

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
January 21, 2025

Present: Thomas Kalamas, Vice-Chair; Josh Leviker; and Barry Lyndaker. Jessica Moser, Chair; and Vincent Nortz were excused.

Legislator Kalamas called the meeting to order at 1:44 p.m.

Legislator Kalamas moved to approve the November 19, 2024, committee meeting minutes as recorded, seconded by Legislator Lyndaker, and carried.

Employee Recognition Ceremony – Caitlyn Smith, Director of Human Resources

Caitlin Smith presented on the retirements of three employees: Pat Fralick, Risa Roose, and Lisa Hurley, highlighting their significant contributions to the community in areas such as mental health services, child welfare, and IT support.

Human Services Committee Goals – Tim Hunt, County Manager

Tim Hunt addressed the completion of 2024 goals, including support for public health initiatives and the renovation of Lewis County General Hospital. Discussions included expanding childcare initiatives, establishing specific employee wellness goals, and gathering data on recreational patrol to identify areas for improvement. The review of jail medical contracts and finding alternative options was discussed with a deadline of May 31, 2025.

The meeting further explored the challenges of youth programs, housing development strategies, and the escalating homelessness crisis in Lewis County. Participants emphasized the need for supported housing and potential collaborations to address housing shortages. The mobile crisis services was also discussed, with \$600,000 secured for startup funds and plans for a co-response model involving law enforcement and mental health professionals.

Anna Platz was appointed to lead these initiatives, with services expected to launch by July 1st. Overall, the meeting focused on identifying actionable steps to enhance community support and address pressing needs in various sectors.

The following dockets were reviewed:

1. Re-appointing John Lehman of Croghan as a member of the Lewis County General Hospital Board of Managers for a 5-year term.
AYE 3 NAY 0

2. Authorizing acceptance of bid and purchase of a 2025 Can-Am Defender Max Limited Crew Cab side-by-side UTV at a cost of \$32,310.99 to be used by the Sheriff's Department for UTV/ATV trails through Lewis County.
AYE 3 NAY 0

There being no other business to come before the committee, Legislator Leviker moved to adjourn at 2:30 p.m., seconded by Legislator Lyndaker, and carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Cassandra Moser, Clerk of the Board