



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

**Members Excused:** Annette Dellacroce

**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 August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020."

First: Dennis Kuntz

Second: Ron Schaeffer

The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report for August 8<sup>th</sup> through September 4<sup>th</sup> 2020:**

**Program & Personnel**

Thanks to Dennis Kuntz and Terry Jost, Horizons received a number of meat donations yet again from the Routt County Fair. George and Barbara Eidsness from Transwest, Danny Hayden from Hayden Merc, and Adam Wilson from Vectra Bank were the donors this year. On top of that, Mountain Valley Bank has been kind enough to pay for the processing fees for Mountain Meats. To say that Horizons is grateful is an understatement. It feels good to be able to provide the people we serve with fresh locally raised meat.

Michelle Hoza and Kate Doyle received very positive feedback from Early Intervention Colorado. Here is what Coleen from El Colorado said: "I'd just like to thank you for providing me with the opportunity today to observe your initial IFSP. What a delightful family! I think that you and Kate did a beautiful



job of affirming the family, gathering the information that you needed, and assisting them with identifying the routines in their lives where with a little coaching, their little guy will make wonderful progress! Once again, thank you so much--I am so happy that I'm a part of the Region 1 team. Just seeing how you have adapted and adjusted to the challenges of this year, and been able to serve the children in the Mountain region, makes my heart sing."

Shanda Sullins facilitated a Scammer Awareness Group scheduled on September 3rd at 4:30pm. An individual in services talked about his personal experience of almost getting scammed out of hundreds of dollars. This has become an ever increasing issue during COVID.

The Emergency Evacuation Plans were recently updated to include COVID precautions and recent Wildfire dynamics. They have been posted on the Horizons' website as well as social media. Madeline will discuss this topic further for the program presentation.

This month Horizons said goodbye to some good friends and great peers. After 12 years as our Billing Coordinator, Nancy Kaminski retired. In 2008, Nancy helped Horizons transition to the new era of fee for service.

In addition, Horizons said goodbye to Bob Grover. Bob served as President for nine years and Vice President for two. He is stepping away from his official role as one of Horizons' most passionate advocates--a true believer in fighting for rights for people with IDD. Bob's work at



Horizons has been compassionate, intelligent, and supportive. Horizons is forever better for Bob's service.

The agency was able to continue with the same Health Insurance carrier despite ever increasing premium costs. The renewal process was completed in August and Horizons was pleased to provide staff with commensurate coverage during these uncertain times.

Horizons continues to receive weekly COVID-19 testing in both Moffat and Routt Counties. This test sampling of both staff and people in services each week continues to yield

negative COVID results. Horizons' staff conduct the testing using kits provided by Public Health which are then sent to a lab. Horizons is extremely grateful for this support from Public Health, and this partnership is highlighted in the agency newsletter that will be coming out soon.

Madeline and her teams are phasing in day site services. 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 agency continues to secure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) via Public Health, private donations, and purchases.

A Human Rights Committee was held on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> to review psychotropic medications, rights modifications, and investigations.

### **Resource Development & Public Relations**

This month Horizons submitted an article to the Craig Press for the Moffat County United Way Human Resource Council column about the impact of COVID-19 on the agency and programming, highlighting the significance of safety, compassion, and innovation.

Corinne Emerson was nominated for the annual George and Pat Sugerman Excellence in Caregiving Award. It is given by The Alzheimer's Association of Colorado and Colorado

Dementia Partnership to recognize deserving frontline staff who work with people with dementia.

Horizons' social media accounts are gaining good traction with the use of stories and are up to 545 followers on Instagram and 1,413 on Facebook.

The newsletter is at the printer and it focuses on the incredible work of Direct Support Professionals and Public Health to keep the people we serve safe and healthy.

Deirdre submitted grant reports to the Grand County BOCC and YVMCF/UCHealth.

Lindsey, Michelle, and Deirdre had a virtual site-visit (conversation) with Helen Beall and Tim Wohlgenant regarding the Yampa Valley Community Foundation Grant application for \$5k for Moffat County Family Support.

Yampa Valley Autism Program (YVAP) and Northwest Colorado Center for Independence (NWCCI) are interested in joining forces for a Routt non-fundraising "event" to raise awareness for services for people with disabilities.

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. Horizons will be applying for this one time opportunity with the anticipation that it will yield an additional \$105k to bolster provider stability and help support unfunded mandates.

### **State News**

There was a state forum on August 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Alliance is now comprised of every Community Centered Board in Colorado and even more provider organizations so it garners a great deal of clout at the state and even federal levels. For example, Alliance drafted letters to the federal government requesting continued retainer payments for day services and more flexibility on ETV requirements given the impacts of COVID. Other notable topics included the Health Department roll out of IRSS (individual residential services and supports) Infection Control Surveys. These are somewhat similar to the Group Home surveys but modified to less restrictive regulations. Finally, Adult Protective Services joined the meeting to walk through changes to the MANE (mistreatment, abuse, neglect, and exploitation) statute under HB-1302. These changes highlight a new category called "harmful act" which more clearly defines harm to the health, safety, and welfare of a person in services.

Horizons received confirmation from Health Care Policy and Financing that Specialized Habilitation is temporarily allowed in the Group Homes. An exception was made for Horizons because Horizons provides both residential and day habilitation services to the same individuals.

### **Finance Report**

Matt presented the proposed budget to the full board with the support of the Finance Committee who had met the previous week. The budget included the following:

- 1% Medicaid rate cut for all services
- 2% performance increase for all employees

- 6.2% increase in Health Insurance costs
- 10% cuts to Early Intervention with new eligibility guidelines
- 60% decrease in Day Program revenue due to COVID-19
- 80% decrease in SLS revenue due to COVID-19
- HHS Provider Relief Fund
- New Case Management TCM and State Allocation methodology

**Motion:** “To approve the Budget as presented.”

First: Dennis Kuntz

Second: Susie Baird

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Program Presentation**

Madeline provided an overview of the updated Emergency Evacuation Plans that now include COVID-19 precautions. This information can be found on the Horizons’ website and social media. As a result of this conversation, the Leadership Team was encouraged to revisit the potential need to purchase generators for group homes.

### **Board Officers**

Given the recent changes to the Board of Directors, it was necessary to identify a new Vice President and Treasurer.

**Motion:** “To approve Dennis Kuntz as the Vice President and Julie Pearce as the Treasurer”

First: Ron Schaeffer

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjourn**

**Motion:** “To adjourn the meeting.”

First: Ron Schaeffer

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Thereafter, the Board of Directors went into Executive Session to conduct a performance review of the Executive Director.