



**Board of Directors
Yampa River State Park
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2021**

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

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 February 10th, 2021."

First: Leslie Bjorgum

Second: Ron Schaeffer

The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report for February 11th through April 8th 2021:

Program & Personnel

Horizons participated in its first Person-Centered Thinking training since the advent of the pandemic. In keeping with social distancing guidelines, the training was held via Zoom. Fortunately, the presenters had a number of ways to keep staff engaged during the three-day training. Person-Centered Thinking is the philosophical benchmark for services and supports across the country, reinforcing advocacy, voice, choice, and integration.

Based on Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) guidance, Horizons continues to test staff and individuals weekly for COVID. Similarly, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated guidance and loosening of restrictions for individuals who have been vaccinated. Every person living in congregate settings has been vaccinated, but there are some staff who refused the vaccine. Even so, Horizons has done extremely well weathering the pandemic that began a year ago. The number of positive cases were minimal and there have not been any deaths. In listening to state partners, Horizons has been extremely fortunate.

Congratulations to Melissa Stadler, the new Day Program Coordinator for Moffat County. Melissa brings a wealth of experience as a Direct Support Professional. She has a creative flare that will lend itself to imaginative day program activities.

Melissa is not the only new staff person in Moffat County. Kirk Aigner, a Direct Support Professional for over ten years, was hired as the new Case Manager for Moffat County. His job duties will also include some Family Support and Waitlist Management. His first day will be April 12th.

Case Managers across the state continue their training 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, utilizations reviews, and much more. Case Management continues to operate remotely/virtually per state guidance.

Therapists began meeting kiddos and families in person on a very limited basis and typically outside. Families continue to report that Teletherapy conducted via Zoom this past year has been very effective for their family member.

True Link cards are getting set up for clients in all counties. The program presentation will speak to how these cards function, enhancing independent living skills while still affording oversight by Horizons as Representative Payee.

Lynne and agency staff have been working hard to complete spring cleanup efforts. Horizons contracted with Joey Bowman to gather up miscellaneous items in both Moffat and Routt Counties. Joey recycles what he can and disposes of the rest at the landfill.

Horizons received the cost containment certification from the Division of Workers' Compensation. Concerted staff efforts combined with unique COVID dynamics resulted in a discount of \$7,500-8,000 for the agency's workers' compensation premiums.

Leslie Bjorgum informed the board about the limited Special Olympic skiing this past winter. A handful of independent people not living in group homes were able to participate. However, Leslie also announced the exciting news that there will be Special Olympic softball this summer. As of right now, this approved activity will be at Klunker Field in June and July. In addition, there will be an opportunity for participants to play bocce ball. Group home resident participation will be determined by Health Department guidance.

Resource Development & Public Relations

Horizons was awarded \$12,000 from Moffat County United Way and \$5,000 from Moffat County Human Resource Council (HRC) for the Moffat County Adult Services for 2021. Moffat County Youth United Way awarded the agency \$1,750 for the Moffat County Family Support program. Rocky Mountain Health Foundation generously contributed an unsolicited grant award of \$3,720 allocated toward the mental health and wellness of staff. In addition, Horizons was awarded \$5,000 from the Grand County Board of County Commissioners for general operating of the Grand County Family Support program. Horizons submitted a \$25,000 grant request for Moffat Adult Services to UHealth through their 2021 Yampa Valley Medical Center Community Health Benefit Fund.

On February 13th, Adia Clark Lay won the Voices of Steamboat vocal competition and raised the most funds for a local nonprofit. Opera Steamboat sent Horizons a check for \$1,784 (70% of Adia's fundraising).

On March 3rd, the Steamboat Pilot & Today published an article about the impact of COVID-19 on Horizons' people and programs. The article specified how the agency has adapted service delivery, and featured parent and former board member Michael Turner's personal experience.

On March 20th, the Steamboat Pilot & Today ran a special section called Frontline Heroes. Four Horizons employees (Tommy Larson, Peta Elmes, Peggy Weaver and Meghan McNamara) were recognized by colleagues and/or community members for their notable contributions in combatting the many challenges of the pandemic and making a difference in the community.

On March 21st, the Steamboat Pilot & Today published a Thoughtful Parenting article about how to keep kids safe and healthy in a pandemic. Due to a decline in referrals across all counties of our service area, Horizons collaborated with Northwest Colorado Health to raise awareness for the importance of observing children's behaviors and tracking for developmental milestones even when social, recreational and educational opportunities are limited. Horizons also increased Early Intervention messaging on social media with the goal of reminding parents that they: 1) do not need a doctor's referral to benefit from our services; and 2) should not wait if they have concerns about their child's development. As a result, Horizons received 10 new referrals in March.

On March 25th, Colleen Sherwood from Moffat County and Kathy Johnson from Routt County were honored as two Alliance Colorado DSP of the Year Nominees at the DSP of the Year Award Ceremony on IDD Awareness Day. Over 600 people and nearly half of the Colorado General Assembly gathered virtually to join the IDD Policy Webinar and Awareness Luncheon hosted by Alliance, JFK Partners, and the Arc of Colorado.





Celebrating Women's History Month with Routt County Heroes

Routt County celebrated Women's History Month by recognizing women in Routt County who have made a difference during the pandemic. Madeline Landgren was honored as one of Routt County's Pandemic Heroes.

Horizons celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month throughout March with a social media campaign featuring every Horizons DSP. All DSP's were recognized for being Frontline Fighters, Special Forces, and PPE VIP's. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty, overcome fear and uncertainty, selflessly helped others while making personal sacrifices, and banded

together in hardship. Throughout April, Horizons will be celebrating Autism Acceptance Month.

Routt County United Way's Day of Caring is May 19th, and will follow Public Health commitments with groups of 10 volunteers or fewer (wearing masks) and performing jobs outside.

State News

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. But the good news does not stop there, the JBC approved an expenditure of \$20.8 MILLION for additional people to come off the developmental disabilities waiting list in fiscal year 2021-22. This is an incredible testament to years of collective efforts to End the Wait. Details about the number of resources that will be allocated to Horizons will be forthcoming.

Tatum and Lindsey continue to meet with Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) staff, Single Entry Point agencies, other Community Centered Boards, and the Rural Sustainability workgroup at Alliance in order to work through Case Management Redesign. HCPF has contracted with HCBS Strategies, a consulting firm out of Michigan, to facilitate discussions about identifying the new catchment areas across the state. There are many inherent challenges in this process because the current catchment areas for Community Centered Boards (CCB's), Single Entry Point Agencies (SEP's), and Regional Accountable Entity (RAE) are all different.

Finance Report

Providing day program services continues to be difficult in the midst of the pandemic. Overall, day program revenue is currently at a \$64k unfavorable variance. This will be somewhat offset by the enhanced rates going back to July 18, 2021, which will provide either a 27% or 37% increase to the rate structure depending on the timing of the services. The guidance for this increase was released in late March, so any increases have not yet been realized. Early Intervention revenue continues to be strong compared to budget (\$21k above budget through seven months). Revenue in the homes remains steady but be prepared for fluctuations due to home visits and absences. The food budget continues to be significantly under budget due to all the donated meat and an increase in food stamp allocation during the PHE. Salaries, insurance, repair and maintenance, and mileage reimbursement are down.

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

First: Dennis Kuntz

Second: Julie Pearce

The motion passed unanimously.

Program Presentation

Madeline Landgren presented on the new True Link cards being utilized by people in services. This new tool affords greater independence for people in services while still providing necessary oversight for Representative Payee responsibilities. For example, cards can be funded automatically each week or month based on individual spending abilities. There are also advanced settings for people with rights modifications to support them to regain independence. But more than all of this, people in services are proud to have their own card with their name on it and can make purchases locally or online based on their abilities.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion: "To adjourn the meeting."

First: Ron Schaeffer

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.