



**Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2020**

**Members Attending via Zoom:** Dennis Kuntz, Leslie Bjorgum, Terry Jost, Jeff Dockstader, Julie Pearce, Annette Dellacroce, Susie Baird

**Members Excused:** Ron Schaeffer, Beth Davison

**Staff Present:** Tatum Heath, Matt Morrill, Lynne Cleveland-Swanson

**Call to Order**

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** "To approve the board meeting minutes from October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020."

First: Susie Baird

Second: Jeff Dockstader

The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report for October 15<sup>th</sup> through November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020:**

**Program & Personnel**

The East Troublesome Fire in Grand County has been devastating, burning more than 193,804 acres and destroying many homes. The cold weather and snow have slowed its growth. This fire is currently the 2nd largest in Colorado history and has impacted staff and many families and individuals receiving services in Grand County. None of the families receiving services lost their home but around ten of those families were part of the pre-evacuation area. As Susie Baird will attest, people have truly come together to support one another, whether it be with lodging, food, money, or just emotional support that is freely given. The Grand Foundation has set up a Grand County Wildfire Emergency Fund to support people affected by the fire.

Corinne Emerson, a Direct Support Professional (DSP) in Craig, was honored and recognized by the state of Colorado chapter of the Alzheimer's Association for the George and Pat Sugerman Award. Horizons is pleased to announce that Corrine was one of five winners in the state of Colorado. A recognition ceremony was held this past Monday at Rainbow via Zoom.

Routt County nurse, Alicia Morton, was third in the "Best of the Boat" competition.

Horizons' staff continue to find new and creative ways to support and engage individuals in services who have limited community access. They have been implementing everything from virtual Zumba classes to dance parties to game night to drive by trick or treating. Staff have been nothing short of amazing during these challenging times.

The case count for COVID-19 continues to be on the rise in all communities. A number of emergency meetings are being held at county and state levels to develop strategies to mitigate transmission. Routt County has bumped up into Safer at Home Level 3, and Moffat County is in Protect Our Neighbors with mitigation and is on the verge of bumping up to Safer at Home Level 1. Grand County is also in Safer at Home Level 2 with mitigation. The message from county officials in all of these counties is to remain vigilant. Continuing to wear masks, practice social distancing and limit social gatherings is paramount to keeping people safe and healthy. Intensive Care Unit (ICU) capacity at hospitals is already becoming a significant issue as beds are being filled at a faster rate than people are being released. While cases are on the rise in a way not seen since last March, Horizons is infinitely better prepared than it was in March. The agency has: amazing DSP's who have been learning and implementing enhanced precautions and procedures over the last several months; tools and technology to stay connected remotely; Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies that include N95 masks, gloves, gowns, and safety goggles/face shields; and access to testing and amazing Nurses and Program Coordinators to complete it. In addition, the agency maintains its commitment to Hero Pay, the enhanced \$5 per hour for all staff working in a home with a COVID positive individual. Horizons continues to have weekly surveillance testing for staff and individuals in program with no new positive cases.

Horizons' resident information was submitted to Public Health in the event that a vaccine is developed for COVID-19 as vulnerable populations will be the first who have access.

Every three years, Horizons conducts satisfaction surveys for people and families in services as part of our contract with Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF). This year, those surveys will be conducted remotely by Third Sector Innovations from Grand Junction.



Matt has been hard at work filling out one government application after another. Most recently, he secured funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through the Provider Relief Fund. This one-time cash infusion was more than expected at \$113,500. This money will help tremendously with unfunded expenses such as PPE and computers, as well as bolstering provider stability for general operating costs during these uncertain times. There is the possibility that Horizons is eligible for Phase 3 of similar funds but more information is needed to make a determination.

One of the few silver linings of the pandemic is that staff turn-over is down. Horizons is holding a new employee orientation for six new staff members. Staff turnover has decreased significantly since the advent of COVID. There are many contributing factors, but noteworthy ones include excellent health insurance benefits, staff bonuses, and job security in uncertain times.

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

The Little Points of Light appeal letter is coming together and will be sent out soon. It speaks to a family who moved to Steamboat from Seattle last February with a son who has cerebral palsy. The story is beautiful and moving, demonstrating the power and importance of Early Intervention to change lives. Moreover, it shows how a person's perceived disability opens doors to seeing the world in different and meaningful ways.

Marketing material for the Rio Blanco Little Points of Light Campaign Kick-Off Party went out as well. This virtual event will be held on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6-7 pm from the comfort of your own home. Register for the FREE Zoom link to learn more about Horizons Early Intervention and Family Support programs in Rio Blanco AND to enjoy a presentation by Vanessa Trout of Blanco Cellars and The little Cheese Shop on how to create the perfect cheese board for holiday parties, family gatherings, girls' nights, or any other get-together. Both Susan Mizen and Julie Pearce have been part of the planning process. The event goals are outreach, education, community connection, and campaign awareness.



Horizons was awarded \$15,000 from Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for general transportation expenses, including maintenance and fuel costs.

YVEA awarded Horizons \$3,000 to assist with the cost of the mandatory fire suppression upgrade at Rainbow.

The Yampa Valley Community Fund (YVCF) COVID Response Fund awarded \$7,976.17 for Moffat County PPE. This will be used to secure more gloves, masks, gowns, goggles, and cleaning supplies for Moffat County.

Horizons sponsored and participated in the annual Yampa Valley Wellness Conference, which is now virtual and renamed Community Health Summit. Every year the agency has a number of staff who attend.

There was an article in the Steamboat Pilot and Today on October 25<sup>th</sup> titled, "Community Connections: Horizons Specialized Services." It highlighted agency efforts to ensure safety while still providing compassionate and innovative services.

### **State News**

There was no community provider rate increase and no decrease either in the governor's budget forecast for the next fiscal year.

Horizons has a one-on-one meeting with HCPF on November 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss Case Management redesign and related issues. Subsequently, on November 19<sup>th</sup>, there is a bi-monthly Community Centered Board (CCB) meeting regarding Case Management redesign with the rest of the state.

### **Finance Report**

Matt reported on financials for the first month of the fiscal year. There is not enough information to start making decisions or assumptions. That being said, expenses are almost identical to this time last year, but revenue is down by about \$75,000 due to an inability to provide day services and Supported Living Services (SLS). Cash is up due to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), and the PPP forgiveness request was submitted.

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

First: Julie Pearce

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously.

Lynne Cleveland-Swanson provided a program presentation on properties owned and managed by Horizons.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

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

First: Leslie Bjorgum

Second: Annette Dellacrocce

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.