



# Department of Housing & Human Services

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## **Family Resource Network Regional Council Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, September 9, 2021

3:00-4:30pm, ZoomGov

**Present:** Robin Bohannon, Danielle Butler, Susan Caskey, Marc Cowell, Suzanne Crawford, Dr. Perla Delgado, Kristen Hyser, Sam Messier, Christina Pacheco, Camille Rodriguez, Simon Smith, Karin Stayton, Julie Van Domelen, and Dennis Whalen

**Absent:** Rebecca Alderfer, Betsey Martens, and Johnny Terrell

**Guests Present:** John Green, Katrina Harms, Stefanie Kenny, Tammy Lawrence, and Courtney Schwartz

**Staff Present:** Lane Volpe, Whitney Wilcox, and Jim Williams

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### **Welcome and Introductions**

The regular meeting of the FRN Regional Council was called to order by Christina Pacheco.

### **Approval of July 2021 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes**

Christina called for approval of the July 2021 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes. Motion for approval by Suzanne and seconded by Dennis. No discussion. Minutes approved.

### **Announcements and Updates**

Christina and Whitney shared a number of updates including:

- Camille Rodriguez and Sam Messier were both appointed to the Regional Council by the Boulder County Commissioners at the end of August.
- Susan Caskey was named as Boulder County Housing and Human Services Interim Co-Director.
- The November Regional Council meeting has been rescheduled from November 11 to November 17. The Boulder County Commissioners are tentatively scheduled to attend the November meeting.
- Agendas continue to be designed to include updates on activities outlined in the FRN Work Plan and needs that arise as LACs and Regional Council members continue to respond to the pandemic. Members can check the status of FRN Work Plan activities at any time at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18nzQU5mqMqMqnkIXwD1FtNTOyxOMPjsv/view?usp=sharing>. Members can connect with Whitney if they are unable to access the file.
- Key metrics are being identified to track FRN Work Plan status in consultation with teams involved in FRN Work Plan activities and LAC early childhood representatives, including ECCBC, Wild Plum, Clinica, and Teens, Inc. These metrics will be shared on the Google Drive and reviewed and discussed at an upcoming Regional Council meeting.

## **November Regional Council Agenda – Planning**

Boulder County Commissioners are tentatively scheduled to attend November Regional Council meeting. Regional Council members discussed different topics to discuss at meeting, including FRN overview, affordable housing, early childhood, and equity and social justice.

### **American Rescue Plan Act Updates: City of Boulder, City of Longmont, and Boulder County (Updates and Q&A)**

Kristin provided update on behalf of City of Boulder. City staff recommended to City Council to use funds to address city organization financial recovery, community recovery, inclusive economic recovery, and transformative long-term investments. Investments must advance racial equity, sustainability, and resilience goals, meet a demonstrated need/gap created or exacerbated by the pandemic, leverages engagement opportunities, reflects innovative approaches to addressing community needs, and leverages other funding sources.

City of Boulder will receive approximately \$20 million and propose 25% to address immediate needs and reserve remaining 75% for longer-term transformative projects. Funds for immediate needs will include restoring services, including fee-based recreation services, severe weather shelter, neighborhood connections grants, and public art maintenance. Funds will also be used to support broadband connection to Boulder Housing Partners sites, economic development work, water bills, workplace transformation initiatives, emergency rental assistance, CVRF investments (including food, child care, and health), and emerging public health needs. City staff are currently exploring longer-term transformational projects. Recommendations still need to go through formal public review process for approval.

Christina provided update on behalf of City of Longmont. Staff are still working internally to identify projects, but have identified overarching goals including affordable housing, whole neighborhood projects, healthy childhood environments, household assistance, and capital infrastructure. City staff have been organized into multi-disciplinary teams to create a proposal that will help identify transformational investments. Christina used early childhood and retention of child care staff as an example of how the City of Longmont might use funds to transform and improve this system. Staff will bring proposals to the City Manager September 20th.

Katrina Harms provided update on Boulder County's process, a countywide community outreach effort to get input from residents. The effort is being led by a steering committee comprised of five community organizations who are leading the outreach process across their networks. Outreach and events are to be completed by end of September. The Commissioners will be reaching out to local municipal and government leaders.

Suzanne Crawford shared via the chat feature that there is still high demand for financial assistance (including rent, utilities, and water bill assistance) and that most COVID relief grants are gone and donations have slowed down. Danielle Butler echoed Suzanne's comment on behalf of child care providers, who have seen tuition loss due to COVID quarantines, staff shortages, etc.

### **Behavioral Health Updates (Updates and Q&A)**

At July meeting, MHP and Clinica staff shared information about increased behavioral health needs by young people and workforce shortages. Members shared the following updates:

- Tammy Lawrence, BVSD Director of Student Support Services, East Network, shared update from BVSD. She shared that they've seen uptick in needs for families throughout the district. About 140 students and families responded to district survey requesting additional behavioral health and other supports prior to the start of the school year, which has since grown to 165. Elementary mental health advocates team has grown from 6 to 11 advocates to ensure consistent support across the district, MHP is still working to hire preventionist/interventionist at Nederland High School and Monarch. Typically have had about 335 referrals a year, currently at 110 referrals. Unclear if the significant increase is a result of more awareness about mental health and education to families about these services or increased need. They are working to bring new programs like RISE (Resilience in Schools and Educators) to schools to help educators build social-emotional learning and support for students and families. Expressed thanks to MHP for its partnership, who have offered webinars and trainings since the Spring.
- Kristin provided update on behalf of the Funders Collaborative, which is partnering with MHP to pilot Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) community mental health trainings thrice monthly beginning in October, including two 8-hour and one 90-minute trainings. Trainings will be offered in Boulder, Longmont, East County, and Mountains in English with Spanish translation. Beginning in January, MHFA training will be available in English and Spanish. Goal is to touch 8,000 people with MHFA training over the next five years.
- Christina provided update from City of Longmont's Supporting Action for Mental Health. Several of their larger grants to support this work have ended. Christina extended invite to the MHFA planning committee to partner and share resources, and committed funds to supporting Longmont trainings, Spanish-language trainer, and trainers they have trained in MHFA.
- Courtney shared that all four LACs met to hear updates from Clinica and MHP staff on the pediatric behavioral health emergency. Members brainstormed opportunities to help address. Ideas included: behavioral health training for direct service staff that includes information on 1) how to have conversations about mental health and resiliency with youth and their families and 2) how to optimize child and youth programming with evidence-based pro-social activities; increased access to and decreased stigma around behavioral health (including co-locating behavioral health supports in agencies and increasing warm handoff processes); and increase in information sharing about services (including well child checks and support groups). Katrina added that Nederland designated short-term rental funds to the Nederland Food Pantry to distribute.

### **Closed Loop Referral/Food Security Pilot and Boulder County Connect Updates**

Boulder County HHS staff Stefanie Kenny and John Green provided updates on food security pilot between Clinica, EFAA, and Sister Carmen to facilitate electronic referrals, one of the strategies in the FRN work plan to improve health and well-being for families with children p-5.

Stefanie provided an update on Boulder County Connect (BCC), which is merging with Boulder County HHS internal Connect application. This will result in expanded features across the network and help facilitate data sharing. EFAA and Sister Carmen are scheduled to move to the merged system in January and hope to have all agencies moved on to merged system by June 2022.

John provided update on food security pilot, which began a year ago. The pilot supports Clinica patient advocates use of their data system to make direct electronic referrals to EFAA's data system, whose staff make updates on status of the referral. Any updates EFAA staff make in its data system on referral status

are shared back in Clinica's electronic health record system. Clinica, EFAA, and HHS meet monthly to align practice, expectations, and technology. Sister Carmen will be onboarded in late October and the team is planning to expand referrals to services beyond food assistance. John also shared that their team is engaged in a pilot with Mile High 211 to help create a statewide inventory system that any data system, including Boulder County Connect, can plug in to learn more about community-based organization resources.

The meeting was adjourned.