

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2022**

The February 15, 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 [ABSENT]
Roland Mason, Commissioner, Acting Chair
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: Acting Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 10:43 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Levine to approve the December 21, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

1. December 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

2022 MEETING PLANNING: Assistant County Manager for Health & Human Services, Joni Reynolds, was present for discussion.

Asst CM Reynolds noted that a draft had been sent to each of the Board last December 2021, and then went over the 2022 schedule with the Board, asking if there were any modifications needed. Commissioner Smith mentioned the newly formed Colorado Department of Early Childhood, and wondered about adding something on this to a future meeting. Asst CM Reynolds affirmed that she would make a note to add something into the schedule which would include the impact in different areas of her department. No other changes were added.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

1. **Funding Overview.** HHS Director Reynolds went over the Human Services Program 01 Funding for fiscal year 2022 with the Board. This included funding for Senior & Adult Services and Child and Family Health programs, with three different funding sources in the County budget. The chart she had prepared illustrated that 69% of the funding was from the State, with 23% from grants.

Asst CM Reynolds then looked at 03 Funding, which included funding for Senior & Adult, Child and Family Services, and Economic Security programs. The chart provided revealed that 58% of funding was from State, with 34% from federal funds.

Last, Asst CM Reynolds looked at 04 Funding, which included the Public Health programs. A chart showed 58% of funding came from the State, with 20% from federal funding. Overall, she noted that the funding for 01, 03 & 04 utilized 58% from State and 27% from federal funds.

Commissioner Mason asked for a comparison of funding totals for past years, and Asst CM Reynolds stated that she would send the Board an updated document showing totals for FY 2020 and 2019 for comparison.

2. **Staffing Updates.** Asst CM Reynolds reported that there was a new grant-funded position posted currently for a program called Gen-50, which works with people at the age of 50. They had not received any applicants, but were working on a plan to get the service going. Also, not yet posted, but in the budget, were positions for a part-time Child Support Specialist and Eligibility Tech for the next school year.

Specifically for Hinsdale County, Asst CM Reynolds let the Board know she was coordinating with the Hinsdale County team to identify any issues or questions that might come up from Lake City or any Hinsdale County residents, regarding public assistance or application status. She let the Board know that, in the past, the Hinsdale team could check on this online; however, State security upgrades now prohibit them accessing the site.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

Asst CM Joni Reynolds gave this report to the Board, as well. She attended a Colorado Counties Inc (CCI) meeting last Friday, February 11th, for a legislative update; in two weeks' time there would be another meeting with a vote. She was working with CCI staff to figure out how to register two votes – one for Gunnison County and one for Hinsdale County.

A few of the priority bills from CCI that they gave an update on concerned:

1. A House Bill centered around family justice center. Asst CM Reynolds reported that this centered around human trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse, sexual abuse and violence, etc., and remarked that it seemed to be more specific to Jefferson County Metro, and not to statewide; she did not see a reason to oppose it.
2. A Senate Bill for transparency in out-of-home placements for people with developmental disabilities. Asst CM Reynolds reported that this is still pending and hasn't been introduced yet.
3. A bill yet to be introduced, regarding the Department of Early Childhood. Asst CM Reynolds noted that this was specifically concerning the effective date for starting to track the funding amounts involved for this new department; it was not the bill which will establish the actual Department of

Early Childhood and all the details that will go with it. She further noted that it seemed like a bill to support.

4. A house bill for a behavioral crisis response system. Asst CM stated this bill was for clarifying built-in responses already in place for all mental and behavioral health, and substance abuse cases – for all ages. She added that it was described as needed to help with enforcement actions, and she is not sure if this will really help address the current issues.
5. Senate Bill 106, conflict of interest in public behavioral health. Asst CM Reynolds explained that this bill would create clarity in seeking to limit who can be on their board, as far as the ability to control their network of providers. She stated that she felt this bill was not a priority locally, but probably was more of a priority statewide.
6. House Bill 0296 – a TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) bill to increase the basic cash assistance to needy families. Asst CM Reynolds reported that this bill would increase the basic cash assistance for all cases, make it easier to be eligible, and more difficult to discontinue aid to any individual on the program. Issues were with TANF being able to draw from county reserves for possible extensive needs; as a result, the counties may not have reserves left for other types of emergencies, etc. She noted that there had been some discussion that the governor’s office does support this bill; her staff had noted a lot of changes in the rigor for eligibility and sanctions for employment search requirements. She concluded that this bill will be continued to be discussed at the CCI meeting later in the month.

PERFORMANCE REPORT:

Asst CM Joni Reynolds gave a brief report on the Health and Human Services Department’s performance during the past year. She noted that the two performance-measure and data-tracking systems used for their department were: C-STAT – a Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) tool – and Clear Point, which was Gunnison County’s tool for measuring performance and tracking data.

She reported that, for the last 4 years both Gunnison and Hinsdale had been recognized for outstanding performance under the C-STAT program criteria; CDHS compares 44 counties to evaluate performance in all CDHS program areas.

Asst CM Reynolds then went over performance specifics for the following programs, with both C-STAT and Clear Point measures included: Economic Security & Eligibility, Child Support Services, Adult Protective Services, and Child Welfare. For Gunnison County, strategic result measures were also covered.

After the report, the Commissioners thanked Asst CM Reynolds for the streamlined report which made it very easy to understand the data. They also thanked her for working so well through all the issues that she and her department staff had been through in the last couple of years.

NEXT MEETING: April 19, 2022. The Board confirmed April 19, 2022 as the next meeting date for the Board of Human Services.

ADJOURN: Acting Chair Mason adjourned the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting at 11:32 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved April 19, 2022:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson