

**GUNNISON/HINSDALE BOARD OF HUMAN SERVICES
MEETING MINUTES
October 19, 2021**

The October 19, 2021 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, Health and Human Services Director
Roland Mason, Commissioner	Matthew Birnie, County Manager
Liz Smith, Commissioner	Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board
Greg Levine, Hinsdale Co. Commissioner [ABSENT]	Dr. John Tarr, Medical Health Officer
	Other Persons Present as Listed in Text

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Houck called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

AGENDA REVIEW: There were no changes to the agenda. **Moved** by Chairperson Houck, seconded by Commissioner Smith to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Mason to approve the August 17, 2021 meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

1. August 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

FINANCE UPDATE: Gunnison/Hinsdale DHS Financial Report – Period Ending August 31, 2021.

Senior Accountant Kelly Weak was unable to present the report that day, but had sent the financial report ahead of time for the Board's review. With no questions from the Board, it was **moved** by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Mason to accept the Gunnison/Hinsdale DHS Financial Report, as present, and to authorize the Chair's signature. Motion carried unanimously.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

1. Family First Implementation and Child Welfare Services. Child and Family Services Manager Marilyn Cheevers was present via Zoom to present the update. She explained to the Board that the Family First program is a federal program put in place to reframe child welfare services across the country. She noted that from February 9, 2018 on, the program redirected funding from out-of-home placement to preventative services. This was based on findings that showed out-of-home placement was not conducive to better outcomes for children. From these studies, the federal government decided to encourage funding for solutions that kept the children in the homes where possible. For those that are outside the home, they put emphasis on getting the correct treatment and therapy quickly, with the objective of placement back into the home in a much shorter time period, if possible. Marilyn then outlined the processes which Gunnison County Child and Family Services use for assessment and placement, depending upon the situation, and the programs which are available in Gunnison County. She added that it was difficult in Gunnison to sometimes get the children the treatment they need, as the doctors available are often booked solid; however, the caseworkers were diligently making sure that they coordinate with both doctors and families in order to ensure the children are getting the help they need.

Parenting classes were also discussed, noting the largely popular "Live & Logic" program that gave a short time commitment, along with practical hands-on parenting advice that could be put to use right away. This program was noted as not being approved in the federal clearing house, but that the program which was approved, "Nurturing Parenting," was not as well-attended. HHS Director Joni Reynolds added that this latter program was more of a therapeutic program which required a much longer time commitment of 15 weeks, and therefore not as easy to get people interested in committing to the program. Further discussion addressed issues such as: how funding would come to the smaller counties, the need for bi-lingual teachers for the programs, and how the program model does not allow for parents to come in at the middle of the course.

CFS Manager Cheevers then closed by outlining her coordination with the juvenile justice system, explaining the quarterly meetings that have started again since the COVID pandemic. These "Best Practices" child welfare group meetings include all who are involved with the children—the judge, guardian ad litem, and representatives from the respondent parent council, law enforcement, probation, and juvenile services. The meetings cover cross-training and identification of best practices needed for the benefit of children and their families.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting was scheduled for December 21, 2021.

ADJOURN: Chairperson Houck adjourned the Board of Human Services meeting at 10:30 am.

Minutes Prepared By:

Melanie Bollig, Clerk to the Board

Minutes Approved October 19, 2021:

Jonathan Houck, Chairperson