



**Board of Directors
Yampa River State Park
Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2021**

Members Attending: Terry Jost, Leslie Bjorgum, Annette Dellacroce, Dennis Kuntz, Ron Schaeffer, Julie Pearce

Members Excused: Susie Baird, Jeff Dockstader, Beth Davison

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

Call to Order

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Motion: “To approve the board meeting minutes from June 9th, 2021.”

First: Leslie Bjorgum

Second: Annette Dellacroce

The motion passed unanimously.

Director’s Report for June 10th through August 6th 2021:

Program & Personnel

On Tuesday, June 8th, Special Olympics Softball and Bocce Ball began for the people in program and they had an absolute blast. The smiles and laughter were undeniably contagious. Folks had fun every Tuesday until the final party on July 27th. This was one of the first group activities to resume since the advent of the pandemic. Leslie Bjorgum and a number of other volunteers work hard to provide this social opportunity for anyone interested in participating from all five counties.

Another fun activity was Bike Day on July 7th made possible by Ski and Bike Kare. Every year, they donate the time and resources of two bike mechanics to tune bikes for people in program. It ends up being a fun gathering at Oak Street Office and a wonderful way to get people outside and exercising.

Each year, more than 100 men embark on a cross-country trip to test their limits, spread awareness, and celebrate the abilities of all people. With three routes kicking off on the West Coast, teams spend the summer crossing the country over a combined 12,000 miles with an arrival at the Capitol Lawn in Washington DC to mark the end of a life-changing event. Along the way, the team spreads the message of disability awareness through local media, and makes stops at partner organizations where they deliver joy to friends in the disability community. This year, a contingency from this group met with individuals in services in a safe, outdoor environment to connect for an evening of fun. Melissa Stadler in Craig and Leah Helme in Steamboat facilitated activities

with the group in their respective counties and fun was had by all. To ensure the safety of people in services, Horizons received confirmation of vaccination status for all participants.

Lindsey Garey was able to recruit two new members for the Family Support Council, both of whom are family members of individuals eligible for services.

Hiring continues to be a challenge, not just for Horizons, but across the state and even the country. As an agency, Horizons is exhausting every avenue to get the word out, including radio ads, the newspaper, Facebook, Indeed.com, Recruitology (hiring firm), flyers, partnering with the nursing program at Colorado Northwest Community College in Craig, a hiring bonus of \$1,500 contingent on staying for at least 6 months, a referral bonus for existing staff that leads to a new hire, and much more. The hiring crisis is such that even the government is trying to create financial incentives for people to return to work.

Nine Horizons staff attended a Mental Health First Aid training facilitated by our community partners at Mind Springs. This day-long training is always an excellent refresher course on handling challenging situations.



Misty Garcia was all smiles while taking part in a practice for Steamboat Springs Special Olympics softball team at Klumker Field. (Photo courtesy of Tim Hancock)

Case Management continues to be instructed by the state to operate virtually until October 1st. This means that many Service Plan meetings and monitoring are conducted via Zoom to

mitigate COVID exposure to individuals receiving services.

The agency is completing a Supported Employment survey for Health Care Policy and Financing. The purpose of the Point in Time survey is to collect the data metrics outlined in SB18-145 to inform future policy decisions. This data collection is/will be an annual, Point in Time Survey for an unduplicated count of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities who are working and who are receiving Supported Employment Services



Athlete Drew Boglioli jumps over the ball as infielder Sue White (in the background) waits for her chance to field the ball during a practice for Steamboat's Special Olympic softball team last week at Klumker Field. (Photo courtesy of Tim Hancock)

through the Supported Living Services (SLS) and Developmental Disabilities (DD) Home and Community Based Waivers.

In addition, Disability Law Colorado (DLC) is the federally mandated Protection and Advocacy (P&A) agency for the state of Colorado. The congressionally created P&A system is a national network of disability rights agencies that provide legal representation and other advocacy services to people with disabilities. To aid the P&A systems in fulfilling their mandate, Congress has given them extensive access authority to obtain records, visit agencies that provide services or employ persons with disabilities, authority to monitor compliance with respect to the rights and safety of individuals with disabilities and, when appropriate, the authority to pursue administrative, legal and other appropriate remedies to ensure the protection of the rights of individuals with disabilities. They will be conducting an in-person monitoring of day program and two residential sites in Routt County on August 17th.

Lindsey participated in a Case Management Directors' meeting on August 5th.

The Leadership Team met with Michael Simms, a representative from our agency insurance company, to review everything from Workers' Compensation claims to transportation policy issues at the state. Michael is an active strategic partner in Alliance and participates in stakeholder meetings with the state. He is always a wealth of information.

Tatum will travel to Denver August 18th and 19th to join the Alliance Executive Committee at the Capital and discuss issues such as the hiring crisis, ongoing COVID issues, the Alliance Summit in September, and related policy issues for the upcoming fiscal year.

Resource Development & Public Relations

Elizabeth Skudneski was hired as the new Resource Development and Public Relations Coordinator for the agency. She hit the ground running by submitting a grant request for \$30,000 to the Rocky Mountain Health Foundation to fund general operating in Moffat County.

Also, Elizabeth submitted a grant request to the Lyons Club in Grand County in the amount of \$3,000 to fund Family Support.

It also seemed like a good time to take a closer look at the way the agency manages and tracks all types of donors. As a result, the Leadership Team decided to invest in the Bloomerang platform which uses a variety of public data sources to verify valid contact information and donor capacity, and provides more meaningful feedback to donors on how their money is being used. In order to develop this database, Elizabeth has been compiling and refining the thousands of donor data profiles from the last 10 years.

Horizons continues to be featured as a beneficiary of this summer's Rise Steamboat donation-based fitness series. Whether you want to get active and join in the summer fitness workouts or simply donate to support this cause, every dollar you help raise, up to \$10,000, will be doubled by Colorado Group Realty's Charitable Foundation.

State News

The Joint Budget Committee met for the June Revenue Forecast reports. Put simply, the results are good and the economy is bouncing back much more quickly than economists expected only a year ago. The Legislative Council Staff (LCS) June forecast anticipates General Fund revenues to be \$14.34 billion in FY 2020-21 and \$14.87 billion in FY 2021-22 – a \$1.62 billion and \$1.06 billion increase from the March revenue forecast respectively. These persistent improvements in the state's economic outlook are due in large part to federal and state stimulus dollars, which have elevated personal incomes throughout the pandemic while allowing Colorado to invest in stabilizing the industries and individuals most severely impacted by COVID-19.

However, it is *important to note* that both revenue forecasts show a TABOR surplus throughout the time period of the fiscal forecast. This means that, although there is more money coming in, there is not more money for the state to spend in upcoming years. Taxpayer refunds are all but guaranteed at this point. So, despite both forecasts projecting higher General Fund revenue compared to earlier estimates, experts still warn of continued budget challenges in years to come and uncertainty as the economy rebuilds from the pandemic.

The Leadership Team has been working on building capacity for people coming off of the waitlist by pursuing the capital project in Hayden, advertising for potential Host Home Providers, and seeking creative ways to serve the seven new resources. Progress for bringing people off of the waitlist continues to be a challenge throughout the state because of an inability to hire direct support professionals.

The HCBS provision in the American Rescue Plan Act will increase the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid HCBS spending by 10 percentage points from April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022. Over the next three years, the Department will use this

additional infusion of short-term funds to increase access to HCBS for Medicaid beneficiaries - benefits that provide older adults and individuals with disabilities, including those with behavioral health needs, with critical services in their homes and communities.

Finance Report

Through May 2021, Horizons continues to be in a stable position financially despite being \$69k unfavorable to budget in Day Program and \$421K down from the year prior. That being said, the agency is gradually phasing in more day program services. Revenue in the homes is \$19k favorable to budget due to the enhanced COVID rates.

Early Intervention continues to be strong compared to budget (\$31.7k favorable). Case Management is 7.7% and \$23.5k below budgeted levels. However, the new Per Member Per Month billing and State General Fund allocation methodology have increased Case Management revenue by 56% compared to last year.

Salaries are \$93k below budget or \$292k down from last fiscal year due to staffing shortages. This is really indicative of the difficulties we have had filling open positions, especially considering that DSP wages were increased by \$1.00/hour effective 2/21/21 on top of a 2% performance increase in that same fiscal year.

If you take out the HHS funds and PPP cash infusions, Horizons is operating at about a \$100k deficit and within \$5k of the projected budget. Working capital ratio is 11:1 (current assets/current liabilities).

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

First: Annette Dellacroce

Second: Dennis Kuntz

The motion passed unanimously.

Program Presentation

Madeline Landgren presented a COVID update to the board. This update included a testing update for surveillance testing, outbreak testing and related requirements for both vaccinated and unvaccinated staff, personal protective equipment requirements, and agency vaccination rates. All comprehensive clients are vaccinated. In addition, the agency has successfully moved the needle from a 68% vaccination rate in February to almost 90% in August despite community vaccination rates only being 72% in Routt and 41% in Moffat. This has been an incredible team effort as Horizons has participate in 14 vaccination clinics facilitated by Public Health and Walgreens in both Moffat and Routt counties.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

Motion: "To adjourn the meeting."

First: Annette Dellacroce

Second: Julie Pearce

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.