

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
October 17, 2023**

The October 17, 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 & HHS Director
Greg Levine, Commissioner (Hinsdale County)	Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Elizabeth Smith, Commissioner	Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner	Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 10:49 am. Commissioner Levine attended the meeting in person.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: HHS Director Reynolds presented the summary financial report of the YTD expenses, and no concerns were expressed. **Moved** by Commissioner Houck, seconded by Commissioner Levine to accept the financials as presented and authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

1. Child Support Services. Deputy Health and Human Services Director Brad Wheaton was present for discussion and brought hard copies of information for the group. Child Support Services Specialist Shelley Tucker was also present for discussion, and she provided the update. We are no longer collecting child support on foster care fees, as those fees are felt to be too much of a hardship on the families. All enforcement actions are again being sought after the pandemic. There is a new imputation rule in effect for collecting child support, meaning that a minimum wage of 32 hours per week for 50 weeks each year will be imputed if there is no extended work history. DHHS Wheaton noted that over \$600,000 was collected last year, and a C-Stat award was given to the department for the dollar amount of arrears payments received in 2022. A new interface will likely be implemented in 2024 to hopefully recoup additional monies owed to families.
2. Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). Wellness/Enforcement Services Manager Betsy Holena was present for discussion. WESM Holena confirmed that the application has been submitted to the State, and the results should be known in a couple of weeks. She also noted that staff is developing an onboarding packet for new Board members, which should be ready in November. So far this year, the program has helped 103 households with funding for things like rent, fuel, and transportation needs.
3. Economic Security. Economic Security Services Supervisor Brian Gage was present for discussion.
 - i. Medicaid. ESSS Gage confirmed that his staff is working to update the Medicaid program now that the public health emergency is over. The caseload must be reevaluated and new determinations made for all those who received were brought onto the program during the pandemic, and the work must be done within the next approximately eight months. The State has extended the public health emergency funding through June 2024.
 - ii. Food Assistance. ESSS Gage informed the Board that the Gunnison County issued \$182,000 in SNAP benefits to community members in September, which shows an expected decrease aligned with the program's reversion to calculated benefits after the Max Allotment ended in March.
 - iii. Able-Bodied Adult(s) Without Dependents (ABAWD) Rule Change. ESSS Gage explained that the State is requiring able-bodied adults without dependents to meet an employment requirement in order to qualify for food assistance. Over a 36-month period, if a person does not meet the work requirements three times, they risk being removed from the program. Previously, Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties were both exempt from this requirement, but Gunnison recently lost that exemption. Currently, Hinsdale is one of only four counties that qualify for the exemption.
4. Senior Care Center. ESSS Gage stated that the Senior Care Center facility is operating at 2/3 capacity due to staffing issues.
5. Medical Assistance. ESSS Gage informed the Board that the State has made Family Planning a new category of medical assistance. This change has helped the community with testing for sexually transmitting infections, and it helps with birth control services. Behavioral Health is another new program that will help to expand access to assistance related to mental health and substance abuse. More than 23% of Gunnison County's population is enrolled in Health First Colorado.
6. Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Community Health Manager Margaret Wacker and CCAP Coordinator Cheryl Smejkal were present for discussion. CHM Wacker noted that the State requirements with this program have resulted in a greatly increased workload for staff.
 - i. Western Junior Mountaineers Camp. This year, the Camp opened up to CCAP families, which resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of families served.

- ii. Current Families/Cases Served in Gunnison and Hinsdale Counties. There are 29 kids currently authorized for CCAP childcare; up from 15 in Oct 2022, and down from 39 this past summer. There are 20 kids, primarily aged six months to two years old, on CCAP who do not have a current childcare authorization, because they are waiting for an open childcare slot.
- iii. Current FY 2024 Budget. Gunnison County's total allocation is \$289,191, and the State estimated Gunnison County's share to be \$24,780 of that. However, based on spending in July and August, the State estimated we might spend closer to \$194,373. Hinsdale County's allocation is \$24,607, of which \$2,108 would be Hinsdale's share. Last year, Hinsdale spent \$11,980.81, and the State estimates that \$12,449 will be spent this year.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for December 19, 2023.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Houck adjourned the meeting at 11:28 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved April 16, 2024

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson