

**Board of Social Services
MINUTES
February 10, 2020**

**Commissioners' Conference Room
Second Floor – County Administration Building
10:00 am – 12:00 am**

In Attendance: Commissioner Steve Johnson; Commissioner John Kefalas; Linda Hoffmann; Heather O'Hayre; Janice Cannon; Thad Paul; Shannon Reiff; Laura Walker; Katherine Palmer and Kari Valdez.

A recording of this work session is available at: http://larimer.org/bcc/list_worksessions.cfm.

Introductions & Announcements

Commissioner Steve Johnson, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Director Heather O'Hayre introduced Janice Cannon as our new Division Manager for Benefits & Community Support. Commissioner John Kefalas asked what Janice sees as room for improvement. Janice replied that she will be working on strategies on deploying our staff between the Fort Collins and Loveland Offices and looking at Estes to bring its hours to match Fort Collins and Loveland. Janice would also like to become more involved in the community, finding out what we can do and what works best with them. Commissioner Steve Johnson spoke on the lower uptake on Food Assistance and would like to see if Janice can look at this differently. Janice replied that she was meeting with CSU on 2/11/2020 and will be looking at how we can help the student population more. Commissioner Steve Johnson also spoke positively on the Farmers Markets and Double Up Food Bucks and Heather added that they are also working with WIC to streamline the connection with clients receiving our benefits that would be eligible for WIC – additions to agenda - none

Congregate Care Update

Thad Paul reported that going back to 2014, there is an alarming trend of children going into Psychiatric care from children that are in our care. This is partially due to Foster Care homes not getting reimbursed like Group Homes are. Heather advised that Colorado Foster Care guidelines are stricter than Federal - CO, 4 kids per foster home vs. Federal, 6 kids per foster home, so more are referred to congregate care, but Larimer County only has 1 facility and is used more for the delinquent population. Mountain Crest provides Psychiatric Care in Larimer County but other counties use this facility so not all Larimer County kids get placed there. CYF is working with our Probation Dept because there has been a decrease in Alternative Options and also a 25% increase of juveniles in Probation. There are currently 3 children that have been placed in a psychiatric hospital. Placement is determined by behavior, suicide concern or by orders from a Mental Health Therapist. Staff has not been able to focus on Family Find as much as they would like, but 2 staff have been designated to do this as a pilot and the thought on this is that it will have a great return. There has been focus on designing a specialized Foster Home program where behavior is the focus, but kids will have programs such as Cooking classes to help with this. There has also been consultations with Summit Stone to see if we can come to a collaboration with Summit Stone.

Legislative Update

Katherine Palmer reported on the following:



- HB 20-1012 - Child Welfare Program Children Developmental Disabilities
 - 10 beds for the whole state of CO
 - Many kids are placed out of state due to lack of beds in CO resulting in fiscal impact on CO.
 - CCI is advocating for more beds
- HB 20-1100 - Pass through Child Support Payments
 - Child Support goes completely to custodial parent
 - Currently there has not been a big administrative cost to do this
 - Higher collections rates have been seen, due to the noncustodial parent seeing that all of the child support is going the to the child
 - This will remain an option to the counties, but the computer system will shut off, so this will be a manual process for staff.
- SB 20-029 - COLA for TANF
 - This would provide a 10% increase to recipients
 - CCI is strongly opposing this
 - Amendment went from 10% to 5%, reviewed annually and will be a flat 1.5% increase
- SB 20-129 - Protection of Individuals Subject to a Fiduciary
 - This is new so has not gone to CCI yet
 - Larimer County only takes guardianship when there is no other option - other counties do not do this.
- SB 20-1052 - Privacy protection for Human Service Workers
 - This is moving very quickly
 - Misdemeanor to post HS workers personnel information online.

Semi Annual Fiscal Update

Shannon Reiff reported the following data from July-December 2019.

- County Admin (Adult Financial, Food Assistance(SNAP), Medicaid)
- Child Care (CCAP)
- Colorado Works (TANF)
- Child Welfare
- Core Services
- Child Welfare Workload Staff Funding
- SB19-258 & IV-E Waiver
- Office on Aging (OOA)
- Options for Long Term Care (OLTC)
- Adult Protective Services (APS)
- HB-1223 aid for the Needy and Disabled Navigator

C-Stat Dashboard Review

Heather O'Hayre and Division Manager

- The big 10/11 comparison is no longer provided
 - Handout is Larimer specific
- Timeliness went down due to CBMS transformation
- Over 200 hours of overtime since October 2019
- January numbers are showing that the backlog numbers are going up
 - Workload was prioritized, so it will take time to catch the backlog up.



Department Activity Report

Heather O'Hayre reported:

- Child protection activity is at 41%
- Goal for employment entered clients on public assistance is 40%
 - Commissioner John Kefalas asked why this is so low
 - Not all clients receiving benefits are required to work
 - Hard to find a job with a living wage when our Cost of Living is so high

Other business:

None

Meeting adjourned.