



Members Attending: Terry Jost, Dennis Kuntz, Ron Schaeffer, Leslie Bjorgum; via Zoom: Jeff Dockstader, Julie Pearce, Susie Baird

Members Excused: Annette Dellacroce, Beth Davison

Staff Present: Tatum Heath, Matt Morrill, Lindsey Garey, Michelle Hoza

Call to Order

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: "To approve the board meeting minutes from June 10, 2020."

First: Susie Baird

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report for June 11th through July 3rd 2020:

Program & Personnel

As an agency, Horizons continues not to have any staff or individuals in services who test positive for COVID-19. Because of an excellent working relationship with the Public Health Department, Horizons conducted a third round of testing in both Moffat and Routt Counties on June 22nd. Agency staff have become so adept at administering the tests that they used a drive-through format in both counties that was done in a matter of hours. Everyone received negative test results for COVID-19.

On June 8th and 9th, three surveyors from the Health Department (CDPHE) conducted on-site monitoring of all licensed group homes. The exit for the survey was



on June 11th and Horizons did not receive a single deficiency. This is amazing given the fact that each facility (6 total) submitted a 50 page Isolation Plan with updated procedures and related staff trainings. Horizons' staff have been nothing short of exceptional in managing this health crisis, complying with state and federal guidelines, and following best practices to keep residents safe and healthy.

The week of June 15th, the Leadership Team and other staff participated in the virtual Alliance Summit. Typically, this conference is in person in Breckenridge and an excellent opportunity to network with other providers and Community Centered Boards (CCB's) across the state. Due to COVID-19, the summit was a virtual one with a variety of sessions available. The upside to this dynamic was that a number of management staff were able to participate and see how other agencies support individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). In addition, COVID-19 has pushed the field to find creative solutions to system-wide challenges especially around technology. Many of these solutions were inevitable from an efficiency standpoint, but it took the health crisis to catapult the field forward. Noteworthy examples include telehealth therapy in Early Intervention (EI), online training modules for staff, and modified documentation requirements for case managers.

Both Case Management and Program are working together to further develop the Family Caregiver model for a local family in Routt County. While Horizons is not enrolling anyone new during the pandemic, this unique situation required additional efforts due the ways in which the Children's Extensive Support (CES) waiver automatically rolls into a comprehensive (DD) adult waiver.

Horizons continues to provide day program services via telecommunication in order to comply with social distancing requirements contained in the isolation plans for the Health Department. However, on June 23rd, HCPF (Health Care Policy and Financing) approved that residents who live in the same group home may access the day program site as long as precautions are taken. Specifically, only one group home is allowed in at a time, and staff must adhere to all cleaning and disinfecting protocols in between groups. However, the limiting factor for the day site in Steamboat continues to be the number of people using the Park Avenue building because of shared bathrooms with other businesses. Because it is a stand-alone facility, Breeze Street in Craig will be more conducive to these small groups.

On a related note, Horizons has been receiving retainer payments for certain services including day program. There has been a lot of discussion as to when these retainer payments will end and HCPF has yet to provide a specific timeframe.

Transportation has been especially challenging up to this point because only one person in services was allowed in any one vehicle at a time. On June 23rd, HCPF modified these restrictions to the following: one member per 5-passenger vehicle; two members per 7-passenger vehicle; five members per 15-passenger van or bus. If members reside in the same household, group home, or assisted living facility of 20 residents or less, they may ride in the same vehicle to activities or day programs without restriction.

The agency continues to secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) via Public Health, private donations, and purchases. Yet again, Marc Swanson from Steamboat Ace Hardware donated more masks and protective face shields to Horizons. Efforts to safeguard the health and safety of the people served will be a marathon, not a sprint, and stock-piling PPE will be a critical component of those efforts.

2020 Census information was submitted by Lynne for all group homes and PCA's for a total of 48 individuals reported.

Case Management and Early Intervention therapists are also operating remotely due to state directives using telehealth and Zoom meetings until at least August 3rd. Lindsey Garey and Michelle Hoza will present more details during the program presentation.

Resource Development & Public Relations

Horizons received \$5,000 from the Grand Foundation for Grand County Family Support reimbursements to families. Due to COVID-19 and the uncertainty it brings, the Grand Foundation Grants Committee and Board of Directors decided that the available funds to be awarded out would be approximately half of their annual giving. Our award is a testament to the importance of our work in Grand County.

Horizons received a Little Points of Light donation in the amount of \$2,500.

Horizons submitted a grant to Colorado Humanities for \$5,000 to assist with the expenses of incorporating vocal coach Dan Comstock as well as art teachers Susan Corser and Susie Holleran into our programming.

Horizons submitted a grant to the Yampa Valley Community Foundation for \$5,000 for Moffat County Family Support.

Horizons is working to define the needs and logistics of acquiring internet service for SLS folks in Routt and Moffat Counties. The Yampa Valley Community Foundation COVID Response Fund has verbally committed to assisting with this project in Moffat County.

Cathy Barnhart was nominated as a Hometown Hero for the Craig Press' ongoing series throughout 2020. This series aims to recognize the best local heroes across Moffat County on a weekly basis.

Jana Hoffman has stepped down from the Volunteer Coordinator position (which was suspended mid-March). While adults in our programs cannot interact with volunteers, Deirdre will continue to communicate with our volunteer base and bring them in for activities that do not involve person to person contact.

Due to COVID-19, the Routt County Health and Human Service Plan update has been pushed back to 2021 in order to best represent the needs and accomplishments of Routt County human services agencies. The HRC Committee is returning to its work on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion trainings.

On June 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced additional funding (approximately \$15 billion) available through the Provider Relief Fund to eligible Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) providers. To be eligible for this funding, health care providers must not have received payments from the \$50 billion Provider Relief Fund General Distribution and either have directly billed their state Medicaid/CHIP programs or Medicaid managed care plans for healthcare-related services between January 1, 2018 to May 31, 2020. Matt, Deirdre, and Tatum are investigating the possibility of accessing these funds. Currently, there simply is not enough guidance to determine Horizons' eligibility. The deadline to apply for these funds is July 20th.

State News

The 1% Medicaid rate cut officially begins July 1st. The exception to this is the 10% cut in Early Intervention. As previously mentioned, the IDD field was very fortunate not to receive

deeper cuts. That being said, the agency will need to address these financial impacts during the budgeting process.

The state continues to move forward with the restructured CCB and Case Management rate structure. Lindsey, Matt, and Tatum are working together to incorporate the new rate structure and ensure that the organization is capturing dollars and complying with the new requirements.

Finance Report

Matt presented financials through April of the fiscal year. As of April, Horizons is running about a \$57,000 surplus which is surprisingly good given the fact that the agency was running a deficit budget this time last year. The key elements to this relate to retainer payments for day services and supported employment as well as the 8% emergency increase for residential rates for April, May, and June. The emergency residential rate increase stopped at the end of June and providers are subject to the statewide 1% Medicaid Rate cut effective July 1st. The period of the Paycheck Protection Program was officially extended from two to six months so there are no concerns in using all these funds.

Motion: “To approve the Finance Report as presented.”

First: Dennis Kuntz

Second: Ron Schaeffer

The motion passed unanimously.

Program Presentation

Lindsey Garey and Michelle Hoza presented on many of the changes associated with Early Intervention and Family Support. The Office of Early Childhood is cutting the Early Intervention program by 10% beginning July 1st, 2020. Directives from the state include changing eligibility criteria from 25% delay in one or more areas to 33%, evaluating the need for ongoing services at the annual review, continuing to work with HCPF to better align EI with Medicaid, discontinuing the Telehealth incentive fee, capping administrative costs in Office of Early Childhood (OEC) contracts, exploring a statewide rate for direct service providers, and putting contracts out for competitive bid. All that being said, Horizons is committed to mitigating these state budget shortfalls by finding creative solutions to these problems. As an agency, Horizons believes in the power of Early Intervention to change lives.

While COVID-19 has had a deleterious impact on the economy and state budget, therapists continue to adapt and find creative ways to support individuals and families during these challenging times. Telehealth therapies have been extremely successful in this area and will be a strategy that the agency will use in perpetuity.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Motion: “To adjourn the meeting.”

First: Ron Schaeffer

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.