

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
October 20, 2020**

The October 20, 2020 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

Joni Reynolds, Health and Human Services Director
Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 10:43 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

STAFF UPDATES: Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds informed the Board that a new child welfare caseworker has been hired, and another employee had been promoted internally. Kathy Ashwood, a long-time employee, would be retiring at the end of the week, and the celebration of her service was scheduled for October 21st. Ms. Ashwood's position vacancy has been noticed to the public.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

- Grants. HHS Director Reynolds informed the Board that her team had secured many grants to meet the local community's needs. To date, we have received over \$200,000 and have provided assistance to 145 households. She noted that, each week, her office receives approximately \$3,000 in requests for rental assistance.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). HHS Director Reynolds informed the Board that SNAP benefits have increased substantially in 2020. Approximately \$2.5M in benefits will be issued this year, which is about \$1M over a typical year.
- Medicaid. HHS Director Reynolds stated that 800 families are federally locked into Medicaid, so they will be eligible for benefits until January 31, 2021 even if their financial situations change.
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). HHS Director Reynolds stated that there were 42 families receiving TANF cash benefits as of the meeting, which is more than double the typical caseload.
- Child Support. HHS Director Reynolds informed the Board that the State had suspended enforcement actions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Collections are currently at 86% and 72% for Hinsdale and Gunnison Counties, respectively.
- Influenza Vaccine. HHS Director Reynolds noted that approximately 75% of the recently vaccinated people expressed a desire to receive the COVID-19 vaccine when it is ready for distribution. Overall, about 50% of the population receives the annual flu vaccine.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Houck adjourned the Gunnison Health and Human Services meeting at 10:54 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved February 16, 2021:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson