



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

Staff Present: Tatum Heath, Matt Morrill, Madeline Landgren

Call to Order

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: "To approve the board meeting minutes from July 8th, 2020."

First: Dennis Kuntz
Second: Ron Schaeffer

The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report for July 9th through August 7th 2020:

Program & Personnel

Horizons now receives weekly COVID-19 testing in both Moffat and Routt Counties. However, only a sampling of both staff and people in services are tested each week. Horizons' staff conduct the testing using kits provided by Public Health. The tested kits are then sent to a lab to acquire results. Everyone continues to receive negative test results for COVID-19. Horizons is extremely grateful for this support from Public Health.

Horizons continues to provide both Early Intervention and Day Program services via telecommunication in order to comply with social distancing and related state requirements. However, Madeline and her teams are working on phasing in day site services for one home at a time. Specifically, only one group home is allowed to attend at a time, and staff must adhere



to all cleaning and disinfecting protocols in between groups. The plan is to start phasing this in over the next few weeks.

On a related note, Horizons had been receiving retainer payments for certain services including day program and supported employment since mid-March. These retainer payments ended abruptly on Friday, July 17th. With those retainer payments, Horizons was able to bill for the number of existing units in an individual's Service Plan for those services. Retainer payments were essential for provider sustainability across the state during related isolation requirements due to COVID-19. Now the challenge will be finding creative ways to safely resume some of these services based on individual circumstances and risk management. Agencies have not received clear guidance from HCPF as to how utilization shortfalls due to COVID-19 will be addressed and its long term impact to providers.

Just in time to resume mitigated day services, the Breeze Street Learning Center in Craig received new flooring to go with the new paint and it looks fantastic.

The agency continues to secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) via Public Health, private donations, and purchases. The Health Department now requires the agency to report PPE inventory on a daily basis by each location. This demonstrates just how important PPE is and will continue to be for all provider agencies. In addition, the Health Department is requiring that Horizons acquire adequate PPE based on worse-case scenario for each of the residential

locations. While PPE continues to be difficult to acquire and private companies continue to price gouge, Horizons has been fortunate. Yet again, Marc Swanson from Steamboat Ace Hardware committed to helping Horizons meet those worst-case scenario needs by donating hundreds of boxes of gloves, face shields, and masks. To say that Horizons is grateful is an understatement. In order to show our appreciation, people in services made cards and sent them to their friends at Ace with coffee and donuts. This is a picture from the Ace crew. They all wanted to know how the Horizons job crew is doing and when they could return to work because they miss them. This is what community really means.



Sadly, it was announced that Freedom Hooves will no longer be providing services in Moffat County for Equine Therapy. They have been an amazing partner over the years and Horizons will miss them tremendously. Last year around 10 individuals participated.

Lindsey Garey, Director of Case Management, hired a new case manager for the Craig program. Her name is Elizabeth Scroggins and she will start training on August 17th. She has experience working in case management in Texas.

Katherine Hartley's last day was Friday July 27th. Katherine accepted a position with Northwest Options for Long Term Care, the Single Entry Point (SEP). Katherine was doing eligibility and intake at Horizons. The positive side to this change is that Horizons will be working closely with the Single Entry Point moving forward as the SEP is part of HCPF's plan to address conflict free case management.

Matt is managing the budgeting process with even more unknowns given ambiguity surrounding COVID-19, PPE, day program, CCB deliverables restructuring, Supported Living Services, and the ever increasing cost of Health Insurance.

Lindsey and Tatum completed an update to the Office of the State Auditor regarding performance measures related to state funded programs and Case Management.

The initial Provider Transition Plans for Day Program were completed and Madeline will talk more about what that means and the impact it has on service delivery in the program presentation.

Tatum presented to the board regarding a survey response questionnaire received from a family in Rio Blanco who was frustrated with aspects of the Family Support Program. A copy of

the information was circulated as well as a summary of contextual information from Lindsey Garey. Many of the issues stemmed from documentation requirements for processing Family Support requests. The situation will be handled as a memo of concern and related follow-up will be done promptly in an effort to best support the family.

Resource Development & Public Relations

Jes McMillan facilitated a virtual call with the Moffat County United Way last Friday to share program successes and show how the agency is keeping people in program safe and healthy during the pandemic.

Deirdre and Michelle Hoza worked together on an article for Steamboat Pilot & Today's Thoughtful Parenting column. The July 19th article focused on the basics of summer safety for small children.

Horizons has been celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the ADA on our Facebook and Instagram pages by posting articles, podcasts, TV shows, and an inspiring documentary called Crip Camp.

The agency was awarded \$7,500 from the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation for Moffat County Adult Services.

Susie Baird submitted and championed a grant request to Granby Rotary Club for \$6,000 for Grand County Family Support. Thank you so much Susie!

Meghan McNamara, Madeline Landgren, and Tatum Heath were nominated through Strings in the Mountains as local heroes who have stepped up for people in the Steamboat community during the pandemic.

Deirdre is working on the annual agency newsletter to be sent out early fall, interviewing staff about the challenges and positive changes we have experienced as a result of COVID-19. Deirdre is also interviewing Public Health leaders in Routt and Moffat Counties to highlight the importance of their work in helping us fulfill our mission and keep our communities safe.

The 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. Initially there was not adequate information about eligibility for this program, but now it appears Horizons qualifies. The deadline for application was extended to August 28th.

State News

There is a state forum on August 20th with Alliance, the Health Department, and the Colorado Department of Human Services to discuss a wide range of topics such as group home reporting, rule changes related to Adult Protective Services, and the Office of Early Childhood.

Electronic Visit Verification (EVV) began the mandated soft launch on August 3rd. What that means is that for certain types of services, there have to be six data points that correspond to claims data. Starting January 1st, 2021, service claims without corresponding EVV data will be denied for payment. Agencies have advocated for a delay in this implementation due to COVID-19 but were denied by the federal government.

Finance Report

Matt presented financials through May of the fiscal year. It was confirmed that the financial audit will be done remotely this year due to COVID-19. This is the standard for all Community Centered Boards across the state. Cash is up significantly from last year as a result of the Paycheck Protection Program, retainer payments, and the emergency residential rate increase. That being said, significant financial challenges lie ahead: health insurance premiums will be increasing, Medicaid provider rate cuts of 1% were implemented as of July 1st, and day program and supported living services utilization will most likely never be the same as they were prior to the pandemic.

Motion: "To approve the Finance Report as presented."

First: Dennis Kuntz

Second: Julie Pearce

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: "To approve Tatum Heath and Matt Morrill as signers on any and all Horizons accounts including but not limited to CDs, checking accounts, and savings accounts, and to remove Amy Emma Bowers and Susan Mizen from any existing accounts."

First: Susie Baird

Second: Annette Dellacrocce

The motion passed unanimously.

Madeline Landgren provided detailed information on the phasing in of day program during the pandemic as well as the Provider Transition Plans for Day Program. See handout for more details.

Public Comment

None

Adjourn

Motion: "To adjourn the meeting."

First: Ron Schaeffer

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.