

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
December 21, 2021**

The December 21, 2021 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	Joni Reynolds, Health and Human Services Director
Roland Mason, Commissioner	Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Liz Smith, Commissioner [ABSENT]	Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board
Greg Levine, Hinsdale Co. Commissioner [REMOTE]	Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Chairperson Houck to approve the October 19, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

1. October 19, 2021 Meeting Minutes

CONSENT AGENDA: **Moved** by Chairperson Houck to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Seconded by Commissioners Levine and Mason in unison. Motion carried.

1. Memorandum of Understanding between Hinsdale County and Prowers County; Hot Line Calls for Child and Adult Protection

2022 COUNTY MERIT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION: Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds was present for discussion.

HHS Director Reynolds explained to the Board that this was a yearly requirement from the State. The Department of Human Services must submit a document stating that they complied with the State's requirements, and that they had utilized a performance review and merit system with their employees.

Moved by Chairperson Houck, seconded by Commissioner Mason, to authorize the Chair's signature on the 2022 County Merit System Certification, as presented. Motion carried.

PROGRAM UPDATES: Senior Resource and Adult Protective Services (APS) Updates. Senior Resources Program Manager Betsy Holena was not able to be there to present the update that day, so HHS Director Joni Reynolds presented for her.

HHS Director Reynolds began by outlining to the Board that Adult Protective Services was for at-risk adults – set by state statute who the programs were for – essentially any adult with a limiting factor due to age or developmental capacity. There were two part-time caseworkers with 68 referrals during the 2021 calendar year – almost double from the cases two years ago. HHS Director Reynolds noted that part of this increase was due to the change from seniors and elderly protection, to now all adults; of the current group, roughly 1/3 of the cases were at-risk due to some type of mental health or substance abuse issues, 1/3 comprised elderly individuals, and 1/3 were a mix of elderly and younger adults with a variety of challenges. Out of the 68 referrals, 21 developed into cases with a formal, systematic review process to aid in determining the level and type of intervention needed.

HHS Director Reynolds reported that SR Program Manager Betsy Holena had secured a new, small amount of Elder Justice funding - \$2,500 – to assist any senior or younger adult with an open APS case.

In addition to, and separate from Adult Protective Services, HHS Director Reynolds stated that they also do Elderly Outreach – helping seniors with disabilities; assisting with online navigation services; helping the elderly to sign up for programs such as Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage; coordinating health care visits and shopping needs. She reported that funding for this comes from many places, with Region 10 being the principal contributor. There are 5 staff workers – one full time and the rest part-time – with over 6,000 contacts done to date. HHS Director Reynolds noted that much of this involved COVID work – answering calls, getting the elderly signed up online for vaccination appointments, arranging transportation to the clinic, and setting up home vaccination appointments for those unable to come to the clinic. The team knew many of the people personally and it helped make the COVID vaccination rate among the elderly highly successful.

HHS Director Reynolds included court visit reports as the last section in the program update, outlining for the Board that, if there is an adult situation, a judge can issue an order for them to visit the home situation and then report back to the court with an assessment. She reported that there were three such assessments for the year. County Attorney Hoyt highlighted the importance of this type of service – one which provided a neutral, fact-based perspective.

When Commissioner Levine asked if there was county-specific data available, HHS Director Reynolds replied that she would contact SR Program Manager Betsy Holena and see if she could separate that out for Hinsdale County and send to him.

COLORADO COUNTIES INC (CCI) VOTING MEMBER DELEGATION: Chairperson Houck began by asking HHS Director Joni Reynolds whether her vote counted as one or two votes, because of the combined counties for Human Services. She indicated that it counted as two votes. Hinsdale Commissioner Levine

gave his support in delegating Hinsdale County's vote to HHS Director Reynolds, and she indicated that CCI was wishing for separate Board actions and had separate forms to sign; she had sent the form to the Administrative Assistant in Hinsdale County, and the item was scheduled to come before the Hinsdale Board at their next meeting.

After a brief discussion, it was determined that each County – Gunnison and Hinsdale – would each provide a motion and then form to CCI by the deadline of January 21, 2022. Chairperson Houck **moved** to have Gunnison County designate Joni Reynolds as their proxy vote for the steering committee specifically for Health and Human Services, for the 2022 session next year. Commissioner Mason seconded, and the motion carried.

NEXT MEETING: Feb 15, 2022. HHS Director Joni Reynolds let the board know that the next meeting program update would be a funding overview, adding that a draft of the 2022 meeting schedule would be emailed to the commissioners. The next meeting was set for February 15, 2022.

HHS Director Reynolds then briefly updated the Board on the near "straight-up spike" in COVID cases in Eagle County (Vail, specifically). She stated that this was suspected to be due to the Omicron variant and recent, large tourism events held there. In contrast, statewide, COVID cases had decreased dramatically; but hospital bed availability was also decreasing. The State believed this was due to delayed care.

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

Minutes Prepared By:

Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved February 15, 2021:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson