



Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 10, 2021

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

Staff Present: Tatum Heath, Matt Morrill, Madeline Landgren, Lynne Cleveland-Swanson, Lindsey Garey

Members Excused: Julie Pearce

Call to Order

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: "To approve the board meeting minutes from January 13th, 2021."

First: Jeff Dockstader

Second: Annette Dellacroce

The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report for January 14th through February 5th 2021:

Program & Personnel

The agency continues to focus on finalizing the second round of the COVID-19 vaccine for people in services and staff. Public Health and Walgreens in both Moffat and Routt Counties have been great partners throughout the vaccination process. As one of the first CCBs/providers to receive the second vaccination in the state, Horizons is fortunate to have excellent working relationships with these entities. Similarly, Colorado is doing extremely well compared to other states, ranking second in national vaccination distribution.

While the goal is to vaccinate as many staff and people in services, Public Health continues to be adamant about maintaining the same level of isolation at group homes because they are classified as long term care facilities like nursing homes. The agency must continue to follow CDPHE guidelines and screen for symptoms, follow hand hygiene and disinfection procedures, stay home when sick and seek testing, wear masks, socially distance, and limit social gatherings.

And for good reason. While the agency is doing well getting individuals and staff vaccinated, Horizons has experienced its highest virus incident rate since the advent of the pandemic. This is primarily due to the rapid spike of COVID-19 cases in the region. In the past two weeks, there have been several identified positive cases within our staff and individuals receiving services. Even though many people have been vaccinated, there has not been adequate time after the doses for the necessary immune response. Experts say it takes about two weeks before the 95% efficacy rate is established.



As a result of the COVID spike in both counties, the agency has decided to enhance precautions by having all staff in homes wear N95 masks and eye protection for the duration of their shift. This enhances the protection for everyone in the home if anyone is contagious.

Moffat County Day Program is now offering a Zoom Art Class on Mondays and Zoom Bingo on Thursdays. In Routt County, nine individuals are participating in virtual classes through Colorado Mountain College.

Case Managers across the state are getting trained on the new Care and Case Management (CCM) system. The new CCM will require a number of procedural changes for Case Managers with respect to eligibility assessments, Service Plans, utilization reviews, and much more. Case Management continues to operate remotely/virtually per state guidance.

For Early Intervention, Michelle Hoza and Lindsey Garey held a provider/service coordinator meeting to discuss how people feel about continuing teletherapy and the potential for in-person visits. Michelle noted that referrals are down in all counties which is likely due to increases of positive COVID cases.

Horizons will be partnering with the Colorado Spirit Crisis Counseling to find ways to support people in services who are struggling with isolation and mental health issues.

The state COVID testing platform Curative was abruptly terminated this past month without warning or an immediate replacement. Guidance was eventually received and the agency is back on track with weekly testing requirements.

This month, we say goodbye to a wonderful employee and friend who has been with Horizons since 2006. Deb Kirby started as a DSP at Rainbow, became the agency's first Direct Support Professional award recipient from Alliance at IDD Day, and eventually took on the role of Moffat County Day Program Coordinator. Deb's kind and infectious personality will be greatly missed.

Resource Development & Public Relations

Tiffany Taylor has been recognized as a rising star in Moffat County and will be featured in the Craig Press' magazine, 20 Under 40. The paper received 35 nominations and the committee selected Tiffany to be recognized in the top 20 of Moffat County. Criteria was based on professional success with a track record of contributing to the community and making a real difference in the lives of the people around them. The 20 Under 40 magazine will be published with an ad and an article about Tiffany on February 26th.



Once again, Horizons received sizeable meat donations from Terry and Sharon Jost and their kind neighbors Karen and Ted Gilroy. Not only did they donate the meat but also the cost to process it at Brother's. Big thanks to Tiffany Taylor and Mike Dwire for hauling 750 pounds of meat to our freezers.

A few DSPs submitted responses to the Shield HealthCare 19th Annual Caregiver Contest: How Has COVID Changed Caregiving? They wrote in 150 words or more how the pandemic had changed their jobs. The contest closed January 31st and we'll find out if anyone from Horizons will be chosen to win a Visa gift card.

Adia Clark Lay, a junior at Steamboat Springs High School, is a contestant in the 2nd Annual Voices of Steamboat vocal competition. Each contestant is asked to raise funds for a local nonprofit and Adia chose Horizons. 70% of donations go to Horizons and 30% go to Opera Steamboat. The link to donate and buy tickets is on our Facebook page. The live YouTube event is on February 13th from 5-7pm and costs \$5. To date, Adia has raised \$1,695.

Horizons continues to participate in the Mile High United Way 2-1-1 Resource Database. Updating our information annually allows people in the Denver Metro Area to know we are an active resource for people with IDD in northwest Colorado.

Alliance and members have launched the Roll Up Your Sleeves Campaign to encourage all people to get vaccinated and to learn the facts about the COVID vaccines and the importance of vaccines in ending the pandemic.

#rollupyoursleeves #coidd

Deirdre Pepin and Tatum Heath reported to the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation on the \$7,5000 grant award benefitting our Craig adult residential programs. It was an excellent opportunity to discuss how the agency has supported individuals through the pandemic by focusing on health and safety.

On February 25th, Tatum Heath, Deirdre Pepin, and Jes McMillan are scheduled to conduct an interview with the Moffat County United Way Allocations Committee. There was an article in the Craig Press that identified funding requests exceeding \$250,000, but that there is only about \$70,000 available for funding local organizations. As a result, the agency anticipates a reduced allocation this year.



State News

HCPF will implement a rate increase of 27.4% retroactive to July 18th, 2020 and continuing through June 30th, 2021 on the following services: Adult Day Care, Day Habilitation (SH and SCC), Supported Employment, and Non-Medical Transportation (both IDD and non-IDD waivers). It is important to remember that the agency's ability to provide these particular services has been minimal, so the financial impact is estimated to be about \$19,000.

Recent Joint Budget Committee (JBC) meetings have been encouraging for the IDD population. While the governor's budget proposals remain fiscally neutral, JBC members are advocating for a 2.5% rate increase for IDD providers. A lot could happen before this is officially approved, but we are hopeful for the upcoming fiscal year 2021-22.

In an effort to remain in lockstep with developing Conflict Free Case Management timeline requirements, Tatum Heath is meeting monthly with Sara Sims from Mountain Valley Developmental Services and Sharon Longhurst-Pritt from Northwest Options for Long Term Care.

Finance Report

Providing day program services has proven to be difficult in the midst of the pandemic. Overall, day program revenue is \$21k under budget. Early Intervention revenue continues to be strong compared to budget. Revenue in the homes remains steady but be prepared for fluctuations due to home visits and absences. Salaries, insurance, repair and maintenance, and mileage reimbursement are down.

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

First: Susie Baird

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously.

Program Presentation

Madeline Landgren presented on vaccination data, current outbreaks at homes in both counties, ongoing testing requirements for COVID, and strategies to address staffing shortages especially in Craig.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion: “To adjourn the meeting.”

First: Annette Dellacroce

Second: Jeff Dockstader

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

The board went into Executive Session to conduct the annual performance review for the Executive Director.