



**Board of Directors  
Zoom Only  
Meeting Minutes  
May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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

**Members Excused:** Beth Davison, Jeff Dockstader

**Staff Present:** Tatum Heath, Lindsey Garey, Kate Doyle

**Call to Order**

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** "To approve the board meeting minutes from March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022."

First: Leslie Bjorgum

Second: Annette DellaCroce

The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report for March 10<sup>th</sup> through May 9<sup>th</sup> 2022:**

**Program & Personnel**

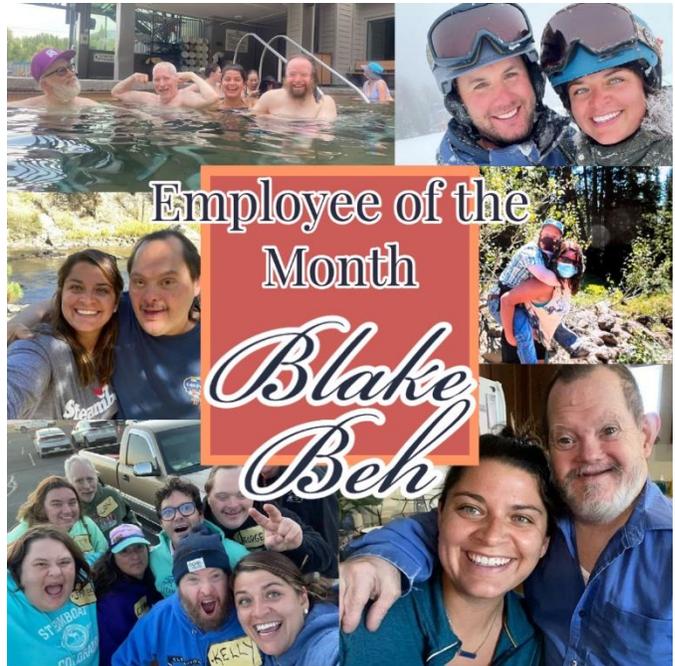
Routt County is back up to "substantial spread" for COVID, while Moffat is considered to be "moderate spread." What that means for Horizons is that the agency is back to twice per week testing for licensed group homes as well as surveillance testing prior to starting shifts.

Horizons continues to work on diversifying service delivery models in an effort to meet the needs of the community while navigating limiting factors such as the housing and hiring crisis. The agency now has three people living in Host Home settings and two Family Caregiver models with potentially two more in development.

For the month of May, the Direct Support Professional of the month is Blake Beh. Blake has been at Horizons for 8 years. She is looking forward to the warmer weather and being able to get outside. She loves biking, backpacking, fishing, and going to the goodwill outlets. Blake's favorite part about working at Horizons is how genuine the people are and getting to take them to the dance theater or the Price is Right.

Bernita Head was the fabulous Direct Support Professional of the month for April. She has been at Horizons for just over a year and loves working one-on-one with the amazing clients and her awesome co-workers. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family and hiking or fishing. Her favorite quote is, "You can't

control how people respond and act but you can control how you act and respond." She's looking forward to summer and warmer days! "Bernita is a CNA and we are very lucky to have her. She is knowledgeable in all things health care and strives to share her knowledge with all her co-workers. Bernita continues to be a great asset to the Horizons team and brings



compassion, care, and fun to the group" - Co-worker.

Ron Schaeffer was kind enough to donate funds to award every Direct Support Professional of the month as well as a year end award. Thank you, Ron.

After more than two years without an indoor social activity, Horizons hosted the Spring Fling party in partnership with the Heart of Steamboat Methodist Church.

People in services and staff danced the evening away after having a delicious meal prepared by staff. Everyone left with a smile and warm heart. A large group of folks from Craig joined the festivities.

Upcoming events that are in the pipeline include Bike Day and The Ability Experience so watch for announcements in the coming weeks.

Case Management is in the process of completing training for the new Care and Case Management system being rolled out by the state. Similarly, Lindsey completed a training for CDASS (consumer directed attendant services and supports).

In March, there was a putt putt golf classic fundraiser, and Horizons was a recipient for a portion of the donations.

There was a booster clinic for clients over 50 or are immune-compromised in Craig on 4/13. In Routt County, Matt at Lyons has agreed to assist with boosters for Steamboat clients.

Tatum joined a Sunrise Review Group with HCPF to discuss regulations for Host Homes.

There was a Scammer Awareness group meeting with Det. Sam Silva for our staff and people in services.

Tatum, Mike, and Madeline met with the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council to investigate the possibility of a partnership with the recycling depot in Steamboat. As a result, a person in services will now be working at the new recycling depot near LiftUp.



The Case Management State SLS survey is back and there will be a corrective action plan.

In addition, Health Care Policy and Financing is requiring that all case management agencies complete a new Myers Stauffer time study. However, the turnaround time to complete a very in depth analysis of case management was so short that Alliance came together and submitted a request for an extension. Horizons now has until 06/02 to submit the completed survey.

There was a Horizons' supervisor training on Wednesday 5/04 at 1:30 pm to review some updated HR policies and procedures.

Katie Carroll from Strings reached out to Horizons in an effort to schedule and resume the outdoor sensory concerts in July. They now have a mobile truck that allows them to set up for concerts at various locations.

### **Resource Development and Public Relations**

On 04/17, there was an article in the Steamboat Pilot highlighting the statewide waiting list for services and the important role of case managers in navigating Medicaid eligibility. Overall, the article was very positive and also discussed some of the efforts of the Yampa Valley Autism Program such as STRIVE. Here is a link to the article:

<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/horizons-agencies-work-to-provide-special-needs-services-as-statewide-waitlist-can-extend-for-over-a-decade/>

Horizons qualified for the Yampa Valley Community Foundation's new multi-year grant program. This means Horizons will receive a \$7,500 General Operating grant during the 2022 Grant Cycle without having to apply. If the 2022 year-end reporting meets certain criteria then YVCF will provide another \$7,500 General Operating grant during the 2023 Granting Cycle without requesting an application. They are also featuring Horizons in their annual newsletter. As a side note, they are building their new office space caddy-corner from the Oak Street office.

The Bessie Minor Swift Foundation awarded Horizons \$2,800 for Early Intervention. Moffat County Key Club awarded Horizons \$1,760 for Moffat Day Program supplies.

Horizons applied for and was awarded \$2,500 from the Heart of Steamboat for Moffat and Routt Day Program.

A grant for Moffat Adult Program was submitted to UCHHealth/Yampa Valley Medical Center Foundation for \$25,000.

Elizabeth interviewed with the Moffat County Key Club for a Day Program grant.

Elizabeth and the Early Intervention team applied for a \$10,000 grant for four EI families whose kids have a rare genetic disorder. This is a new granting foundation called Chive Charities and they will announce funding decisions in late May or early June.

Annual reports were submitted to Moffat County United Way, UCHHealth/YVMCF, and the Grand Foundation.

Horizons was awarded \$10,000 from Moffat County United Way for the Moffat Adult Program and \$5,000 from Moffat Human Resource Council for Moffat staff training.

The WZ Giving Circle also fully funded a \$5,000 request on behalf of an Early Intervention family who just went through a series of medical scares with their daughter.

The first series of re-engagement emails were sent to donors who have lapsed in the last 2 years. Those emails had a 65% open rate (the national average is 24%) which is very encouraging. The first quarterly e-newsletter was also sent out which had a 54% open rate and high engagement with the content and links.

A Thoughtful Parenting article highlighting the new CDC updates to the developmental milestones for children 0-5 was published in the Steamboat Pilot on March 28<sup>th</sup>:

<https://www.steamboatpilot.com/news/health/thoughtful-parenting-watching-for-certain-milestones-can-help-track-your-childs-development/>

### **State News**

The 2.11% ARPA rate increase went into effect on April 1st for the administrative activities within the CCB Contract. This will continue until the end of July. To further complicate reimbursement rates, a 2% Medicaid increase was approved by the Joint Budget Committee and will into effect on 07/01. So for a month, these rates will overlap.

IDD Awareness Day was a virtual event. Alliance worked to make it a fun and engaging event given the circumstances. There was a red-carpet feature that was meant to get legislators involved and do a short cameo for organizations across the state.

### **Financials**

Tatum presented on the financials through March. Here are the highlights from the variance analysis:

- Day Program - \$17k down in Routt, \$10k in Moffat. Routt returning to higher levels. Not quite at pre-pandemic levels, but have done a great job returning to more programming.
- Homes – Up \$87k due to APRA and Minimum Wage rate increases; this will continue throughout the remainder of the fiscal year.
- Early Intervention – Down \$13k. Slightly down due to staffing changes, but revenue increased in March.
- Supported Living Services and Family Support are up \$20k and Moffat SLS is up \$5k.
- Gov't Grant Support/HUD – Up \$76k from Phase 4/Rural Provider Relief Funds.
- Salaries – Down \$216k due to continued staff vacancies, notably in Routt Residential.
- Purchased/Medical – Up \$19k due to new Host Homes and increased Family Support revenue.
- Insurance – Down \$72k, savings in health insurance is due to staff vacancies.

- Supplies – Down \$47k due to budget for PPE that has not been needed.
- Staff Development – Up \$12k for advertising to fill staff vacancies.

**Motion:** “To approve the financials as presented.”

First: Julie Pearce

Second: Dennis Kuntz

The motion passed unanimously.

### **Program Presentation**

Kate Doyle and Lindsey Garey provided a very informative and educational program presentation regarding LENA (Language Environment Analysis). LENA is a developer of advanced technology and programs to accelerate language development of children birth to three years of age and to close opportunity gaps. The nonprofit organization uses a technology system that comprises a LENA device, patented processing software, and secure, cloud-based data access. The technology is used as the cornerstone of programs aimed at increasing interactive talk between children and caregivers, implemented by community organizations around the world. This is one of the many tools that Horizons’ therapists use to educate families and kiddos, thereby changing the trajectory of peoples’ lives.

### **Public Comment**

None.

### **Adjournment**

**Motion:** “To adjourn the meeting.”

First: Julie Pearce

Second: Annette DellaCroce

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.