

GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
Meeting Agenda for December 16, 2025
County Commissioners' Meeting Room
200 E. Virginia Avenue; Gunnison, CO 81230
(REMOTE OPTION BELOW)

11:05 am

- Call to Order; Agenda Review

- Minutes Approval
 1. October 21, 2025

- Program Updates:
 1. Child Welfare Update

- 2026 Agenda Meeting Planning

- Adjourn

Please Note: Packet materials for the above discussions will be available on the Gunnison County website at <https://www.gunnisoncounty.org/640/Gunnison-Hinsdale-Board-of-Human-Service> prior to the meeting.

ZOOM MEETING DETAILS:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://gunnisoncounty-org.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: October 21, 2025 Regular Human Services Meeting Mi

Action Requested: Board of County Commissioners' Signature

Parties to the Agreement:

Term Begins:

Term Ends:

Grant Contract #:

Summary:

Draft HS Minutes; 10/21/2025

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: 12/11/2025

Consent Agenda

Regular Agenda

Worksession

Time Allotted: 1

Agenda Date: 12/16/2025

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2025**

The October 21, 2025 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:

Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson
Elizabeth Smith, Commissioner
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner
Greg Levine, Commissioner (Hinsdale)

Joni Reynolds, Assistant County Manager (ACM) Health,
Human & Safety Services
Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Holly Perry, Clerk to the Board
Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Puckett Daniels called the meeting to order at 9:27 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the meeting minutes for August 19, 2025 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. August 19, 2025

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES AND PROWERS COUNTY; 1/1/2026 TO 12/31/2026; \$480:

ACM Reynolds explained this is the hotline for afterhours calls regarding child welfare and adult protection where the Prowers County teams get those calls and then sends a report. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the MOU between Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services and Prowers County as presented and authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Senior Operations Accountant Lupita Halligan referred to page six of the document which was the State Fiscal year 2024-2025 Closeout and commented on five programs that were overbudget. SOA Halligan and ACM Reynolds explained the process of how the funds are given and the challenges that arise.

SOA Halligan then referred to the year-to-date summary on page one and the areas that are more than 67% of spending at this time. **Moved** by Commissioner Puckett Daniels, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the report and authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES: Wellness/Enforcement Services Manager Betsy Holena was present for discussion.

1. Adult Protection Services – WESM Holena relayed previous case numbers for the 2023 and 2024 years compared to this year and explained most cases are caretaker neglect or financial exploitation.
2. Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) – WESM Holena gave a summary of the 2024 CSBG Services and added they helped 130 individuals avoid eviction, two individuals avoid foreclosure, 49 individuals obtain safe temporary shelter, and 14 individuals avoid utility shutoff.
3. Medicaid Care Coordination – WESM Holena stated they have about 3,500 members of the community on Medicaid which are identified into three tiers. She then explained that there is some overlap from the CSBG.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for December 16, 2025.

ADJOURN: Commissioner Puckett Daniels adjourned the meeting at 9:56 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

Holly Perry, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved (insert date):

Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson

PROGRAM AREAS AS DEFINED IN VOLUME 7

(Volume 7 is the section of the Colorado Code of Regulations (CCR) that outlines the rules and policies for social services, primarily focusing on child welfare and child care facilities within the Colorado Department of Human Services.)

7.000.1 PROGRAM AREAS (PA) AND TARGET GROUPS

Services are available from county departments in the following Program Areas:

- A. Program for Prevention and Intervention Services to Children, Youth and Families at Risk of Involvement with Child Welfare (PA3)

The Program Area 3 (PA3) program provides prevention and intervention services for children, youth, and families at risk of involvement with child welfare. Services may be provided to assist families to safely care for their children.

- B. Program for Youth in Conflict (PA 4)

Program Area 4 services are provided to reduce or eliminate conflicts between a child/youth and their family members, which may include the community, when those conflicts affect the child/youth's well-being, the normal functioning of the family or the well-being of the community. The focus of services shall be on alleviating conflicts, protecting the child/youth, family, and the community, re-establishing family stability, and/or assisting the youth to emancipate successfully.

Target groups for Program Area 4 are children/youth who are youth in conflict, as defined in 7.000.2.

- C. Program for Children in Need of Protection (PA 5)

Program Area 5 services are provided to protect children, whose physical, mental or emotional well-being is threatened by the actions or omissions of parents, legal guardians or custodians, or persons responsible for providing out-of-home care, including a foster parents, an employee of a residential child care facility, and a provider of family child care or center-based child care.

Target groups for Program Area 5 are children whose physical, mental, or emotional well-being is threatened or harmed due to the abuse or neglect and children who are subjected to circumstances in which there is a reasonable likelihood that they are at risk of harm due to abuse or neglect by their parents or caretakers which shall include children who are alleged to be responsible for the abuse or neglect and are under the age of ten (10).

- D. Program for Children and Families in Need of Specialized Services (PA 6)

Program Area 6 services are to provide statutorily authorized services to specified children/YOUTH and families in which the reason for service is not protective services or youth in conflict. These services are limited to children/youth and families in need of adoption assistance, relative guardianship assistance, or Medicaid only services, ~~or~~ to children/youth for whom the goal is no longer reunification, or youth who opt into services provided by the Foster Youth in Transition Program as established in § 19-7-301, C.R.S. The purpose of services in Program Area 6 is to fulfill statutory requirements in the interests of permanency planning for children/youth. Children/youth must meet specific program requirements to receive services under the target groups.

Target Group information is located at Section 7.203 (12 CCR 2509-3).

- E. Program for Resource Development (PA 7)

The purpose of Program Area 7 is to develop and coordinate the external resources necessary to fulfill the objectives of the social services programs.

Target Groups served by this program area are the individuals who will be serving children and families in such roles as volunteers, foster or kinship parents for children, adults, personal caregivers, homemakers or child care parents, or adoptive parents.

PA3 Services in Colorado Child Welfare

What Is PA3?

PA3 (Prevention & Assessment Category 3) represents voluntary, front-end supports offered when a referral does not meet criteria for a full assessment but the family would benefit from short-term stabilization, resource connection, or coaching.

Purpose of PA3

- Prevent unnecessary child welfare involvement
- Address concerns early before risk escalates
- Strengthen protective factors and natural supports
- Provide voluntary, least-intrusive services
- Reduce trauma associated with formal intervention

What Gets Documented as PA3 in Trails

- Clear rationale for why the referral did not meet assessment criteria
- Identified concerns and protective factors
- Services offered (concrete goods, referrals, coaching, meetings)
- Family willingness/consent to participate
- Duration of PA3 engagement and progress made
- Closure summary describing stability or linkage to supports

What *Does Not* Get Documented as PA3

- Any situation requiring a formal assessment (safety threats, mandated criteria met)
- Simple resource sharing with no active engagement
- Monitoring or supervision of families (PA3 is not a light open case)
- Internal documentation of concerns without family involvement
- Any service provision that becomes ongoing casework

Examples of PA3 Supports

- Concrete supports: diapers, car seats, food, utilities
- Parent coaching or skill-building
- Short-term stabilization planning
- Referrals to nonprofits, FAST, mental health/substance use providers
- Voluntary family meetings and resource mapping
- Kinship navigation prior to considering removal

County Discretion Around PA3 Referrals

Colorado counties have wide discretion in whether and how PA3 is used due to being a county-administered system. Differences in resources, staffing, prevention partnerships, and local practice result in significant variation in PA3 usage and documentation.

- Counties choose when to offer PA3 and what services fall under it
- Prevention ecosystems such as FAST/WRAP sometimes replace the need for PA3
- Some counties engage in robust prevention outside Trails entirely
- Lack of uniform state guidance results in inconsistent application statewide

Prevention Without PA3

Many counties engage in prevention work that is not coded as PA3 at all. This includes community navigation, warm handoffs, FAST/WRAP partnerships, and financial assistance programs. These efforts reduce risk and stabilize families but remain invisible in Trails data.

- Large metro counties often have extensive prevention networks
- Small counties like us may rely on local nonprofits or FAST/WRAP programs or do a lot of additional work above and beyond traditional casework that is not necessarily recognized.
- Prevention work frequently occurs without formal CW documentation

System-Level Issue: Lack of Prevention Data

Colorado lacks a unified method for tracking prevention outcomes statewide. Prevention is inconsistently documented, not uniformly defined, and often not captured in Trails at all. Because outcome data is missing, the state cannot fully quantify the effectiveness or cost savings of front-end prevention.

- Prevention volume is underestimated across the state
- Funding formulas reward reactive work, not early intervention
- The child welfare system cannot demonstrate prevention ROI to the JBC
- Counties doing extensive prevention appear less 'busy' than they truly are

CWAC Allocation Model & Prevention

In 2023, CWAC adopted an allocation model recognizing prevention as a core value. However, without reliable data, prevention is still structurally underfunded. The formula cannot account for what it cannot measure. This results in a scarcity mindset that perpetuates crisis-driven systems.

- Prevention hard to quantify - prevention excluded from formulas
- Exclusion reinforces ongoing underfunding
- Underfunding reduces prevention capacity - more assessments and cases
- This cycle weakens system functioning statewide

Why Accurate PA3 & Prevention Data Matters

- Demonstrates what works in reducing crises and removals
- Supports requests for adequate state and JBC funding
- Builds credibility and transparency in system functioning
- Ensures prevention is valued, not erased, at a structural level

Bottom Line

PA3 is a valuable tool for early intervention but represents only a small portion of Colorado's actual prevention work. To strengthen families and the system, Colorado must improve consistency, documentation, and outcome tracking so that prevention is funded at the level required for long-term safety, stability, and system sustainability.