

**BEAR RIVER REGION
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**
Wednesday, May 28, 2025 – 12 Noon
BRAG's Cache County Office- Conference Room
170 North Main Street in Logan

MINUTES

Welcome, Introductions, and Minutes

Mayor Larry Jacobsen, Vice Chair

Attendees 5.28.25

HS Minutes 3.26.25 - -Approval -Motion: Karen Cronin; Second: Ashley Ellsworth Passed: Unanimously

Board Members

Human Services Board Members 2025

Lucas Martin, BRAG Executive Director welcomed Mark Nordstrom, from Cache Valley Bank to the board. He will be serving representing the private sector. Warren Kunz who had been actively serving on the board also in the private sector needed to step down at this time for personal reasons. His contribution was appreciated. The board is still looking for a member from Rich County, as being a member of the board did not work out with Mayor Sim Bell's work schedule.

Community Needs Update

Lucas Martin, BRAG Executive Director

Community Action Plan and Strategic Plan Goals

Lucas provided a look at previous Community Action Plans and pointed out the similarities identified in the current survey. The survey results, visualized in a graph rating issues from 1 (not an issue) to 5 (a crisis), unsurprisingly ranked Housing Affordability and Availability as a serious issue.

Board members discussed various potential solutions for housing. For example, have the Human Services Board recommend to the Governing Board to submit a single CDBG project such as shovel ready Permanent Supportive Housing to receive funding instead of having individual projects from communities. Another to learn about funding Davis County Behavioral Health received and see if Cache, Rich and Box Elder could receive similar funding. Beyond the goals specifically related to housing, we also discussed Community Focused Goals and Agency Capacity goals. A fact brought up about Agency Capacity was prior to COVID, 330 homeless clients were served by BRAG, during COVID the peak was 838 homeless served. There are bigger needs for BRAG staff to serve than previously.

The attached CAP Goals document reflects the feedback received during this discussion. Lucas is asking all board members to review the proposed goals and provide any comments or feedback directly within the document before our approval date in August. At the end of the meeting, it was decided to add a short additional Human Services Meeting over zoom on Wednesday, July 30 at 12:30 pm for that vote.

SSBG FY25-26

Lucas shared the Social Services Block Grant allocations spreadsheet with the board. A discussion about the possibility of crafting a Request for Proposal (RFP) for service providers to apply for future SSBG funding every three years to see if other entities could benefit from these funds. It was noted that it requires a 10% match. Lucas has contacted each of the providers who are receiving SSBG contracts for FY 2025. He will notify recipients of funding about changes for FY26-27.

A MOTION to approve the SSBG Allocations for FY25 as presented with the idea that the process may change for following years was MADE by Mayor Holly Daines with a **SECOND** from Karen Cronin. The motion **PASSED** unanimously.

Financial and Services Reports, Revenues and Expenditures

Deanna Newbold, BRAG Human Services Director

VITA/HEAT/STEPS

The document highlights all the data in each of the programs. Some additional information not on the handout: VITA had 60 volunteers, 39 were from USU. Jessy Barrett was the group lead. HEAT program receives more applications each year than the year before and after budget cuts the program will function on about half of the 2024 HEAT budget. The department will go from 12 staff to 5 staff members.

Deanna made the board members aware of an in-person and/or virtual PUBLIC HEARING regarding the State of Utah Home Energy Assistance Target (HEAT) Program that will be held Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 11:00 am. HEAT funds help low-income households with year-round home energy costs. All aspects of the 2026 HEAT program will be discussed.

[Click here for specific information.](#)

Kaitlyn Isbell, BRAG START Program

BRAG Winter Response Hotel Motel for April 2025

Also noted that there are currently 34 homeless individuals on the Community Coordinated Entry List.

START Grants (1) START Grants 2025 (2)

In addition to facts listed on the handout, Kaitlyn noted that all the funds in every grant except for the assistance for the Afghan refugees. The trick is that applicants can't use this funding while they are still receiving resettlement funds, so many refugees presently don't qualify.

Discussion of Unmet Needs

Other Business

The next Human Services meeting Wednesday, September 24 at 12 Noon at the USU Brigham City Campus.

The Approved Community Needs Assessment needs to be voted on by August 13, 2025. Options were discussed and it was decided to hold a short additional Human Services Meeting over zoom on Wednesday, July 30 at 12:30 pm for that vote.

Karen Cronin brought up the importance of partnering together with other agencies on services provided especially while funding is being cut it is important to not duplicate. She shared an example of a couple different agencies creating a Teen Center when really it would be better to put their efforts and funds together when doing similar goals.

Michael Fortune looked for steps to help a veteran with funds for a few weeks until he gets into his housing. Ideas were expressed including the free school lunch summer program for his daughter.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm.