

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 21, 2022**

The June 21, 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  
Liz Smith, Commissioner  
Greg Levine, Hinsdale Co. Commissioner [ABSENT]

Joni Reynolds, Assistant County Manager for  
Health & Human Services  
Marlene Crosby, Deputy 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 8:43 am, and noted for the record that Commissioner Levine would not be able to join the meeting that day, but the rest of those in attendance would still constitute a quorum.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:**

1. April 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes – **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting minutes for April 19, 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Assistant County Manager for Health and Human Services Joni Reynolds explained that there would be several contracts now to come in for approval as the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services. This was due to the State's newly created Department of Early Childhood separating out several funds from the State Department of Human Services.

**Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion carried.

1. Memorandum of Understanding; Department of Early Childhood; Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services; for identification of both parties' duties and responsibilities in implementing the Colorado Child Care Assistance Program (CCCAP); 7/01/2022 – 6/30/2025, reaffirmed annually through an amendment
2. Memorandum of Understanding; Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS); Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services; an outline of both parties' duties and responsibilities in implementing the CDHS "Works Program" Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF); 7/01/2022 – 6/30/2025, reaffirmed annually through an amendment

**PRESENTATION OF COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES AWARD:** ACM Joni Reynolds stated that this outstanding achievement award from the Colorado Department of Human Services was representative of what Deputy Director for Health and Human Services Brad Wheaton, Eligibility and Economic Security Services Supervisor Brian Gage, and the rest of the human services team do.

Chairperson Houck read the award, and highlighted that, even with the extra work throughout the pandemic, the Human Services team was able to achieve a high percentage of 95% timeliness for benefit applications, and that they were still consistently hitting that benchmark. He formally thanked the team on behalf of the Board and the citizens of Gunnison County.

**PROGRAM UPDATES:** ACM Joni Reynolds introduced Brad Wheaton to the Board, as the new Deputy Human Services Director, and then turned the program updates over to Brad.

DD Brad Wheaton began with staffing updates: Brian Gage had been promoted to Eligibility and Economic Security Supervisor, as of June 20<sup>th</sup>; two new Eligibility Technicians – Meredith McClurkan and Ray Donheiser – would both be starting in July, and; HHS would unfortunately be losing a bilingual technician at the end of June.

Next, DD Wheaton reported on Food Assistance (SNAP), noting that families on SNAP were still receiving maximum allotments. In May 2022, Gunnison County issued \$24,361 in SNAP benefits. Further, the Gunnison Country Food Pantry were still seeing a consistent amount of people accessing food, thought there was a decrease from 2020-21 levels.

When Commissioner Smith asked if they had a sense of when the SNAP funding would be reduced, DD Wheaton replied that he expected it would probably be January 2023, stating that this would be a huge change for people's food security budget. He added that the Food Pantry might see even more people once the end of maximum benefits came; however, their team would be reviewing eligibility for benefits in advance of the expected cutoff at the first of 2023.

DD Wheaton stated that members remained "locked-in" to various Medicaid programs, with an average of 3,335 Gunnison residents accessing health insurance through Medicaid; children made up a little over 1/3 of that amount. He explained that the Eligibility staff were working overtime to handle the increased workload.

DD Wheaton also reported on the Child Support program, first giving recognition to Shelley Tucker, a CSS worker for Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties, who has been, by herself, handling approximately 200 cases in all aspects of CSS. CA Matt Hoyt added that she was also doing a great job in working with parents outside the court as well. DD Wheaton then added that Shelley had collected over \$413,000 for families in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties, with a note that CSS enforcement actions had been suspended throughout the public health emergency, making it more difficult to collect on orders.

ACM Joni Reynolds let the Board know that they needed to procure funding for another part-time worker to assist Shelley with child support services; in fact, they were struggling with funding for a minimum amount of staffing in most of these programs. Commissioner Smith stated that she would like to meet with Joni and staff to go over what would be more appropriate for state funding in order to maintain enough staffing.

**NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 16, 2022.** The Board confirmed August 16, 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 9:04 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

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Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved October 18, 2022:

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Jonathan Houck, Chairperson