



Department of Housing & Human Services

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Family Resource Network Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 17th, 2021

3:00-4:30pm, MS Teams

Present: Rebecca Alderfer, Robin Bohannon, Susan Caskey, Marc Cowell, Suzanne Crawford, Dr. Perla Delgado, Kristen Hyser, Christina Pacheco, Camille Rodriguez, Simon Smith, Karin Stayton, Julie Van Domelen, Dennis Whalen, Rick Winter (on behalf of Danielle Butler)

Absent: Betsey Martens, Sam Messier, and Johnny Terrell

Guests Present: Commissioner Matt Jones and Commissioner Marta Loachamin

Staff Present: Katrina Harms, Joni Lynch, Lane Volpe, Whitney Wilcox, and Jim Williams

Welcome and Introductions

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

Approval of September 2021 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes

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

Discuss presentation for Boulder County Commissioners

Christina shared that she, Kristin, and Whitney met with the Boulder County Commissioners to provide overview of the Family Resource Network, who will join the group later in the meeting. The presentation today will provide the County Commissioners with more information about the Family Resource Network and opportunities for discussion between the Commissioners and members.

Regional Council Leadership transition

Christina will be transitioning out of Chair position in January, with Kristin transitioning in to the Chair position. There was discussion about Vice Chair recruitment. Members interested in the role can reach out to Christina, Kristin, and/or Whitney with questions or to express interest. Nominations and elections will occur during the January 2022 meeting.

Members provided updates on aligned initiatives and organization services, including:

- *Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families (CPTF) and Maternal Child Coordinated Services System (MCCSS):* Susan shared that Boulder County Public Health's Daphne McCabe will be representing Boulder County on CPTF. She added that Boulder County was one of four counties that received a grant to help support Family Connects, an evidence-based program that supports newborns and their families. Camille added that previous BCPH Director Jeff Zayach will serve in a consultant role as part of the Family Connects planning period.

- *BCPH*: Camille encouraged members to promote the availability of vaccinations for 5-11 year-olds and boosters for vaccinated adults. For more information on vaccine clinics, see <https://www.boco.org/COVIDVaccine> and <https://www.comassvax.org/>.
- *BCDHHS*: Susan shared that other county human services departments are making pay adjustments and providing signing bonuses that may be attracting workforce to other areas of the state. Susan asked for members to continue to share successful recruitment and retention strategies. Susan said she's also working closely with MHP to talk about successful strategies as we continue to see widespread behavioral health vacancies across the front range and the state.
- *EFAA*: Julie shared that all three FRCs received additional utility assistance funding from Energy Outreach Colorado (EOC) and are working to increase their diaper allocations.
- *BCDHHS*: Jim shared that applications for the Spoke on Coffman in Longmont will be released on December 14th. More info at <https://www.thespokeoncoffman.org/>.
- *City of Boulder*: Kristin shared that the City of Boulder facilitated a panel of nonprofit partners discussing available local homelessness services. She also shared that the City of Boulder hosted a housing equity symposium.
 - The discussion of homelessness services can be found here (use passcode when prompted: g1?vn!e5) <https://zoom.us/rec/share/racr5qgemOd6lSpPlurcuyDIARLUIC6xuvwUQUIDPvHzhB7Ohx5vFGd7M3hqD9LQ.vDjygCJVYkEjCURJ>
 - Overview of the housing equity symposium can be found here: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/events/housing-equity-symposium> and video and related media here: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/housing-equity-symposium>.
- *Peak to Peak*: Dennis shared that Chris Current is retiring from her position with the Nederland Food Pantry. They are currently interviewing candidates and will provide an update once a candidate is selected. Chris has agreed to stay on to train the new hire so do not have a departure date yet. EFAA hired a new southern mountain resource liaison and OUR Center is recruiting for a new mountain resource liaison to serve the northern region.
- *BCCS*: Robin hired a Digital Divide Project Manager to administer ARPA awards to nonprofit organizations and is contracting with Sister Carmen to support resource navigators as part of their Bridging Digital Divides program.
- *Clinica*: Simon shared that Clinica has been working to create access to services in both Nederland and Gilpin County. They have also been working with BVSD to provide preventative oral health-based services at some of the high needs elementary schools in the district. He reported they are also seeing significant workforce recruiting and retention challenges, as well as significant COVID surges.
- *ECCBC*: Rick shared that Annette Crawford is working on Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) and they have just hired their first bilingual coach.

FRN Overview and Q&A with Boulder County Commissioners

Commissioner Jones and Commissioner Loachamin joined the meeting and Christina facilitated introductions. Christina, Kristin, and Julie provided a brief overview of the Family Resource Network ([see presentation slide deck here](#)).

There was discussion about how FRN liaises and partners with government, nonprofit, and community-based groups:

- Christina shared that many of the groups FRN works with take a hybrid approach to collaboration that includes both government and community representation. She shared that Longmont's behavioral health work was in partnership with community members and cited another example of working with residents to provide feedback on services they receive.
- Kristin shared another example where government organizations comprise committee membership and work with a consultant to help facilitate community engagement to understand community needs around specific issues.
- Marc shared that the FRCs have participant advisory committees that are used to help inform service delivery and the Regional Council utilizes input from the Local Area Collaboratives (LACs).
- Julie talked about grassroots partnerships EFAA has in place to connect residents to services including voter and vaccine registration.

Commissioner Loachamin asked if there are any barriers to joining the Human Services Alliance (HSA). Suzanne said the HSA is open to all human services nonprofits and there are no barriers to membership.

Discuss Boulder County ARPA Steering Committee Findings and Recommendations

Commissioner Loachamin provided an update on the ARPA Steering Committee and its recommendations to the Boulder County Commissioners about how to utilize the County's ARPA funding. The Commissioners, consultant, steering committee members, and county staff will meet later this week to discuss next steps. The video recording of the ARPA Community Steering Committee presentation given to the Boulder County Commissioners is [here](#). More information about the process, including a report in English and Spanish, can be found [here](#).

Phase two of the process will be to determine how to get to transformative solutions using the ARPA funds. Commissioner Loachamin said there will be a larger steering committee that will include additional partners and Boulder County staff. She said the process will be co-designed and invited anyone interested in being involved in the process to connect with her.

Dr. Delgado asked how a nonprofit agency like I Have a Dream that is focused on educational supports, and does not provide direct services, will fall into county ARPA funding categories. Commissioner Loachamin shared [Colorado Health Institute's Financial Map](#) as a source for more information about ARPA funds outside of those Boulder County is receiving. She shared that economic impacts and behavioral health were two of the areas of need identified by community members and may connect to I Have a Dream's work.

Commissioner Jones added that they're still waiting for official guidance from the Treasury Department about eligible expenses and that the Commissioners goal is to utilize the funds to make lasting change. He added that FRN members are important partners. Christina shared that City of Longmont hired a bilingual and bicultural clinician and expect to have good feedback around services gaps to share.

Simon shared that the group has talked about challenges safety net providers are facing and referenced the strong foundational safety net work in Boulder County. He shared the challenges providers are having in recruiting behavioral health and medical providers, particularly in Boulder County where the cost of living is significant. He added that health care wage inflation is a challenge, as is pandemic burnout, which is extremely high. He suggested thinking about ways to support the safety net workforce to ensure critical services are available in our increasingly expensive communities. Commissioner

Loachamin said part of the of conversation has been to tackle interconnected issues and one of the topics that has been raised was around frontline workers.

The group thanked the Commissioners for their time and the Commissioners thanked partners for their work.

The meeting was adjourned.