

GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
Meeting Agenda for June 18, 2024
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
200 E. Virginia Avenue; Gunnison, CO 81230
(REMOTE OPTION BELOW)

10:10 am

- Call to Order; Agenda Review

- Minutes Approval
 1. April 16, 2024

- Program Updates:
 1. Child Welfare Services
 2. Adult Protection Services
 3. Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) Program

- Next Meeting: August 20, 2024

10:50 am

- Colorado Department of Human Services; C-Stat Awards Presentation

11:10 am

- Adjourn

Please Note: Packet materials for the above discussions will be available on the Gunnison County website at <http://www.gunnisoncounty.org/177/Agendas-Minutes-Portfolios> prior to the meeting.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89798905619>

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82753657556#,,,,*471302# US (Tacoma)

+13462487799,,82753657556#,,,,*471302# US (Houston)

AGENDA ITEM or FINAL CONTRACT REVIEW SUBMITTAL FORM

Agenda Item: DRAFT Human Services Minutes; 4/16/2024

Action Requested:

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins:

Term Ends:

Grant Contract #:

Summary:

DRAFT Human Services Minutes; 4/16/2024

Fiscal Impact:

Submitted by: Holly Perry

Submitter's Email Address: hperry@gunnisoncounty.org

Finance Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review:

Required

Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes No

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirmie

Discharge Date: 6/14/2024

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted: 0

Agenda Date: 6/18/2024

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2024**

The April 16, 2024 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 (ACM)
Greg Levine, Commissioner (Hinsdale County)	Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Elizabeth Smith, Commissioner	Holly Perry, Clerk to the Board
Laura Puckett Daniels, Commissioner	Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Houck called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the minutes from August 15, 2023, October 17, 2023, November 7, 2023, and December 19, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

1. August 15, 2023
2. October 17, 2023
3. November 7, 2023
4. December 19, 2023

CONSENT AGENDA: **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Levine to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Memorandum of Understanding; Colorado Department of Human Services; Colorado Works Program; Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services; 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2025

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

1. Gunnison/Hinsdale Department of Health & Human Services Financial Report; 12/31/2023 – ACM Reynolds presented the 2023 year-end financial report. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Puckett Daniels to accept the financial report with a period ending 12/31/2023 and authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

1. Early Childhood Services and Local Coordinating Organizations (LCO)/Universal Pre-K (UPK) – CHM Wacker stated that the strategic plan will lead efforts in the valley to stabilize and increase early childhood education. ECSS Athey noted 115 families applied for UPK this year so far and are expecting at least 20 to 30 more families to apply by the beginning of May.
 - Increasing number of licensed family childcare homes – Gunnison Valley now has its first licensed Spanish speaking daycare open with Paula Tapia. CHM Wacker stated this was a huge accomplishment that took three years of work that involved outreach and connecting Paula to everything she needed.
 - Sick leave program – ECSS Athey explained that this program is limited to \$1,000 per teacher per year for sick leave and they have supported 84 teachers since August 2020. A large portion of the funding has come through multiple grants.
 - Early childhood educator credential stipend program – This year there have been 32 teachers that have applied, and they are expecting 20 to 25 more applications. The stipends range from \$100 to \$800 depending on the teacher's credentials.
 - Early childhood food boxes for teachers – With partnership with Mountain Roots, 80 teachers were given food boxes monthly, and 686 food boxes were delivered from October 2022 to June 2023 with 200+ boxes being delivered September 2023 to December 2023. The boxes delivered from September to December 2023 were fully funded through Mountain Roots Food Project. The program is currently on hold pending new funding.
 - Family, Friend, Neighbor Caregiver Support – ECSS Athey stated that they received a 3 year grant from Colorado Health Foundation that ended 9/15/23, but have since received an additional 2 years of funding of \$18,900 annually to continue work through 2025. She noted there are 6 licensed childcare homes in the county right now. A licensed childcare home can serve up to 6 children during the day and 2 after school, with no more than 2 children under 2 years of age. The County does not have any UPK home providers.
 - Workforce retention – ECSS Athey reported that there was a 26.2% increase of teachers that expected to stay in the Early Childhood Education field for the next 5 years and 23% increase they would stay with their current employer for the next 2 years. Commissioner Puckett Daniels asked if they could research what circumstances are helping to keep teachers.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES:

1. Current Status on Key Bills –

- Senate Bill 191 – ACM Reynolds explains this bill was reviewed by CCI last Friday and it intends to solidify the safety when adolescents leave their home to live elsewhere due to conflict or issues in their family. She stated Human Service Directors are concerned with this bill causing more problems than solutions.
- Senate bill 200 – ACM Reynolds noted this bill looks at the child welfare system and the disproportional impacts (demographics). Commissioner Puckett Daniels asked for clarification that this bill is to check if people are using their authority more on families with particular backgrounds and ACM Reynolds responded that was part of the concern.
- Interim Committees – ACM Reynolds stated there are 7 letters for Intersession Legislative Committees that have been submitted. A couple letters are directly around child welfare and the Colorado Benefit Management System. She commented that there is a strong interest from CCI and others to fix the State IT systems. ACM Reynolds then stated there is a letter for the Indian Child Welfare Act that would have direct connection to child welfare as well as a letter for mental health services for individuals who are incarcerated or in jail.
- Child Welfare Allocation Committee (CWAC) – ACM Reynolds reported that this committee determines the funding for child welfare services for the county, and they determine it from one source. The State conducted a study for child welfare funding. The results of the study came in with a new proposal on how the funding should be allocated and there is quite a bit of controversy between the old way and the new way that have significant impacts on the funding allocation. She commented that the new formula looks at different factors and moves in positive direction, but there is a campaign on staying with the old and looking at flaws in the new version. Commissioner Smith stated the new program takes in the actual costs and prevention whereas it's not calculated in the old formulas. Commissioner Smith also found it disappointing that the proof for why they want to stay with the old program is not there. ACM Reynolds praised Commissioner Smith for her work with CWAC and that they would not have had the correct information if she did not advocate.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2024.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Houck adjourned the meeting at 10:04 am

Minutes Prepared By:

Holly Perry, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved (insert date):

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson

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Gunnison/Hinsdale Human Services Meeting

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Submitted by: Holly Perry

Submitter's Email Address: hperry@gunnisoncounty.org

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Required

Not Required

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Discharge Date:

County Attorney Review:

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Not Required

Comments:

Reviewed by:

Discharge Date:

Certificate of Insurance Required

Yes No

County Manager Review:

Comments:

Reviewed by: GUNCOUNTY1\mbirmie

Discharge Date: 6/14/2024

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted: 60

Agenda Date: 6/18/2024

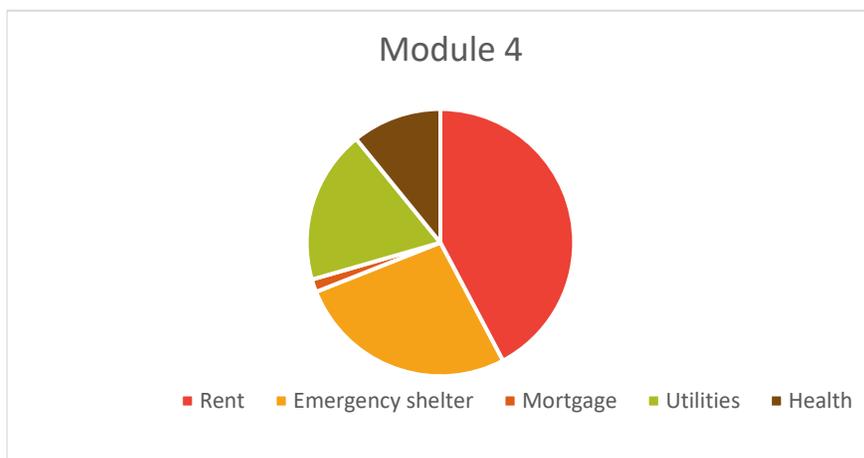


2023 HUMAN SERVICES GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD

COMMUNITY SERVICE BLOCK GRANT(CSBG)

PROVIDES EMERGENCY SHELTER, RENT, MORTGAGE, UTILITY ASSISTANCE, MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE

- 114 Households
- 242 Individuals
- 80% of households surveyed reported assistance allowed them to stay in their own home
- 15% moved to more affordable housing within the community



- 5% moved out of the community
- New board members in 2023: Diego LaPlata

Adult Protective Services

- 63 Referrals
- 19 Cases
- Team Staffing
- 95% of cases were not reopened in the same year
- Caretaker neglect, self- neglect, financial exploitation
- Gaps
- Upcoming changes: Bylaws, opportunity for DR, assessment changes

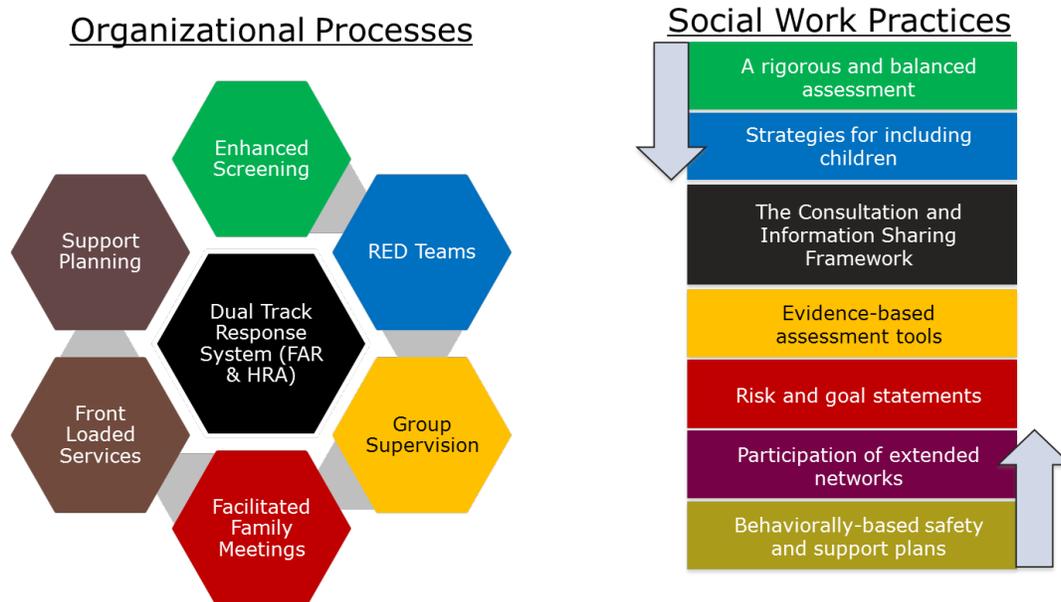
CSBG 2023 Highlights

- Collaboration with MCRT
- Continued integration of funding sources

Differential Response Program

Differential response (DR) is the overarching paradigm shift in counties to assess children for safety through partnering with families, community partners, and facilitate sustainable behavioral change within a family. There are seven organizational processes and seven social work practices contained within the DR (See model below).

Within DR a multi-track assessment approach can be used. One track called Family Assessment Response (FAR) for low to moderate risk referrals can be offered as an alternative to the traditional investigative approach, High Risk Assessment (HRA). These tracks are only for accepted reports of child abuse and neglect by counties who have completed the required training and have been approved by the State. FAR may be utilized to assess child safety by focusing on the environmental context and broader issues of family well-being, along with the incident of abuse or neglect, through the solution focused family centered practice supported by DR. The labels of perpetrator and victim are removed and the determination, or finding, that is often required by statute is not required in DR.



DR provides more options to counties without removing any aspects of current practice. A rigorous and balanced assessment of concerns and strengths of each family will need to be assessed in all accepted referrals. Case workers will still focus on what occurred and the impact on the child using the Colorado safety and risk assessments and follow all timelines and policies in Volume 7 and C.R.S. title 19. Accepted referrals with initial high risk will continue to be assessed the same way as always and findings will still be made on all HRA referrals. If at any time the safety of a child becomes untenable to maintain in a FAR case it can be track changed to an HRA assessment/case. Court involvement can be utilized at any time it is appropriate via this same track change process. DR does not limit the authority of a caseworker to provide safety for a child whether it be partnering with law enforcement, the judicial system, or community partners.

DR has been designed to be more flexible in responding to child abuse and neglect reports, recognizing that an adversarial focus is neither needed nor helpful for all cases, understanding the family issues which lie beneath maltreatment reports, and engage parents effectively to utilize services that address their specific behavioral needs. Preliminary research has shown an increase in caseworker satisfaction, an increase in family engagement and an increase in community partner satisfaction with DR. DR does not limit or remove any current case work practices, only adds flexibility to match the needs of the family and ensure safety of the child.

Summary of the research results:

- FAR and HRA assessments manages safety of the children equally as well.
- There appears to be lower recidivism if a family's first interaction with child protection is a FAR assessment.
- Families who had a FAR assessment reported being more engaged with child protection as compared to families receiving an HRA assessment.
- Caseworkers reported FAR families were more likely to have material needs and mental health needs met than were HRA families.
- FAR families were more likely to rate satisfaction with their caseworker as high.
- Caseworkers reported FAR families were more likely to show improvement in cooperation, receptivity to help, engagement, and a reduction in difficult behaviors.

About Family First

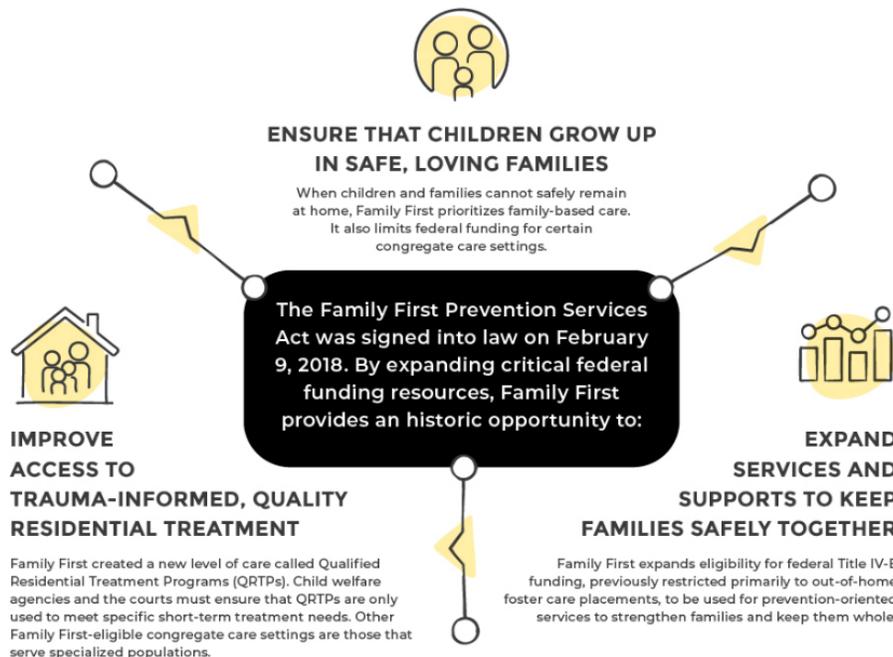
The Family First Prevention Services Act (Family First), passed in 2018, is the most significant change to child welfare policy in decades. Colorado has embraced Family First because the changes ushered in by the law aligned with changes already underway in our communities.

Family First is grounded in research that shows that growing up in a family is the best possible environment for all youth, especially those who have experienced abuse or neglect. For the first time, federal funding can be accessed for prevention services that help kids thrive.

In Colorado, Family First provides the opportunity to:

- Reshape child welfare and provide more proactive services, so more children and youth can grow up with their families.
- Partner with community-based service providers to respond to the individual needs of children, youth, and families.
- Provide treatment in a setting designed to provide a higher level of care.

Family First is one piece of a broader Colorado vision to evolve the child welfare system to serve children, youth, and families together.



70%

Percentage of children, youth and families Colorado caseworkers are able to serve

Colorado has made tremendous strides over the past decade to support child and family well-being and to keep families safely together.

In 2022, Colorado saw the lowest number of out-of-home placements in its history,

3519

total children and youth in out-of-home care
down from 4,730 in December 2012

244

total children place in congregate care
down from 1,163 in December 2012

These statistics reflect the countless hours of hard work on the part of county departments of human/social services to keep kids safely at home, and to ensure that — when out-of-home placement is necessary — children and youth are placed at the lowest level of care that can successfully support any treatment needs.

less than 3%

Percentage of the time in approximately 35,000 assessments of maltreatment per year when out-of-home removals are ordered.



Child Welfare Placement Continuum

Family First is aligned with the progress Colorado is already making to reduce the use of out-of-home placements for children and youth involved in the child welfare system. Children and youth should, whenever possible, be placed in the home with family and/or kin with access to in-home services that prevent out-of-home placement. Only when out-of-home placement is the most appropriate option, children and youth whenever possible, should be placed: in their communities, in culturally-reflective homes, in the most family-like settings, in treatment-focused settings when appropriate, and always in the least restrictive placement setting.

What County Directors Need to Know

RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
 ROBUST COMMUNITY-BASED WRAP-AROUND SERVICES AT EVERY LEVEL

IN-HOME	FAMILY-LIKE SETTINGS	SPECIALIZED GROUP SETTINGS	SHORT-TERM STABILIZATION	TREATMENT-FOCUSED SETTINGS
Community-based, prevention-focused services aimed at keeping families together Services include mental health, substance abuse prevention and treatment, and parent skill-based	Kin (non-certified) Traditional foster homes Therapeutic foster homes Treatment foster homes	Supervised independent living settings Residential care and support services to survivors or those at risk of sex trafficking Settings providing prenatal, postpartum or parenting supports	Assessment and stabilization Respite, foster Respite, transitioning from facility	Qualified Residential Treatment Programs (QRTPs) Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) Division of Youth Services facilities

CONTINUUM OF CARE

