

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 16, 2016**

The August 16, 2016 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 were:

Phil Chamberland, Chairperson	Joni Reynolds, Health and Human Services Director
Susan Thompson, Vice-Chairperson (ABSENT)	Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner	Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Paula Swenson, Commissioner	Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Chamberland called the meeting to order at 10:27 am.

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

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Moved** by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the June 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes. Motion carried. Chairperson Chamberland did not vote on the motion because he wasn't present for that meeting.

**PROGRAM REVIEW AND POLICY INPUT; CHILD AND FAMILY PROGRAMS:** HHSD Reynolds presented the following updates.

1. Child Welfare. The differential response model will be launched in the near future. The model focuses on family strengths and how the teams can work with families to better ensure that children are in safe environments. During her time in the position, her department has had to work with some mild cases of abuse or neglect, but there haven't been any severe cases.
2. Core Services. Previously, one of the regional offices managed these funds, and the areas are designated by mental-health regions. The funding has then been transferring to the Center for Mental Health for distribution based on a case-by-case need basis. She is not clear why it was set up this way.
3. Hotline. While there is increased reporting around the state, the increase hasn't translated to a rise in actual abuse or neglect cases.
4. Foster Car Program. The recent audit went very well. There are only three foster families in the community, and more are needed.
5. Adoption Services. The pathway to adoption can be difficult because the primary focus is on keeping the child(ren) in a kinship situation. Foster families can decide whether to remain fosters or try to adopt.
6. Child Support Services. As of July, there were 269 court-ordered cases in Gunnison County, representing about \$470k annually. Gunnison is one of the state leaders with regard to collections. Sherri Deetz plans to retire next year, and Marilyn Cheever has expressed interest in moving into the position. When the position is opened, Marilyn will likely apply or help during the transition.
7. Parenting Education. The current focus is on the Nurturing Parenting Program and the Love & Logic classes. The Love & Logic course is six-weeks long, and classes are held in the evening. The Nurturing Parenting Program is a longer course that focuses on nurturing.

**UPDATES:**

1. Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Prioritization Funding Target Transition Progress. CSBG funds come from the state and are designated for emergency assistance funding for families. The priority is for residents who have current housing or are at risk of losing their housing. The system also prioritizes families with children or disabled members. The County has historically run out of funding 7-8 months into the year, so staff is now setting monthly targets based on prioritized groups to help manage the funding throughout the year and ensure that funds are available.
2. Building Renovation Update. The department is working on an approximate \$800k grant application to Colorado Department of Local Affairs that will assist with updating the building for improved function and safety. The County will be capable of matching grant funds by 50%.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting was scheduled for October 18, 2016.

**ADJOURN:** **Moved** by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Houck to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

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Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved October 18, 2016:

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Phil Chamberland, Chairperson