



**Board of Directors  
Yampa River State Park & Zoom  
Meeting Minutes  
August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

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

**Members Excused:** Jeff Dockstader

**Staff Present:** Tatum Heath, Madeline Landgren, Erik Petersen

**Call to Order**

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** "To approve the board meeting minutes from June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022."

First: Julie Pearce

Second: Annette DellaCroce

The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report for June 9<sup>th</sup> through August 8<sup>th</sup> 2022:**

**Program & Personnel**

There are no words for the loss of Sue White. She was a light the likes of which has never been seen. She was an icon and an inspiration. Her infectious laugh and amazing smile had the power to completely change your day. Life will never be the same without her. Horizons will be handling the funeral arrangements which will be a small gathering of close friends and relatives. Then there will be a separate celebration of life in the next couple of weeks. Olympian Hall makes the most sense given her sponsored flag and the ability to have both an indoor and outdoor component to the celebration. More information will be forthcoming.

Horizons will be scheduling time to help people in program and staff to work through this loss. Dr. JoAnne Grace works in hospice and has provided staff training in the past. The agency is working to schedule a time at day program for her to come in for clients and staff alike.

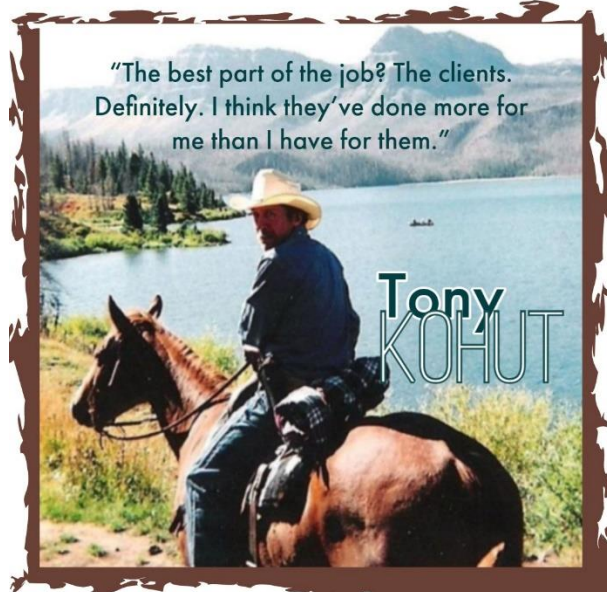
In addition, Horizons will pay for up to 3 sessions with a licensed therapist of staff's choosing to assist in vicarious trauma and grief counseling.

On Tuesday, August 9th at 6:30, there was a Special Olympic awards ceremony in Sue's honor.

Tatum completed the final step in the Medicaid Revalidation process last Friday with a virtual site visit from CMS (Center for Medicaid and Medicare). This is the key component in finalizing the billing approval for all Medicaid services at Horizons.

Sarah-Grace, Day Program Coordinator at Milestones, announced that there will be pontoon boating at Stagecoach on August 25th, 1-5 pm for people in services.

Congratulations to Tony Kohut, the August DSP of the month. Tony has been with Horizons for 6 years. He loves getting to interact with the individuals and they are his favorite part of coming to work. Outside of work, he enjoys woodworking in his shop and specializes in making cabinets and other pieces of furniture. His favorite quote is, "Life is difficult...suffering is optional." One of his coworkers said, "Tony pays attention to detail and knows all the ins and outs of the individuals, their likes and dislikes. He always finds a way to get folks out and having fun!"



From a COVID perspective, the past month has been very challenging programmatically. In Routt County alone, there were 16 positive cases this past month. The agency was short staffed and had to submit a request to the state of Colorado for emergency staffing due to COVID outbreaks. The agency received assistance from 4 CNAs for a few weeks. They have been a much-needed resource to get the

homes through the acute staffing crisis. Madeline will provide a more robust summary in the program presentation.

Horizons was forced to cancel day program in Routt County for a couple of weeks due to outbreaks. However, Milestones will resume some day program activities this week with a masking requirement regardless of vaccination status.

While there have not been any applicants in Routt County, Moffat County received 3 new applicants this past month.

The Leadership Team has been working on the annual Health Insurance renewal for employees. Unfortunately, the current carrier Cigna would only renew coverage if Horizons agreed to a 16-19% increase in premiums. This amounted to around \$50k. As a result, Horizons will be going with a new carrier through Anthem that essentially maintains the same benefit coverage for employees with the least amount of impact. Meghan will work with the insurance broker to schedule enrollment meetings this month.

There was an in-person Human Resource Council meeting in Craig last week that Jes attended. Similarly, Moffat County United Way is doing a short video highlighting prominent non-profits in Craig and asked to include Horizons. Jes and Cathy have agreed to participate in a short video talking about services in the community and the importance of the United Way.

Tatum and Lindsey continue to meet with the Office of Community Living at Health Care Policy and Financing regarding the state's transition for case management redesign. Horizons has been assigned a facilitator to assist in policy writing, education, and system change. The agency continues to maintain a rural exemption, allowing Horizons to provide both case management and services.

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

The Ability Experience (Journey of Hope) gave Routt and Moffat counties \$500 respectively after visiting in July.

A grant was submitted to the Fraser Valley Lions Club to purchase 60 copies of My First 100 Words in English and in Spanish to give to incoming Early Intervention families in Grand County. If funded, this will be a two-year supply.

The Steamboat Pilot and Today and the Craig Daily Press both published an article about the power of Host Home Providers in the monthly HRC column.

The summer quarterly e-newsletter was sent on July 8th and had a 44% open rate with a 6% click-through rate. It featured the Adult Program and led to a first-time donor giving to the Adult Program as a result.

### **State News**

On June 15th, Alliance and all Alliance member agencies joined ANCOR in sending a letter to U.S. Senate Leadership Advocating for HCBS (Home and Community Based Services) funding. As of today, the \$150 billion in HCBS funding is still in the budget reconciliation process. However, lots of negotiations are taking place in the US Senate this week. There are three components to this budget reconciliation process: prescription drug pricing, taxes, and climate change. The savings from drug pricing reform will pay for HCBS. More information about the amount of the savings available from the drug pricing will be forthcoming if it passes.

## **Financials**

Erik Petersen presented the financials through April. Overall, Horizons continues to trend similarly to the prior month of March with an overall surplus of about \$40k due to the ongoing hiring crisis.

**Motion:** "To approve the financials as presented"

First: Ron Schaeffer

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

**Motion:** "To add Erik Petersen as a signer for all Horizons' financial accounts"

First: Julie Pearce

Second: Annette DellaCroce

## **Program Presentation**

Madeline provided a robust update on the most recent COVID outbreaks at group homes and Milestones day program in Routt County, necessitating the solicitation of emergency CNAs at multiple group homes.

## **Public Comment**

Michael Turner, former board member and guardian of a person in services, joined the board meeting to discuss the ongoing successes related to the Host Home arrangement. Overall, he is very pleased with the services his son is receiving in this new service delivery model.

## **Adjournment**

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

First: Ron Schaeffer

Second: Leslie Bjorgum

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.