

Date: Monday, May 15, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Commissioners Conference Room Second Floor - County Administration Building

BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES AGENDA MEMORANDUM

This meeting was recorded, broadcast online and archived.

Introductions and Announcements

- County Manager Lorenda Volker, Commissioner Kristin Stephens, Commissioner Jody Shaddock-McNally, Commissioner John Kefalas, Human Director Heather O'Hayre, Division Managers Thad Paul, Lori Metz, Jill Maasch, Gordon Coombes, Executive Assistant Kaylee Strouse, Office on Aging Program Manager Erin Alt, Aging and Adult Services Deputy Division Manager Katie Stieber

Additions to Agenda

- None

Office on Aging Four Year Plan: Erin Alt and Katie Stieber

Link to Presentation: [Office on Aging](#)

- The Office on Aging is required to provide the State Unit on Aging with a four year plan. The most recent plan was submitted May 2023 and is for the state fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027.
- One of the ways the plan was informed was by the voice of the community including older residents, caregivers, and providers through ninety in person meetings and one hundred thirty-two surveys. Our staff and stakeholders' input were also considered. The stakeholders included contracted providers, advisory council members, and Commissioner Shaddock-McNally. It was funded through the American Rescue Plan Act.

- Another tool that was used was the Community Assessment of Older Adults or CASOA survey. The survey went to six thousand community members that were sixty years old or older from all areas of Larimer County. This helped identify community strengths to support successful aging, articulate the specific needs of older residents in the community, estimate contributions made by older residents to the community and projections of resident needs in the future. The full report can be found on our website at larimer.gov/seniors.
- Through the surveys and interviews, there were several themes including increasing community awareness, improving transportation, and addressing social isolation among others. The themes were then constructed into goals. Some of the goals for the next four years are outreach, ombudsman, Office on Aging Services, volunteers, and others. Each goal will be tracked quarterly and detail the next steps that need to be taken in order to achieve the goal. For example, one of the steps to help our ombudsman team is to support emergency preparedness in long-term care facilities.
- CSU Social Worker Project will allow the Office on Aging to visit the rural areas in Larimer County so that the department can learn more about what other older communities need. The outcome of this will be to recommend new or adapt programs to better align programs with the needs in the community.
- It is important to the commissioners that our community shares their opinions with the government so that programs can be developed in order to better serve our community.

Legislation Update: Heather O'Hayre

Link to Documents Referenced: [Legislative Update](#); [Colorado General Assembly](#);

- Our department was engaged with about fifty bills and tracked one hundred fifteen total this past legislative session. We were very engaged in CCI and County Commissioners Acting Together or CCAT. One of the focuses was child welfare, as it is most years. However, this year the Colorado General Assembly gave an overview of a child welfare interim committee that was created from this legislative session. The hope is this committee will be able to evaluate the needs of the children and youth of Colorado. After the evaluation, the committee will provide strategic recommendations for long-term care.
- House Bill 23-1249, Reduce Justice Involvement of Young Children, the board took an opposed position, but our concerns still remain. The Collaborative Management Programs which is the Larimer County Interagency Group are being required to serve the youth that are going through the juvenile justices process. However, one section that was removed was that ten to twelve year olds can longer be arrested entirely. Instead, they will be referred to our CMP for

youth, and the department is expecting an influx due to this decision. Regarding funding it will be based on allocation bases rather than incentive funding.

- House Bill 23-1300, Continuous Medicaid Eligibility, is a bill trying to expand medicaid eligibility so that families with young kids, or those that are leaving criminal justice settings, can remain eligible without going back through the redetermination process. There is going to be a feasibility study to learn if this is sustainable or not.
- Senate Bill 23-210, Update Administration of Certain Human Services, this repeals the Citizen Review Panel. This is no longer needed as a local board and commission. Additionally, the Juvenile Commission Board is no longer needed because the juvenile status has changed.
- Fiscal implications will be coming as the department continues to learn about the impacts.
- The Colorado Department of Human Services Association has provided budget recommendations through CCI. By the time the budgets are made available most counties have already approved their budget for the following fiscal year. However, this was expedited this year so that the State can have the recommendations before finalizing the budget.

Payment Overview: Heather O'Hayre

Link to Document Referenced: [Payment Overview](#)

- The department will be submitting this document every quarter via the consent agenda. This gives an overview how the department has spent the resources.

Department Activity Report - Heather O'Hayre

Link to Presentation: [Department Activity Report Q1 2023](#)

- Regarding the Aging and Adult Services, we are not able to close caseloads due to staffing issues and complex cases. The division has added a prevention specialist to give resources to families. Funding is a concern but we are currently utilizing the general fund dollars to sustain this program. Options for the Long-Term Care Team provide case management and assessment for the program while the Long Term Care Eligibility team can give guidance regarding medicaid. Both teams work together to guide families with options for in-home care, skill living, or assisted nursing homes.
- Benefits and Community Support Division, there has been a significant increase particularly in SNAP and other food assistance programs. The current SNAP benefit is the highest it has ever been in Larimer County, about a twenty-three percent increase in two years. It is expected this will continue to increase due to families recovering from the pandemic. Because families are re-eligible for medicaid, the department will review over fifty-thousand cases over the next year. The Child Care Assistance Program funds are going away in September

2024, and the department is tracking this closely, as the caseloads continue to grow.

Other Business

- None