

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MEETING MINUTES  
February 21, 2023**

The February 21, 2023 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, Assistant County Manager for Health, Human and Safety Services
Liz Smith, Commissioner	Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner	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 8:30 am.

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

**DRAFT; 2023 MEETING PLAN:** Assistant County Manager for Health, Human, and Safety Services Joni Reynolds was present in the room to go over the plan and answer any questions the Board might have. She briefly went over the 2023 Meeting Plan draft with the Commissioners, and noted that she had set up the topics to be a complement to the Board of Health schedule for 2023.

Commissioner Smith asked about timing for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten updates, and noted that they still had an enrollment timing gap in question. ACM Reynolds replied that they were working on this, and there would be more to come in their April report, scheduled under Early Childhood Services program review and policies.

**PROGRAM UPDATES:**

1. **Public Assistance Program Changes; Post Public Health Emergency.** Health & Human Services Deputy Director Brad Wheaton presented this report. He started by advising that starting in March 2023, families will stop receiving the emergency, or maximum, allotments for their eligible household members and will go back to qualifying under calculated benefits. This may have a large impact on several families in the community. He stated that they were presently working with area food assistance groups for give aid to these families.

For April 2023, DD Wheaton reported that families' eligibility for Medicaid will also be going back to qualifying under calculated benefits. He explained that his team has been working for a year now to prepare families for this transition off pandemic benefits, and further stated that he believed people are now aware but are not ready to experience the drop; some will see quite a drastic drop in benefits.

Economic Security Supervisor Brian Gage, also present in the room, estimated that around 2,000 will be affected in Gunnison County. DD Wheaton also noted that state funding will be utilized in order to get this information out to the public, in tandem with a media packet and hotline number sent to them by the state.

ESS Brian Gage, upon request from ACM Reynolds, then explained the state delay in cutting off benefits in February 2023. He explained to the Board that this delay helped give families a real "heads up" that this will definitely happen in March 2023. It would also let them know what their calculated benefit would be.

2. **Funding Overview.** ACM Joni Reynolds went over funding graphs she had prepared for the Board, first showing 2023 FY funding percentages for Human Services Program 01 Funding. This included Senior & Adult programs (Aging and Disability Resources Center; Transportation & Education) and Child and Family Health programs (Nurse Family Partnership Program; Nurturing Parenting Program; Early Childhood Council; Multicultural Resources; and Family Planning). Funding sources were identified as: Property Tax, Federal, State, Other Government, Fees, Grants, Transfers In, and Miscellaneous sources, with the State being the largest source of funding at 79%.

The next graph was 2023 FY Human Services Program 03 Funding, which included Senior & Adult Programs (Adult Protection), Child and Family Services (Child Welfare; Core Services; Foster Care Program; Adoption Services; SB94; and Child Support Services), and Economic Security Programs (Childcare Assistance; Medical Assistance; Food Assistance; Colorado Works/TANF Program; Community Service Block Grant; and other Assistance programs, i.e. LEAP, OAP, EOC). Funding sources were identified in the same categories and for 01 Funding, with State again being the largest contributor with 59% of the total funding.

A third graph was 2023 FY Public Health Program 04 Funding, which included Public Health Programs (Program Support; Women's Wellness Connection; Women, Infant & Children; Immunizations; West Central Partnership; Tobacco Education; Emergency Preparedness & Response; and Prenatal). This again identified the same sources for funding as in the previous two graphs, with State the largest contributor at 75% of total funding.

Commissioner Puckett Daniels asked about the differences in Program 01, 03, and 04 funding. CFO Perry Solheim, also present in the room for the meeting, explained that these codes are for accounting, and gave examples of 01 referencing general funds, and 03 referencing public help.

He noted that these were references to where the funding was coming from and had developed over time for accounting purposes.

ACM Reynolds noted the graphs' differences in funding totals between 2021 and 2022, and explained the decreased funds in 2022 as a step down in COVID funding.

Commissioner Smith asked if the 2023 funding was sufficient to adequately provide the needed services. ACM Reynolds affirmed that they were feeling a "pinch" from decreased state and some local funding; they also had long-term staff whose cost of living increases had not been adjusted into their budgets.

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:**

- 1. Current Status on Key Bills.** ACM Joni Reynolds reviewed some of the key bills related to Health and Human Services with the Board, and noted that next Friday, 2/24, would be an overall meeting with Colorado Counties Inc (CCI) regarding Health and Human Services legislation. She noted further that she also has a weekly meeting call with other Health and Human Services directors, separate from CCI.

Key bills ACM Reynolds reviewed with the Board included:

- HB 23-1142 - Information of person reporting child abuse. ACM Reynolds explained that this bill sought to deal with anonymous child service reports made with malice. In seeking to eliminate reports of this nature, the bill allows for a process which would use identifying information with the report. The Board, CM Birnie, and CA Matt Hoyt discussed the concern that, if this bill passed, it might result in a lack of referrals. ACM Reynolds advised that no position had been taken by CCI yet.
- HB 23-1160 –TRAILS system requirements. The bill is requiring changes in the electronic documentation system, in order to make it more efficient. ACM Reynolds reported that there would need to be a \$53 million upgrade, and she felt this unfunded mandate would make the bill impossible to pass.
- HB 23-1024 – Relative and kin placement of a child. ACM Reynolds advised that the CCI position was to amend this bill, because of numerous new requirements regarding: appeals, help if resources are a barrier, and getting relatives more involved in planning. While it would put a lot of requirements on the courts for what they can and cannot do, it also sought to give kin more rights. The Board and CA Hoyt discussed other potential issues, such as visitation rights. When asked, ACM Reynolds stated that she felt this bill was trying to accomplish too much.
- HB 23-1043 – A CCI priority bill involving child emergency and continued placement with relatives or kin. ACM Reynolds noted that this bill clarifies how background checks and fingerprints are to be done. She advised that she did support this bill.

**NEXT MEETING: April 18, 2023.** The Board confirmed April 18, 2023 as the next meeting date for the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services.

**ADJOURN:** Chairperson Houck adjourned the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting at 9:05 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

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Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved August 15, 2023:

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Jonathan Houck, Chairperson