



Board of Directors
April 13, 2016
Yampa River State Park
Hayden, Colorado

Members Attending: Dennis Kuntz, Terry Jost, Lu Etta Loeber, Jeff Dockstader, Tom Soos, and Fred Wolf (via Skype)

Members Excused: Robert Grover, Beth Davison, Julie Pearce, and Michael Turner

Staff Present: Susan Mizen and Matt Morrill

Guest: Susie Baird (via phone)

Call to Order

Dennis Kuntz called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: "To approve the minutes from February 10, 2016."

First: Lu Etta Loeber
Second: Terry Jost

The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Personnel: Jana Hoffman and Brittany Smale were recognized at Alliance's Awareness Day at the Capitol. Jana was one of four finalists for the statewide Direct Support Professional of the Year award. There was a press release in the Steamboat Pilot on 2/28. There was a really nice article about Brittany in the Craig Daily Press. A luncheon was held in Craig to acknowledge Brittany and our past DSP nominees. We will do the same in Steamboat but no date is set yet.

On March 17th and 18th, Horizons and BOCES hosted Transdisciplinary Play Based Assessment training with Toni Linder. Thirty-five early childhood providers attended from across northwest Colorado.

On April 14th and 15th, Horizons is hosting Person Centered Thinking training using state grant funds to cover the cost of the trainers. On April 25th, we will hold a one day Person Centered Thinking overview for parents, board members, volunteers, and other interested people. More PCT training is scheduled in May.

Pauline Godfrey resigned as the adult Service Coordinator in Moffat County. She will continue working as Amy recruits her replacement. Amy interviewed candidates on Wednesday.

Madeline Landgren had a baby girl who she named Scarlet!

Program: Sue White will represent Colorado at the international Special Olympic skiing events in Austria in 2017! Special Olympics issued a press release. Meghan and Phyllis have lots of fun

ideas about including other Steamboat Olympians in our efforts to prepare Sue for her adventure.

Amy, Madeline Landgren and Lisa Wieland represented Horizons at an informational meeting for parents about transition services in Grand County. Susie Baird was able to attend and was introduced as our (almost) board member.

The Valentine's Dance was wonderful again this year. CMC students organized it and covered the cost of the pizza. As always, Geoff Rolls donated his time as our DJ.

Katherine Hartley worked with the Yampa Valley Autism Program and Integrated Community to host an informational meeting for Spanish speaking families about services for children birth to three.

Steamboat Dance Theatre invited us to attend their dress rehearsal at no cost.

Horizons is collaborating with the autism program and Emerald City Opera to bring vocal workshops to Steamboat and Craig. The workshops were April 11th through the 13th.

Milestones' annual Got Talent show was April 7th at the Chief Theater. It was great again this year.

There was a snow mobile trip on Rabbit Ears Pass on Saturday. The trip was hosted by volunteers.

Nineteen children were screened in Moffat County at the health fair. Six will be evaluated to see if they qualify.

Lisa Wieland is organizing our respite efforts in Grand County. Horizons is sponsoring a bowling night out in April and an overnight on 4/28. The overnight respite program will be staffed by Horizons and the school district and will be at Snow Mountain Ranch. They are donating a cabin. Providing respite services is new for us but parent surveys show a clear need for this kind of program. Susan feels confident that we are managing the risk: supervision will be provided by adults who know the children well, a nurse will administer needed medications, and transportation will be provided by the school district and Snow Mountain Ranch.

We were dismayed to learn that the new host home provider in Routt County is terminating her contract. The woman to whom she is providing host home services wants to stay in Steamboat rather than return to Glenwood Springs. This posed a challenge but ultimately the Routt County residential program came up with a solution. It involves a string of moves but each of the moves has benefits for the individual involved. The Village Lane Group Home will return to capacity at five people. Jeff told the board that he is moving from the Soda Creek Apartments to the Village Lane Group Home.

Conflict Free CM (CFCM): The group of CCBs working with Squire Patton Boggs (SPB) now call themselves the CCB Coalition. The CCB Coalition meets each month immediately following the Alliance board meeting. February was a busy month: there were meetings with members of the Colorado delegation in Washington, DC, there was a meeting with Jed Ziegenhagen from HCPF, and there have been numerous conversations with Colorado state lawmakers.

Squire Patton Boggs finalized a letter to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Once the letter is sent by the Colorado delegation in Washington, D.C. the conversation with CMS begins. Lu Etta and Susan had a small, but we thought meaningful, success with Senator Bennet's aide, Noah Koerper. He has been emailing Susan and Bruce Christensen to express support for our position.

Representatives from the Department of Health Care Policy and Finance were in Steamboat to host two Town Hall meetings on March 14th. The meetings were to talk about the future of case management and direct services. The morning meeting was for providers and the afternoon meeting was for parents and clients. Both meetings were well attended. Twenty-three family members attended the afternoon meeting. We felt our message about the importance of maintaining our CCB designation and the importance of the rural exemption came through exceptionally well. We are waiting for the written report.

Horizons was selected as one of five CCBs to host a site visit from the consultants at Navigant. It was another opportunity to impress upon them the issues that are important to us.

On Sunday April 3rd, the Denver Post ran an investigative piece about excessive bureaucracy at CCBs. The reporter apparently intends to write her next article about CFCM. Susan sent a letter to employees with her reaction to the article.

State news: Matt and Susan joined a phone call about transparency with Alliance staff, Capitol Success Group and most of the CCBs. There is a strong consensus that we will get legislation about transparency this session.

The most recent development is that Senator Aguilar's original transparency bill is back with amendments. The amendments will remove CORA, place the cost of performance audits on the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) rather than the CCBs, and make it so that the CCBs will undergo one audit in the first five years and then at the discretion of the OSA.

There will not be a cut to Medicaid provider rates. Our rates will remain the same. **Alliance news:** Awareness Day at the Capitol was a success. Rep Mitsch Bush and Rep Rankin invited us to sit on the floor of the House. Both representatives spent time with us before the session was called to order. Rep Mitsch Bush came to the luncheon as did Joyce Rankin. Joyce was appointed to the State Board of Education for K-12 and plans to run for the position in November. She will be campaigning in Routt and Moffat counties which could present opportunities to get to know her and her husband better.

Board news: Lorna Mannon will not be able to join our board of directors as a representative from Moffat County because she has decided to move to Grand Junction with her daughter, who is in our SLS program.

Susie Baird is the incoming president of the Rotary Club which meets at noon on Wednesdays.

Susan will set up an email address for the board. The intent is for the board president to monitor it.

A three minute public comment item will be added to each board agenda.

Resource Development: Plans for Pick a Dish are progressing well. We have six judges who are well known in Craig and nine restaurants.

Deirdre is working on a variety of grants for training, devices for testing hearing, and a system for tracking language.

Our current and past Direct Support Professional of the Year nominees for Moffat County were featured in an ad in the special section of the Craig Daily Press called Making a Difference.

There is a blog written by Deirdre about the DSP award nominees and Awareness Day at the Capitol. A link to the blogs is on the website.

Horizons was awarded \$2000 by the Moffat Key Club for Family Support.

Horizons was awarded \$24,000 by Moffat County United Way.

Horizons was awarded \$5000 by Moffat County and the City of Craig. This is a significant decrease from recent years. Susan was assured that it was due to an increase in the number of eligible agencies. There were 8 new agencies this year.

JoAnn Roberts, one of our Early Intervention providers in Grand County, is holding a fundraiser for respite services. It is a bike ride in Rocky Mountain national Park before it opens to car traffic. The event is Sunday, May 1st.

Approval of New Member

Motion: "To approve Susan (Susie) Baird as a new board member."

First: Terry Jost
Second: Jeff Dockstader

The motion passed unanimously and Susie was welcomed to the board.

Finance Report

Matt reviewed the financials through January and highlighted some of the variances. He noted that we will look at our Early Intervention rates because we believe that they are too low to cover our costs.

Matt mentioned the termination of the host home contract and the fact that revenue in residential will increase because of an additional person at the Village Lane Group Home. Susan will make sure we have properly documented the host home provider's resignation.

Susan and Matt told the board that Horizons is included in Maureen Florence's will. We have received a check for \$10,000 and there will be a second disbursement. The board supports doing something tangible with the gift.

Tom expressed his continuing concerns about wages for Direct Support staff. He requested a meeting of the board subcommittee set up at the retreat to address recruitment and retention. The board would like to talk about overnight compensation and starting salaries as we begin preparing next year's budget. Susan acknowledged the challenges we face given that our provider rates will remain at the same level next year.

Tom broadened the issue of transparency to include not only financial transparency but also program transparency. He expressed his hope that we can get ahead of the issue by being able to demonstrate that our programs are safe and high quality.

Program Presentation

There was no program presentation because the presenter was ill.

Adjourn

Motion: "To adjourn the meeting."

First: Terry Jost
Second: Jeff Dockstader

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.