



Official Proceedings of the Buffalo Bridges Human Service Zone Board – November 6, 2023

At 11:08 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, Allison Swenson, Tom Overn, Gayle Nelson, Levi Taylor, were present. Absent were Tracy Johnk and Shawn Olauson. Also present was Jessica Alonge.

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

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

Freije told the board that fiscal estimated we were coming in around \$318,000 under budget. Freije gave Wilhelms the amount budgeted for zone vehicles. We are able to purchase both a 2024 and a 2017 Equinox for a total of \$54,000 which was about \$14,000 over budget for the zone vehicles. Fiscal approved this purchase. One of these vehicles will be in the Barnes office and one of the vehicles will be in the Stutsman office. One of the vans that is currently in the Barnes office will be brought over to the Stutsman office. There is a possibility we will be able to get a Durango from another zone if their board approves a title transfer to our zone. Freije also told the board that we will be looking at end of the year purchases.

Freije informed the board that eligibility is still struggling with backlog. The swim lanes in eligibility has been opened up statewide. We are still a region but how we process cases has opened up statewide versus per region. The hope is to level out the caseloads and processing time will get better. Freije also informed the board that at the Director's meeting a motion was made to bring back issuing EBT cards back to the county level.

Freije went over the upcoming trainings and events that will be taking place in the next few months. One of which is an all-staff meeting that will be held from 8:45am to 11am on December 8th. Both offices will be closed for this meeting.

The December 4, 2023, Zone Board meeting will be held both in person and virtually through Teams.

At 12:15 p.m., Overn made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Nelson. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mandi Freije, Zone Director

Gayle Nelson, Secretary