



**Board of Directors  
Yampa River State Park  
Meeting Minutes  
April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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

**Members Excused:** Beth Davison

**Staff Present:** Tatum Heath, Erik Petersen, Madeline Landgren, Lindsey Garey, Meghan McNamara

**Call to Order**

Terry Jost called the meeting to order.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** "To approve the board meeting minutes from March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024"

First: Annette DellaCroce

Second: Ron Schaeffer

The motion passed unanimously.

**Director's Report for March 14<sup>th</sup> to April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

**Program & Personnel**

One of the most important things that Horizons does in the community is to communicate with emergency personnel about the individual needs of people in services by advocating for an adjusted approach through de-escalation techniques and crisis prevention interventions. In the United States, up to 50% of the people killed by law enforcement have a disability such as IDD or a mental health disorder. Detective Sergeant Sam Silva reached out to see if Horizons would be willing to partner with local law enforcement and Pulse Line, an agency that provides training to community members and law enforcement. As part of the Colorado IMPACT Initiative, Pulse Line will be holding over 150 presentations for people with disabilities and/or mental health disorders and their loved ones to give them tools to empower them, communicate with 1st responders, ask for accommodations, advocate for themselves, and ultimately feel and be safe with first responders. These 2-hour presentations are free for staff, people in services, families, and community members. The dates of upcoming trainings are to be determined. There will be trainings in Routt, Moffat, and Grand Counties. This will be

a great opportunity to include Yampa Valley Autism Program, STARS, True North, Special Olympics, and other community partners. Stay tuned for more information.

Case Management Redesign is in full swing and letters are going out to people in services, guardians, and family members that identify the new incoming agency, Rocky Mountain Health Plans. These letters are prescribed templates from the state of Colorado and Horizons does not have any control over the content. This may lead to some confusion for some people. One of the important points is that the actual services for individuals will not change, but the case manager will change beginning 07/01/2024. If people or family members have questions regarding this federally mandated change, they have been directed to speak to Lindsey Garey or Tatum Heath.

Similarly, Horizons had the first of many Case Management Redesign Transition meetings on 4/03. The focus was on department staff contacts, overview of transition expectations, transition resources overview, SharePoint Setup, disenrollment of the case management Medicaid account, start-up/closure plan guidance, HCPF communications, CHCBS transition, preliminary staffing discussion for managing capacity, and the paper file transfer of documents from the past six years to Rocky Mountain Health Plans. Perhaps most importantly, Tatum, Lindsey, and Erik will be managing the federal financial closeout review expectations for exiting case management expenses. There are federal laws that require exiting case management agencies to undergo a federal audit survey that accounts for all case management expenditures since the advent of Horizons. Any expenditure that exceeds \$5,000 must be returned to HCPF.

Tatum and Madeline met with Ben Karp from the Rocky Mountain Down Syndrome Association to talk about potential partnering or opportunities to provide education and outreach in the community. There is a great deal of potential with programming such as the sensory concerts at Strings, Opera Steamboat, and similar community events.

Tuesday, April 2nd, was Light it Up Blue. Every April Autism Speaks celebrates World Autism Month, beginning with the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. This year marks the 17th annual World Autism Awareness Day.

Tatum, Lindsey, and Erik met with the Office of Early Childhood on 4/02 to review the proposed budget for the upcoming year for Early Intervention Services. Currently, the statewide budget for Early Intervention has a shortfall of approximately \$8 million because of continued growth in population across the state and revenue shortfalls due to Tabor and Gallagher.

The week of 4/01 was the last week for skiing and snowshoeing via STARS for the winter.

IDD Day at the Capital was on 3/20 this year and it was a great day advocating for people in services and sharing stories about amazing staff doing amazing work.

There is a Crisis Prevention Intervention Training for staff on 5/03 in Craig. This is a required training for all staff working directly with people in services.

Congratulations to Andrew, the direct support professional of the Month for April. Andrew recently started at Horizons and has already shown himself to be an impressive team member. "Andrew has an ability to care for Horizons' individuals in a professional and supportive, yet fun and natural way." He loves snowboarding in the winter and backpacking or climbing during the summer months. He is excited for the time outside and spikeball tournaments that come with the spring weather. His favorite quote is, "All men die but it is rare that a man truly lives."

The Talent Show for people in services is rescheduled for May 2nd at 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Community Center in Hayden. People are already hard at work on their routines and performances.

The Early Intervention referrals just keep coming in, especially in Routt County. There might be as many as 14 additional folks for Extended Part C in the past month alone. Sarah Grimes and Michelle Hoza will be talking with school districts in the near future to message information regarding the process to receive therapies.

The generous Steamboat Dance Theatre team was kind enough to invite people in services to the dress rehearsal on 4/03. Being able to see the show is always a highlight of spring and Horizons is appreciative of being able to foster relationships in the community through events like these.

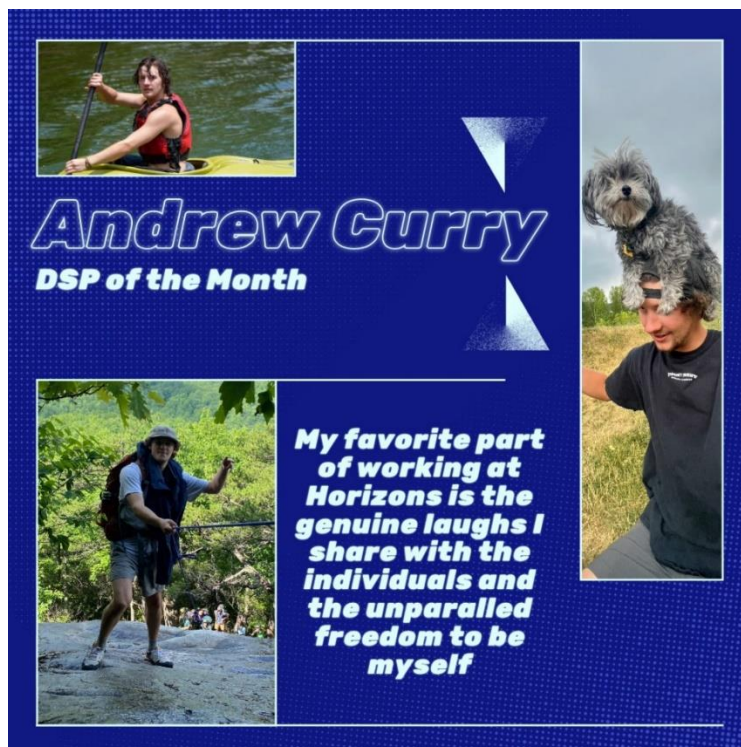
As in years past, students from CNCC partnered with Horizons on 3/19 in Craig to focus on dental care for people in services. This ongoing collaboration continues to be a success story that builds relationships in the community and provides professional guidance in providing dental care for people in services.

The end of year party for Special Olympics was in March at the STARS Ranch.

Staff were asked to complete a housing survey that was on ADP. As an agency, Horizons is working to focus resources to potentially create more affordable housing for staff, specifically in Hayden. Now that Brown Ranch is not a viable option in the next 3 years, the agency will be allocating resources to address this need as it is now the greatest limiting factor in finding staff, let alone expansion of services.

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

Jennifer Kidwell and Elizabeth Skudneski interviewed with Youth United Way in Moffat County for a small grant to fund this summer's cross-county camping trip. Elizabeth answered follow-up questions from the United Way application. There will be an interview on 4.12 and awards will be announced within the next 4-6 weeks.



One of Horizons' biggest donors, UCHHealth/Yampa Valley Medical Center Foundation, awarded Horizons \$18,000 for the Moffat County Adult Program. This is excellent news and a significant increase from last year.

Jes McMillan continues to represent Horizons at the Moffat County HRC meetings in Craig.

### **State News**

During the Alliance State Forum meeting last week, the Health Department discussed the expansion of the IRSS (PCA, SLS, & Day Program) survey teams as they now make up the majority of surveys for providers. During the pandemic, almost all of the group homes in Colorado closed due to the onerous oversight regulations and isolation requirements during COVID outbreaks. As a result, the vast majority of people across the state in the comprehensive program are now served in host homes. Horizons is literally the only agency that has not closed a group home in the state of Colorado. In addition, starting 9/15/2024, the Health Department will be surveying on the new rules and regulations that pertain to host home environments and the programmatic expectation related to the separation of case management from program delivery.

### **Audit Exit by Calvin Logan from LTJ, LLC Certified Public Accountants**

LTJ, LLC audited consolidated financial statements of Horizons Specialized Services and Affiliate (jointly, the Center), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as of June 30, 2023, and the related consolidated statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the consolidated financial statements. The purpose and intent of the audit is to express an unmodified opinion on those audited consolidated financial statements which is the best kind of opinion. Horizons continues to have a strong financial position, especially relative to the measure of Current Assets to Current Liabilities and Current Ratio.

### **Program Presentation**

For the program presentation, Meghan McNamara presented information regarding a staff survey specific to housing. Similarly, the board reviewed and discussed information related to potential sites for a small home community or apartment complex for staff and people in services in Hayden.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Adjournment**

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

First: Leslie Bjorgum

Second: Ron Schaeffer

The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.