

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2025**

The December 16, 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
Greg Levine, Commissioner (ABSENT)
Liz Smith, Commissioner
Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

Joni Reynolds, Assistant County Manager for
Health and Human Services
Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board
Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Puckett Daniels called the meeting to order at 11:30 am. Family Services Supervisor Laura Rascon and Health and Human Services Deputy Director Brad Wheaton were present for discussion.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES APPROVAL:

1. October 21, 2025 Regular Meeting. **MOVED** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Houck to approve the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting minutes for October 21, 2025 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

1. Child Welfare Update. FSS Rascon read the definitions from the handout titled, "Program Areas as Defined in Volume 7", which is a section of the Colorado Code of Regulations that outline the rules and policies for social services, primarily focusing on child welfare and childcare facilities within the Colorado Department of Human Services. Her teams perform work in support of Program Area 3 (Prevention and Intervention Services to Children, Youth and Families at Risk of Involvement with Child Welfare), Program Area 4 (Youth in Conflict), and Program Area 6 (Children and Families in Need of Specialized Services). However, she noted that Program Area 5 (Children in Need of Protection) is her team's primary focus. The lack of prevention data relative to Program Area 3 has been problematic, because it tends to result in decreased State funding for prevention. Funding formulas utilized by the State have also been problematic. Gunnison County receives flat funding from the State which, when combined with funding from Gunnison County and other sources, has met the community's needs. CM Birnie noted that, through our conservative fiscal practices, we have had the ability to provide some backfill, but that also has limits. AMC Reynolds will think about who might be most appropriate from her team to represent Gunnison County in the discussions taking place on the front range.

2026 AGENDA MEETING PLANNING: ACM Reynolds stated that she would be reaching out to the individual commissioners to share information and create annual meeting plans for the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services and the Gunnison County Board of Health. Chairperson Puckett Daniels opined that the Board of Health might need to meet more frequently, given the flux happening at the State and Federal levels, and ACM Reynolds agreed that approach might be helpful. As well, more frequent updates might be scheduled on the Board of County Commissioners' agendas in lieu of the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services agendas to ensure that information is shared in a timely fashion.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for February 17, 2026.

ADJOURN: Chairperson Puckett Daniels adjourned the Gunnison/Hinsdale Board of Human Services meeting at 12:02 pm.

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved February 17, 2026:

Laura Puckett Daniels, Chairperson