

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2022**

The April 19, 2022 meeting of the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services was held in the Board of County Commissioners' meeting room located at 200 E. Virginia Avenue, Gunnison, Colorado. Present, either in person or via Zoom, were:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson
Roland Mason, Commissioner [ABSENT]
Liz Smith, Commissioner
Greg Levine, Hinsdale Co. Commissioner [REMOTE]

Joni Reynolds, Assistant County Manager for
Health & Human Services
Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board
Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 10:31 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

1. February 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes – **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the Gunnison-Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting minutes for February 15, 2022, with the amendment that the language is changed from "Office of Early Childhood" to "Department of Early Childhood Education." Motion carried.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Finance Senior Accountant Kelly Weak was present to give a report and answer any questions from the Board. As the Board reviewed the Financial report, Assistant County Manager for Health & Human Services Joni Reynolds noted that they had amended the budget for some of the federal programs, but this was at no cost to the County.

Moved by Commissioner Houck to accept the financials and authorize the chair's signature. Seconded by Commissioner Smith. Motion carried.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) - Assistant County Manager for Health & Human Services, Joni Reynolds, was present for discussion. Also present was Early Child Care Program Coordinator Margaret Wacker, to give updates on the following programs: a) Adult Protective Services, where she highlighted that they had six full- and part-time staff making over 6,000 contacts per year; b) Community Service Block Grant, where she reported that a total of 130 households had received assistance through the Block Grant in 2021 – for rent, mortgage, utilities, emergency shelter, medical, and transportation; and c) gaps and needs were reviewed, which included programs for guardians, placement, in-home and behavioral services in the home, for those over 50 and disabled adults. Medicaid services for older adults were identified with staffing problems which could make the difference for whether some could stay in their home or not. Availability of Medicaid hospital beds was identified as an ongoing issue, as well.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Assistant County Manager for Health & Human Services, Joni Reynolds, was present for this report to the Board.

1. Policy group meeting with the State Health Department, Friday April 15th. Ass't CM Reynolds advised the Board that the meeting had been centered around policy regarding health care staffing. She noted that they were not able to share any bill draft yet, and that the language had been very vague.
2. Draft of bill for ambulance licensing at the State level. Ass't CM Reynolds stated that this bill draft sought to create a whole new infrastructure for ambulance licensing; there would be local input but not for the actual licensing. She noted that the State saw this as a way to have state-wide standards and authority, and added that much of Colorado Counties Inc (CCI) discussion regarding this proposed bill came from concerned commissioners who felt that if this licensing wasn't done locally, there would be decreased ambulance services, because the counties had been leveraging their licensing in order to assure delivery of services. Overall, they were quite concerned that local interests and perspectives would be lost. CM Birnie explained that, as far as he knew, Gunnison County did not have any leveraging in this way, and that the Gunnison Valley Health EMS covered all the way to the County line. Ass't CM Reynolds added that the intent was for this bill to be in affect by 2024; also, several commissioners had indicated they would be entering a motion to oppose.
3. Likely to be discussed next Friday, April 22nd. Ass't CM Reynolds highlighted a bill under discussion on Friday which would allow the State to keep some of the incentive payments which come from the Federal government for child support services. This is a house bill that has been introduced, and locally it has been used for offsetting program costs, as it is usually a small amount. The concern with the bill's wording is that the State could do so without county support; language was intended to be modified so that the State would have to request monies from the counties and get their approval before retaining funds.

NEXT MEETING: June 21, 2022. The Board confirmed June 21, 2022 as the next meeting date for the Board of Human Services.

ADJOURN: Chairperson Houck adjourned the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting at 11:01 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved June 21, 2022:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson