

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

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

Wanda Larson explained the process of the food bank in Barnes County. There were several steps involved for families needing to utilize the food bank such as needing to be referred, calling back and forth to set up a time for the food basket to be picked up. This process has now changed to no referral needed. This will make the process much easier and eliminate us as the middleman.

Freije informed the board that last week we had a budget meeting for revaluation of our 2024 budget. We are coming in under budget by around \$200,000.00. We are also working on the 2025 budget and will be purchasing another zone vehicle after the budget is complete. In November, after rollup we may purchase one more zone vehicle. Freije also told the board that the on-call reimbursement for child welfare workers increased from \$50/day to \$75/day effective May 1, 2024.

Sean Ryan, eligibility supervisor presented the board with a PowerPoint showing the board the progress that has been made statewide to catch up with the backlog of processing cases. He also explained that "March Madness" was implemented statewide to achieve this.

In other business, due to a conflict the date of the scheduled June 4th board meeting would either need to be cancelled or rescheduled. After discussion the decision was made to hold the next board meeting on Thursday, May 30th at 1 pm.

The July 2, 2024, Zone Board meeting will be held both in person and virtually through Teams.

At 12:26 p.m., Overn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bergquist. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Mandi Freije, Zone Director


Gayle Nelson, Secretary