

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 21, 2012**

The August 21, 2012 meeting of the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services was held in the Commissioners' boardroom in the Courthouse located at 200 E. Virginia, Gunnison, Colorado. Present were:

Phil Chamberland, Chairperson  
Allen Brown, Vice-Chairperson  
Hap Channell, Commissioner  
Paula Swenson, Commissioner

Greg Meier, Gunnison County Child Welfare Manager  
Matthew Birnie, County Manager  
Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board  
Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairperson Chamberland called the meeting to order at 10:31 am.

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

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Moved** by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Brown to approve the meeting minutes for July 17, 2012 and authorize signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVE MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS:** Staff Accountant Maureen Eden presented the financial report dated June 30, 2012 for discussion and approval. **Moved** by Commissioner Swenson, seconded by Commissioner Channell to approve the monthly financials for June 2012 and authorize signatures. Motion carried unanimously.

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM UPDATE:** Child Welfare Manager Meier provided the following updates to the Board.

1. Performance Management; Managing for Results (MFR). Child Welfare Manager Meier stated that working with MFR is a focus for him as the data helps to inform his staff's practice. As well, some of his measures align with federal goals, so tracking has been helpful.
  - a. Additional Findings. The department's goal is for families to not have another founded abuse or neglect case within six months of the initial case. The State's goal is 95% for this type of measure; The department's goal is 85%. For January through July of this year, we have achieved an 88.6% performance level. This represents 17 of 20 incidents that did not experience additional findings. Of the three that did, court processes were initiated in two of them.
  - b. Permanence. The department's goal is for children to achieve permanence within 12 months of entering the system. Through July of this year, we have achieved a 96.8% performance level, and most of those children were placed with natural family members. He further explained that permanence is defined as when a child knows where they will be for the foreseeable future, it does not include children placed into foster care. The State's average performance is approximately 92.9%.
  - c. Wellbeing. The department's goal is to achieve wellbeing for children. Wellbeing can be defined as a situation in which the educational, mental and physical health needs are being met. This is measured by face-to-face contacts made between the case workers and the children each month. The State standard is 90%, and averages 91%. Through July of this year, we are achieving a performance rate of 97.9%.
  - d. Child Welfare Referrals. From January through July of this year, there have been 113 new referrals for child welfare. Of those, 63 were assigned for assessment, which is a higher rate than what the State averages. There haven't been any referrals within Hinsdale County so far this year. He opined that our 2012 figures have increased because we are trying to take a more proactive approach with regard to child welfare that we have in the past.
2. Child Welfare Processes.
  - a. Colorado Practice Model. Child Welfare Manager Meier explained that the Colorado Practice model is a philosophical approach to child welfare that is designed to increase engagement with families, develop assessment information, and focus on safety, permanence and wellbeing outcomes.
  - b. Differential Response Model. A Differential Response model is being expanded to statewide use, though it is not being used locally yet as our talented crew of caseworkers is relatively new to the field. Our local team is currently focusing on training and team building. Team agreements have been developed, and the team is informally implementing some of the Differential Response practices now.
3. Training Academy Feedback. Child Welfare Manager Meier opined that the Academy provides a consistent baseline for people entering the child welfare field, but that part of our local challenge has been the travel commitment during the eight-week long training. As well, his caseworkers have informed him that there is a lot of downtime during the trainings, which suggests that the length of the training could be condensed with better curriculum management. As travel time is costly and emotionally draining, he would like to see the concept of distance learning considered.

More regionalization of the training has been discussed. The Academy has been very weighted toward metropolitan types of issues and casework.

4. Foster Care. Child Welfare Manager Meier informed the Board that his department is trying to improve the local foster care abilities in order to provide therapeutic care to kids versus sending them to a facility. His department has also worked with schools to create better processes for gathering info from kids.
5. Juvenile Delinquency. Child Welfare Manager Meier has been working with Juvenile Services Manager Janet Reinman to attempt to engage the courts on this issue. A family-centered assessment process is being developed, and the goal is to have the courts order this assessment at the first sign of trouble instead of waiting until the third adjudication when it is often too late to help the child avoid additional trouble.
6. State of Health, Safety and Welfare of Gunnison County's Children. Commissioner Channell asked Child Welfare Manager Meier for a quick assessment on this issue. As he previously worked in Mesa County, he could make some comparisons for the Board. He explained that locally there has been a shift from thinking of kids as being simply a Human Services' issue to being more of a community issue. Locally, lots of groups and agencies collaborate to improve the system and outcomes. He also noted that the size of our community allows for constructive work because we do not lose the personal level of discussion.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next meeting was scheduled for September 18, 2012.

**ADJOURN:** **Moved** by Commissioner Channell, seconded by Commissioner Swenson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

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Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved October 16, 2012:

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Phil Chamberland, Chairperson