



**LINCOLN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 30, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Lincoln County Social Services Board was held on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Social Services Building. Members present were Chrystal Hoyle, Chairperson; Jill Eaddy, Daphne Ingram, and Cathy Davis. Others in attendance were Matthew Hillman, Director; Kelley Miles, Deputy Director; Ruth Lockman, Business Manager; Mendie Kelly, Children Services Program Manager; Jason Hughes, Placement Services Program Manager; Tiffany Barnette, Medicaid Program Manager; Roni Duckworth, Economic Services Program Manager; and, Denise Dula, Economic Services Support Supervisor/Designated Clerk to the Social Services Board.

Call to Order-Chrystal Hoyle called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Invocation-Daphne Ingram gave invocation.

Adoption of the Agenda- Adoption of the Agenda was approved by motion from Cathy Davis, second by Daphne Ingram, with all members in favor.

Public Comment-No public comments were made.

Minutes-Minutes from the December 15, 2023 meeting were approved by motion from Jill Eaddy, second by Cathy Davis, with all members in favor.

Old Business-Matthew Hillman gave an update on Medicaid Expansion. Mr. Hillman stated the Medicaid staff have been putting in a lot of work to ensure eligible clients are covered by Medicaid Expansion. From December 1, 2023 to December 22, 2023, there were 844 Medicaid applications taken. This is compared to 223 applications taken in December 2022. This is a 278 percent increase in application volume. All DSS across the state are feeling the effects of Medicaid Expansion and concerns are being voiced. Lincoln County has posted the new Medicaid Supervisor position. In looking ahead, Mr. Hillman expressed he hoped Medicaid Expansion to be in a better place by December 2024. Mr. Hillman stated he would send the dashboard reflecting Medicaid statistical numbers to Board members.

New Business-Matthew Hillman stated a new state pre-service training redesign is being proposed. The current program is a four week program. With the redesign, a seven week training model is being suggested. Mr. Hillman expressed concerns over the proposal. Seven weeks is a long time for new workers to be away from their families, children, elderly parents, etc. The cost of hotel rooms, food, and travel would increase. In recruiting new staff, a seven week training requirement would not be favorable. An online option is not being considered.

Board members stated they would like to voice opinion to the state regarding issues with the pre-service training redesign. Mr. Hillman noted he would send Board members the pre-service contact information.

Matthew Hillman explained Lincoln County has been chosen as a pilot county for the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA). The objective of the FFPSA is to enhance services to families to help children and youth remain at home and reduce the use of congregate care placements by increasing options for prevention services, increased oversight, and requirements for placements, and enhancing the requirements for congregate care placement. The Children's Home Society will be used to navigate this process.

Budget Reports-Ruth Lockman presented to the Board a report of all agency line items and 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget projections. Ms. Lockman gave a detailed breakdown of specific accounts having the most impact due to under/over spending or realization of revenues. Ms. Lockman expressed that Lincoln County DSS has done a good job at maximizing cost. There are no new concerns with the current year budget. Ms. Lockman noted the projected expenses for the rest of fiscal year 2023-2024. Board members had no questions regarding the budget reports. Ms. Lockman stated Board members could contact her if there were questions regarding the budget. Board members expressed gratitude for the work Ms. Lockman continues to do for DSS.

Matthew Hillman and DSS managers presented a power point presentation giving a very detailed overview of the fiscal year 2024-2025 proposed budget. Managers noted achievements and barriers in service, economic, and administrative areas. Goals for each scope were discussed. Mr. Hillman stated Lincoln County DSS has a total of 162 employees. Fiscal year 2024-2025 positions, building, and other budget requests were explained. Board members had no questions regarding the 2024-2025 proposed budget. All members thanked Mr. Hillman and DSS managers for the hard work in preparing the budget presentation.

At this time, the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 was approved by motion from Cathy Davis, second by Jill Eaddy, with all members in favor.

Statistical Reports-Matthew Hillman noted we fell short of meeting the Memorandum Work First Goal 2 which states the county will process 95 percent of Work First recertification's within 60 calendar days prior to the last day of the current certification period. There were four recertification's with three being timely and one untimely. This was due to a client error. The client came in late for their review and by policy was given a ten day notice to return information needed to process the review. The client brought the information in past the ten days and the review was processed late on that day. Mr. Hillman stated all other statistical data continues to look good.

Other-Board members inquired if the attorney position for Lincoln County DSS had been filled. Matthew Hillman stated the attorney position was still open until filled. A strong pool of candidates is needed. Short term, DSS has contracted with an attorney to help with court orders, etc.

Next, Matthew Hillman expressed that Jennifer Sigmon has been selected as the new Adult Services Program Manager. Ms. Sigmon has been with the Department for many years and brings a wealth of knowledge to the position.

Closed Session-No closed session needed.

Date of Next Meeting-February 27, 2024.

Motion to adjourn by Cathy Davis, second Daphne Ingram, with all members in favor.

This meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Date Minutes Approved

Chrystal Hoyle, Chairperson

Matthew Hillman, Director

Respectfully Submitted:

Denise S. Dula
Economic Services Support Supervisor;
Designated Clerk to the Social Services Board of Lincoln County DSS
Cc: file copy