



Department of Housing & Human Services

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Family Resource Network Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2020

3:00-4:30pm, Zoom

Present: Christina Pacheco Sims, Danielle Butler, Dennis Whalen, Julie Van Domelen, Marc Cowell, Rebecca Alderfer, Suzanne Crawford, Simon Smith, Margaret Crespo, Diane Lauer, Betsey Martens, and Kristen Hyser

Absent: Jeff Zayach, Garrett Brownlee Plantz, Karin Stayton, and Will Kugel

Guests Present: Abby McClelland, Katie Warning, Joni Lynch, and Courtney Schwartz

Staff Present: Angela Lancis Macris, Jim Williams, Susan Caskey, and Whitney Wilcox

Welcome and Introductions

The regular meeting of the FRN Regional Council was called to order by Suzanne Crawford. Suzanne announced that Dennis Whalen will join the Regional Council as a representative of the Peak to Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance, which had previously been represented by Janette Taylor. She also reviewed housekeeping items and provided overview of agenda.

Approval of September 2020 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes (decision item)

September minutes were approved.

Review and Discussion of Regional Council and LAC Feedback on the draft FRN Proposal (discussion & decision item) (see the attached FRN Work Plan PowerPoint presentation) Whitney Wilcox provided overview of the process and feedback received by both the Local Area Collaboratives (LACs) and Regional Council. Input was solicited through presentations to and discussions at the Regional Council meeting and meeting attended by LAC members. Members of all groups were also invited to provide input directly into a shared document. Regional Council members unable to attend the September meeting where proposal was discussed were contacted by Whitney, Suzanne Crawford, and Christina Pacheco Sims should members want more information.

The four LACs were convened in late October. Feedback received was largely positive, with support and agreement around the three focus areas, strategies, and recommendations to strengthen feedback loops between the Regional Council and LACs. Multiple groups raised concerns about lack of attention to the Older Adult population. This population is a focus in the Mountains and a growing population in Boulder County. One group requested more information about focus of prenatal-5 population, several members expressed excitement about the focus on this population.

The concern about the Older Adult population was also shared at the September Regional Council meeting. Whitney recommended connecting with Area Agency on Aging (AAA), which serves this population's needs, exploring adding activities focused on multigenerational households to the work

plan, and reiterated that the LACs will continue to focus on service coordination on behalf of all vulnerable residents, including an added focus on prenatal-5.

Whitney also reviewed feedback from the September Regional Council meeting and proposed strategies to address. See attached PowerPoint presentation for recommendations. Whitney also shared feedback received from Margaret Crespo, who identified need for more information about services for Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) families new to needing resources, and Diane Lauer, who shared importance of promoting Parents Involved in Education (PIE) program and encouraging eligible households to complete the application for free and reduced lunch for the St. Vrain Valley School District (SVVSD).

Whitney also provided update on status of two of the Early Childhood funding strategies identified in the proposal. Since September, Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC), Boulder County Community Services and Housing and Human Services Departments, the City of Longmont, and City of Boulder requested and were awarded CARES Act funding and are in the process of standing up different grant programs.

Whitney asked if there were any questions and whether there was agreement to move the proposal to a work plan and connect with members to discuss data indicators. Julie Van Domelen and Suzanne expressed support for the proposal. There were no other questions. Suzanne asked for agreement to move the proposal forward, which members approved.

Data Review and Discussion

Boulder County Housing and Human Services' Analytics and Reporting Manager Abby McClelland, City of Longmont's Children, Youth, and Families Manager Christina Pacheco Sims, and ECCBC's Executive Director Danielle Butler provided brief presentations highlighting reports and metrics focused on prenatal-5 population. Links to published reports reviewed include:

- [City of Longmont's 2020 Work Plan](#)
- ECCBC's [Status of Children in Boulder County Reports \(2015, 2016, and 2018\)](#). Additional ECCBC reports can be found on its [publications webpage](#), including the Early Childhood Framework of Boulder County and Indicators Report.

Members met in small groups to discuss questions and next steps given the review of the data presented. Comments from group report outs are summarized below:

- Members said the metrics shared were comprehensive and suggested identifying a subset of key indicators to track. Also requested metrics by catchment area to better understand need in different communities.
- There was interest in reproducing ECCBC's Indicators report to reflect recent data. Danielle estimated cost at \$25k-50k, which would include hiring a consultant. She recommended a team review recommendations outlined in Early Childhood Framework to identify status of those recommendations and any additional next steps. Boulder County Public Health will publish updated Status of Children in Boulder County Report sometime in future.
- Members were interested in identifying metrics that aren't currently collected but valuable to measure and identifying the resources needed to accomplish. Can these indicators be tracked in work plan?
- Need to look at information gaps in the data and identify where to target resources.

- Members were also interested in housing stability and juvenile justice data and using data to understand effectiveness of different interventions for different populations.

Local Area Collaborative (LAC) Updates

Representatives from the different LACs will provide updates and needs/gaps being discussed at workgroups as part of Regional Council meetings moving forward. Katie Warning, Sister Carmen Program Director, provided a report on behalf of the East County LAC:

- Boulder County HHS's Health Coverage team attended East County LAC meeting to brainstorm opportunities to reach eligible but not enrolled (EBNE) population in East County. Ideas included providing FAQ to Workforce staff operating the Virtual Call Center and answering questions about unemployment, ECCBC and Sister Carmen adding health insurance question to existing forms, ensuring client-facing staff are aware of open enrollment and referral info; and ensuring Boulder County Connect (BCC) has a referral option that facilitates Health Coverage team's ability to connect with interested residents.
- Needs and gaps identified by East County LAC include continued isolation of seniors and challenges in successfully engaging them in social opportunities; funding for PPE and thermometers; and concern about staff burnout with cases increasing again. The LAC talked about exploring resiliency tools and finding ways to provide tools to support all front-line staff.

Joni Lynch, OUR Center Family Resource Center Manager, provided a report on behalf of the Longmont LAC:

- Focus has been on COVID-19, including need for affordable units, food, rent and utility assistance, and impact on families with young children.
- LAC continues to be helpful venue to facilitate communication and coordinating services, including learning about new services (such as internet support through SVVSD) and explaining policies (around appointments and financial assistance).
- LAC members have also identified opportunities to promote food services (including SVVSD meal curbside pickup) and increase food coordination through the development of a Food Dashboard that tracks number of households accessing food through different sites, including OUR Center, City of Longmont, and Community Food Share. In August, OUR Center reported a 27% increase in demand for food.
- HHS's Health Coverage team also attended Longmont LAC meeting to discuss opportunities to reach EBNE individuals. Members identified barriers in enrollment due to documentation status, fear around public charge, affordability of insurance, newly unemployed because of COVID, and bureaucracy and paperwork. Also received additional information about tax credits and referral info to share with teams.
- Members have expressed concern about families with children at home, new surges, families with children with special needs, additional responsibilities and stress on teachers, unmet needs of undocumented population in Longmont, and food coordination in Longmont.

Katie administered poll to understand extent to which updates met Regional Council members expectations. Feedback was mixed, but majority of responses indicated the updates reflected expectations, a couple of members wanted more detail and some less detail, and one member said it was not what they expected. Kristin Hyser shared appreciation for update and encouraged staff and LAC

members to share obstacles and road blocks they have identified that Regional Council members can help to address. Invited honest and transparent feedback from the LACs to Regional Council.

Updates from Aligned Work

Susan Caskey provided update on [Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families \(CPTF\)](#), an initiative that was awarded proof of concept from four federal agencies and will be working with CPTF to help implement their work. They are focusing on prenatal-1 population and have three subgroups, including Early Touchpoints, System Alignment, and Community Norming. Susan and Jeff Zayach are on leadership team and Jim Williams is working on many of the group's communications activities. Counties will be able to choose their level of involvement in CPTF.

Susan also provided update on the Maternal Child Coordinated Services System (MCCSS). She reported that the coordinated entry pilot through Clinica has served 89 children, whose parents were screened and connected with home visitation programs. MCCSS is also working with Salud to implement the home visitation program [Family Connects](#), which will be developed in 2021 and implemented in 2022.

Nominations and Elections for Chair and Vice Chair (Suzanne Crawford)

Suzanne said nominations for Chair and Vice Chair positions will be held at January meeting. Suzanne and Christina are willing to continue in their roles for another term if re-elected. Suzanne also said she and Christina would be happy to talk to any members interested in the roles to better understand responsibilities and time commitment.

The meeting was adjourned.