

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
December 22, 2020**

The December 22, 2020 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
Roland Mason, Commissioner
Liz Smith, Commissioner

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

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HINSDALE COUNTY AND PROWERS COUNTY; MANAGE AND ADMINISTER HOTLINE CALLS: Health and Human Services Director Joni Reynolds explained that this agreement would provide hotline coverage after hours. Prowers County is the State-selected authority to manage these calls, and HHS Director Reynolds noted that Prowers County has done an excellent job managing the calls. Prowers County relays all emergency situations to our staff, and all calls are recorded. **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Hinsdale County and Prowers County as described since we do joint human services and authorize the Chairperson's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

RATIFICATION OF SIGNATURE; CDHS CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE – YEAR 2021, COUNTY PERSONNEL AND MERIT SYSTEM: HHS Director Reynolds explained that this certification is an annual State requirement. **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the CDHS Certification of Compliance for year 2021 for the County Personnel and Merit System, and authorize the Chairperson's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATE: HHS Director Reynolds provided the following updates:

1. Public Assistance. The team is in the process of open enrollment. There has been more activity this year than during a typical year.
2. Community Services Block Grant. The CSBG continues to provide support for rent and other types of assistance such as for food, childcare or other services. The team was managing an average of about \$8,000 weekly in requests, which has recently decreased to less than \$5,000. At the current pace, funds will be exhausted in approximately three months.
3. Child Support Services, Child Welfare and Adult Protection. These areas are seeing typical workloads. Delinquent child support cases are not currently being enforced by suspending hunting/fishing licenses, garnishing wages, intercepting tax returns, and others. Team members have worked over the phone with families, when possible, but some in-home services are still required. Staff has done an excellent job of protecting themselves and their clients from COVID-19 transmission.

STAFFING UPDATE: HHS Director Reynolds informed the Board that she has a full staff at this point. There has been some new hires and an internal transfer. Kathy Ashwood retired, which prompted a transition, but she has made herself available for questions. HHS offices are open to the public from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Monday-Friday, with lunchtime coverage. Foot traffic has decreased due to COVID-19, which has helped staff maintain a safe environment.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES: HHS Director Reynolds explained that the Family First implementation focuses on child abuse and neglect, as well as treatment in a treatment facility. Programs are being reevaluated since reimbursement funding has been difficult to obtain. Many of the children are sent to treatment centers by court order. She will continue to monitor related conversations happening at the State level.

2021 BOARD PLANNING: HHS Director Reynolds will need to make a transition plan related to this Board because Hinsdale County will need to appoint a new commissioner. She assembled a summary document and will distribute it via email.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for February 16, 2021.

ADJOURN: **Moved** by Commissioner Mason, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adjourn the Gunnison County Board of Human Services. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

Katherine Haase, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved February 16, 2021:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson