



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

**Members Excused:** Annette Dellacroce & Julie Pearce

**Staff Present:** Tatum Heath, Matt Morrill

### **Call to Order**

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** “To approve the board meeting minutes from September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020.”

First: Dennis Kuntz

Second: Jeff Dockstader

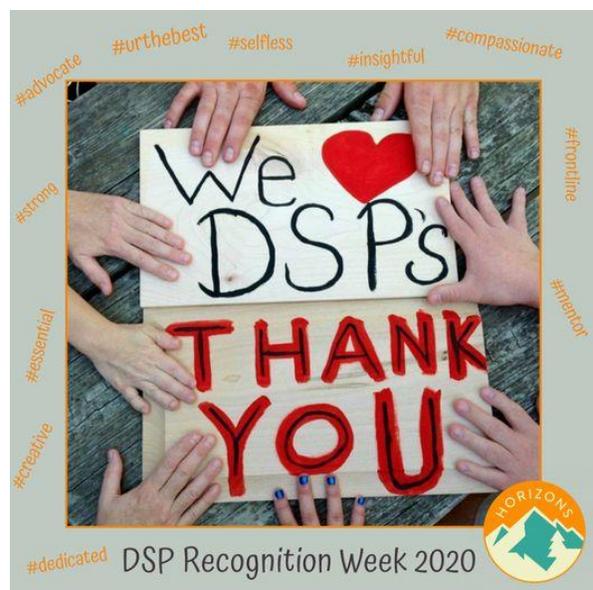
The motion passed unanimously.

### **Director’s Report for September 10<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup> 2020:**

#### **Program & Personnel**

Horizons kicked off Direct Support Professional week with a number of fun ways to recognize their incredible work. It began with a special delivery of coffee and donuts to each of the homes. Then there were a number of social media “DSP Shout Outs” to a variety of staff. In addition, pizzas, sandwiches, and other takeout were ordered as a treat. But the recognition did not stop there. The agency newsletter was released with the main article highlighting DSPs as essential workers. Finally, all direct support staff received a surprise bonus at the end of the week. In so many ways, DSPs are the true heroes of this organization.

Corrine Emerson, a DSP in Craig, was nominated for the George and Pat Sugerman Award which was created in 1991 by Alzheimer’s Association Board Member, George Sugerman. Mr. Sugerman was so grateful for the outstanding caregivers his wife, Pat Sugerman,



had in an adult day program and later in a skilled nursing facility that he felt their work needed to be honored. Each year since 1991, the Alzheimer’s Association has recognized outstanding professional caregivers with the “George and Pat Sugerman Excellence in Caregiving Award.” Horizons is pleased to announce that Corrine was one of the winners!

Matt and his team are working hard in preparation for the annual audit conducted by LTJ, LLC Certified Public Accountants. The audit is an annual requirement for all Community Centered Boards and this will be the first year that it is conducted remotely. Calvin Logan will present his findings during the board meeting audit exit.

Lindsey Garey and Michelle Hoza volunteered to participate in a mock audit conducted by the Office of Early Childhood regarding Early Intervention. While this mock audit was an opportunity for the state to develop training tools and review their internal audit process, it also afforded the Horizons team an occasion to review goals and outcome measures for the program. The feedback was very positive and Lindsey and Michelle will begin training EI staff on related expectations.

Case Managers attended a three day Social Security training. This training is critical in supporting individuals and families in navigating SSI and SSDI benefits as these federal programs are one of the eligibility requirements for the Medicaid waiver programs Horizons administers.

One of the ways that Horizons supports individuals in services is to help them in the voting process. There are strict guidelines related to providing support about the process while not influencing the individual’s actual vote. To gain additional knowledge and familiarity, many staff participated in a training called Voting Rights & People with Disabilities where they learned



about voter registration, the ballot casting process, and accessible tools and options for people with disabilities during the election process.

As part of our ongoing public outreach, Horizons sent out information regarding our free developmental screenings and evaluations. If a

family has a child under the age of three and has questions about his or her development, they are encouraged to contact the Early Intervention Service Coordinator in their county.

Moffat County Public Health provided a drive-through flu vaccination clinic on Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Breeze Street day program site. In Routt County, Horizons connected with the Health Partnership to conduct a flu clinic on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. These clinics are for staff and individuals in services and they are a requirement for individuals living in group homes.

Lindsey facilitated a Family Support Council meeting on Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>.

In an effort to keep individuals engaged and socializing, Horizons Supported Living Services is hosting a Virtual Game Night every Thursday 4-5:30 via Zoom. These weekly events will feature some past staff and esteemed community members. Susan Mizen was at last week's Game Night.

The Fire Department conducted inspections in both Moffat and Routt counties of all group homes and the day sites. Such inspections are a requirement for licensed group homes and an important part of keeping individuals safe.

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

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

The agency newsletter went into circulation this past month. Deirdre did an excellent job of highlighting Direct Support Professionals as essential workers and the myriad of challenges being faced during COVID. The newsletter also focused on local partnerships, especially with Public Health for COVID testing and how that has enabled Horizons to successfully isolate individuals in services. The newsletter is also an opportunity to thank donors and report on innovative programming such as Teletherapy in Early Intervention.

Horizons was awarded \$5,000 from the Yampa Valley Community Foundation for Moffat County Family Support.

An article for the Thoughtful Parenting Column in The Steamboat Pilot & Today was published on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The article focused on how to teach children empathy. You can read the article at: <https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/thoughtful-parenting-teaching-children-empathy/>

For the month of October, Horizons is the non-profit of the month for Steamboat Fit. The new fitness studio invited us to partner with them. Two of the many benefits of this collaboration are that staff and adults enrolled in our programs can take free in-studio and virtual classes through October 31<sup>st</sup> and that a portion of proceeds will benefit Horizons. Virtual classes have been a hit with Rose Street. Steamboat Fit instructors have taken extra time to create modified classes and exercise regimes specific to individuals' needs.

Planning is underway for Horizons' first ever virtual event. This is Horizons' inaugural attempt at creating and hosting a COVID-era online event in lieu of an in-person event. The event is intended to replace the Meeker Wreath Making Fundraiser and is tentatively set for Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup> as the Little Points of Light Campaign Kick-Off Party. Our goals are outreach, education, community connection, and campaign awareness. It also aims to partner with local businesses with an emphasis on the Early Intervention and Family Support programs. Both Julie Pearce and Susan Mizen are taking part in the planning, networking, and festivities.

The Horizons Leadership Team participated in JAMMIN' WITH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, which was a series of short, virtual fundraising events. These 30-minute virtual events featured Josh Rael and Emma Hudson, a state legislator, and some sampling of homemade Colorado jam. Our Leadership Team focused on the Jam Session with Senator Bob Rankin, who has been a champion for the IDD community for years and a key member of the Joint Budget Committee.

Horizons will support and participate in the annual Yampa Valley Wellness Conference, which is now virtual and renamed Community Health Summit.

Matt secured funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Provider Relief Fund. This one-time cash infusion of approximately \$105,000 will help tremendously with unfunded expenses such as PPE, computers, as well as bolstering provider stability for general operating during these uncertain times.

### **State News**

Many of the discussions at the state level are focused on budgetary issues and the long term impact on Medicaid programs. Part of understanding the extent of the COVID-induced recession is the unemployment rate. The state unemployment rate in April 2020 was the highest it has ever been since being recorded at 12.2% in 1976. The prior record was 8.9% in 2010. Fortunately, that number continues to decrease and Colorado is at 6.7% as of August 2020. Typically, it takes at least four years to recover from a recession. This is why agencies like Horizons were fortunate to only receive a 1% decrease in Medicaid reimbursement rates.

There continue to be flexibilities afforded to case management, eligibility, and service provision because the PHE (public health emergency) was officially extended by the federal government beyond October 25<sup>th</sup>. This is a good thing for Horizons as it allows the agency time to adapt to the unfunded mandates for COVID isolation requirements and related telehealth models.

### **Audit Exit by Calvin Logan from LTJ, LLC Certified Public Accountants**

LTJ, LLC audited consolidated financial statements of Horizons Specialized Services and Affiliate (jointly, the Center), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of June 30, 2020, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements. The purpose and intent of the audit is to express an unmodified opinion on those audited consolidated financial statements which is the best kind of opinion. Horizons continues to have a strong financial position, especially relative to the measure of Current Assets to Current Liabilities and Current Ratio.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjourn**

**Motion:** "To adjourn the meeting."

First: Dennis Kuntz

Second: Ron Schaeffer

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.