



Department of Housing & Human Services

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www.BoulderCountyHHS.org

Family Resource Network Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 14, 2021

3:00-4:30pm, Zoom

Present: Rebecca Alderfer, Danielle Butler, Marc Cowell, Suzanne Crawford, Dr. Perla Delgado, Kristen Hyser, Betsey Martens, Christina Pacheco, Simon Smith, Karin Stayton, Julie Van Domelen, and Dennis Whalen

Absent: Robin Bohannon, Margaret Crespo, Will Kugel, and Jeff Zayach

Guests Present: Sarah Buss, Heather Durosko, Katrina Harms, Patrick Kilcullen (representing Dr. Diane Lauer), and Courtney Schwartz

Staff Present: Angela Lanci-Macris and Whitney Wilcox

Welcome and Introductions

The regular meeting of the FRN Regional Council was called to order by Suzanne Crawford. Suzanne welcomed Dr. Perla Delgado, the new CEO/Executive Director of I Have A Dream (IHAD) Foundation of Boulder County. Dr. Delgado fills the seat served by the previous CEO/Executive Director of IHAD, Lori Canova. Suzanne facilitated introductions by the group.

Approval of November 2020 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes

November meeting minutes were approved.

FRN Proposal Update and Next Steps

Whitney Wilcox shared that she has finished incorporating feedback by Regional Council and Local Area Collaborative (LAC) members in the FRN Proposal and is transitioning it into a work plan. This document, along with other Regional Council and LAC documents, will be available via the FRN Google Drive.

Whitney also shared that Area Agency Aging (AAA) staff will be attending LAC meetings to provide an overview of AAA's services. This is in response to Regional Council and LAC members concerns that the Older Adult population was not identified in the FRN Proposal. Opportunities and next steps as a result of this connection will be provided through the LAC Updates.

At the January meeting, members discussed early childhood data shared by Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services (BCDHHS), City of Longmont, and Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC) staff and FRN members. Regional Council members recommended identifying a core set of early childhood metrics to track local trends. Whitney introduced BCHHS's new Early Childhood Initiatives Manager, Heather Durosko. Heather will be leading development of the FRN Evaluation Framework that will include metrics the FRN membership can use to both understand early childhood trends and track status of FRN Work Plan strategies. Whitney recommended a small group of members convene with Heather to review metrics being used by members, recommending and presenting key set

of metrics to the Regional Council and LACs, and, upon approval, developing a set of data reports and dashboards. Whitney asked members interested to connect with Heather and Whitney.

Betsey Martens asked status of BCDHHS's new Director. Angela Lanci-Macris shared that the new Director, Robert Williams, will begin at the end of the month and anticipate that he will be able to attend next Regional Council meeting.

Family Homelessness Subcommittee Updates and Discussion (*FRN Work Plan Focus Area 1, Strategy 1*) Julie Van Domelen and Sarah Buss co-chair the Family Homelessness Subcommittee (FHS). They provided an overview and update on FHS work to date. See attached PowerPoint presentation.

- FHS was implemented in 2018. FHS contracted with ResultsLab in 2019 to assess current status of family homelessness system in Boulder County and worked with FHS members to develop work plan based on assessment's recommendations.
- FHS meets quarterly as a full subcommittee with smaller working groups meeting more frequently. Membership includes representatives from EFAA, OUR Center, Sister Carmen, Safe Shelter, SPAN, BCDHHS, HOPE of Longmont, Inn Between, City of Longmont, City of Boulder, SVVSD and BVSD.
- FHS has prioritized the below activities and established working groups to address. Work plan and groups were finalized in the beginning of 2020, prior to the pandemic. FHS has continued some of this work, but work plan is largely paused while organizations respond to needs emerging from the pandemic. Activities include:
 - strengthening system components through the development and implementation of common intake and assessment tools, which will help facilitate understanding of the number of families experiencing homelessness and facilitate access to resources;
 - building a shared learning and research agenda through review of data and analytics to better understand number of families experiencing homelessness and developing a set of services to support families and children to help mitigate the impacts of homelessness;
 - providing common training and community of practice in partnership with the ISDMC mid-level work group; and
 - increasing family engagement and participant voice.
- Julie shared several higher-level observations about COVID's impacts on family homelessness:
 - There is a significant range of economic shocks to households that increases the risks to families to experience homelessness. Lower-income households are concentrated in sectors that have seen the most significant employment loss (restaurants, retail, and hotels, for example), people are exiting the workforce to care for children where child care is not available or schools are closed (majority exiting are women), and seeing an increase in domestic violence.
 - Pre-COVID, the top reasons families became homeless was attributed to economic shocks like job loss or unexpected expense(s) (75 percent) or a change in family structure, such as divorce, death, or domestic violence (25 percent).
 - A disproportionate number of lower-income and people of color have been impacted by the pandemic. Julie reported that since the pandemic started, at least one of the families living in EFAA's units were impacted by COVID.

- Julie said there isn't good data yet to know whether family homelessness is increasing. Overall, housing instability is increasing, with more people requesting rental assistance. McKinney-Vento data is the best indicator because the data is real time. It doesn't appear from this data that the numbers in our community are changing drastically. McKinney-Vento staff suggested the numbers may be stable because of the availability of rental assistance and moratorium on evictions.
- Concerned about eviction moratorium ending and the funding of arrears, which have accumulated and could be significant.
- Since March 2020, BCDHHS, Sister Carmen, EFAA, and OUR Center provided almost \$5.7 million in rental assistance to 4,300 households, including 700 households with children prenatal-5.
- Boulder County is expected to receive additional federal rental assistance estimated between \$8-10 million from the Department of Treasury. Funds can be used to pay arrears.
- Responding to the pandemic will remain front and center for the FHS. Expect to sustain scale-up and continued coordination of rental assistance. Julie said important to remember broader support needed for families beyond rental assistance, including child care, mental health, and other supportive services.
- Julie also advocated for the equitable distribution of vaccines and ensuring that this population has access (most families experiencing homelessness tend to be employed, tend to be on the front lines, and may not have a primary care physician or medical home).
- Julie asked about number of child care centers that had closed. Danielle Butler said ECCBC's data shows that 18 out of 330 centers had closed permanently. Licensed family child care providers have been the most likely to stay open. Licensed child care centers, deemed emergency service providers, have had difficulty in adapting to the health regulations and are operating at reduced capacity. Child care centers are also having a difficult time retaining the child care workforce. There was brief discussion about ensuring child care providers ability to refer families experiencing homelessness to the appropriate service provider. Sarah Buss, Courtney Schwartz, and Whitney Wilcox to discuss.
- Kristin Hyser shared update on City of Boulder's [No Eviction Without Representation \(NEW\) initiative](#), which was passed by voters in November 2020. A \$75 tax will be charged on rental units, with funds being used to align eviction prevention services and programs. In addition to facilitating access to rental assistance and mediation supports, program will include legal services provided through a contract with Bridge to Justice. Services are available for all City of Boulder residents, with income restrictions on rental assistance and no income restrictions on legal services. Program is specific to Boulder residents and Kristin encouraged exploration of expanding program countywide. City of Boulder staff will help navigate and refer residents to the appropriate service provider, including EFAA, the Housing Helpline, and Bridge to Justice. Kristin encouraged people to share input as they're implementing the service.
- Patrick Kilcullen shared that last year, SVVSD initiated partnership with City of Longmont Youth Center to provide virtual after school tutoring. They are shifting program to provide after school support and counseling for high school students. Christina Pacheco said they found that youth and families have been struggling over this past year and want to provide services to meet this need. The program will start with high school students and are exploring a similar model for middle school youth.

LAC Updates and Discussion

Katrina Harms and Courtney Schwartz provided updates on behalf of the four LACs.

- The LACs have begun working to identify and develop recommendations during their monthly meetings. Moving forward, LACs will work to identify critical service issues to bring to the Regional Council to address.
- Nick Robles, BCPH's COVID-19 Bilingual Resource Coordinator, is meeting with all the LACs to talk with them about the resources available to people isolating or quarantining because of COVID-19.
- Katrina said mobility is one of the leading issues in the mountains needing to be addressed soon. Resources like food, health care, and internet can be difficult to access. The region has limited delivery options, many items that are delivered are delivered to the post office and not to individual's homes.
- Courtney shared that one of the other needs identified across LACs is access to technology and digital literacy. While many resources have been provided to close this gap, LAC members have shared continued challenges by caregivers/parents to help students with remote learning and participants challenge accessing and enrolling in online benefits. In the mountains specifically, access to cell and internet service is limited. Hardware and software are also challenges.
- Courtney also shared that the significant need in the community – and significant increase in funding - but very limited increase in capacity to deliver services and administer funding, have led to continued reports of overwhelm and burnout by staff.

Nominations and Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Suzanne asked members for feedback on updating officer terms in the bylaws from two years each to one year each, with elected officers serving one year as Vice Chair and, upon the resignation of the Chair, one year as Chair. Suzanne also asked members for feedback on including language in the bylaws about elected officers representing different systems (nonprofit, government, schools) and regions (East County, Boulder, Mountains, and Longmont). The group supported staff drafting language for review at March meeting.

Christina volunteered to step into the Chair role and Kristin volunteered to step into the Vice Chair role. Suzanne asked for a motion to nominate. The group approved the nominations.

Several people thanked Suzanne for her leadership over the past four years.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Family Resource Network Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2021

3:00-4:30pm, ZoomGov

Present: Rebecca Alderfer, Robin Bohannon, Danielle Butler, Marc Cowell, Suzanne Crawford, Dr. Perla Delgado, Kristen Hyser, Christina Pacheco, Simon Smith, Karin Stayton, Julie Van Domelen, Dennis Whalen, and Robert Williams

Absent: Margaret Crespo, Diane Lauer, Betsey Martens, and Jeff Zayach

Guests Present: Joni Lynch, Lexi Nolan, and Katie Warning

Staff Present: Susan Caskey, Angela Lanci-Macris, Lane Volpe, and Whitney Wilcox

Welcome and Introductions

The regular meeting of the FRN Regional Council was called to order by Christina Pacheco. Christina acknowledged one year of COVID-19 and thanked the group for their leadership over the past year. Christina also introduced and welcomed Robert Williams, the new Director of Boulder County's Department of Housing and Human Services (BCDHHS). Robert fills the seat served by the previous BCDHHS Director, Frank Alexander. Christina facilitated introductions to the group.

Review and Approval of January 2021 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes and FRN Bylaws

Christina reminded membership that at its January 2021 meeting membership elected Christina to Chair and Kristin Hyser as Vice Chair. Christina recognized Suzanne Crawford, who had served for four years in Chair and Vice Chair positions. Christina reviewed and asked for approval of January meeting minutes, which were approved. Christina also reviewed and asked for approval of revisions to the bylaws, including amending officer terms to one year each and adding language outlining desire for officer positions to reflect diverse sector partners (nonprofit, government, and school) and regional representation (Mountains, Boulder, Longmont, and East Boulder County). There was no discussion, changes to bylaws were approved.

Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) Leadership Updates

BCPH's Director Jeff Zayach is retiring effective March 31. Christina recognized Jeff's contributions to the FRN and larger community and wished him well. BCPH's Deputy Director Lexi Nolan will serve as BCPH's Interim Executive Director. Lexi shared that the Board of Health has scheduled interviews for the position for late March and early April and hope to have a selection in mid-April. There are a number of other leadership positions they are in the process of filling, including Communications Manager, Administrative Director, Strategic Initiatives Director, Community Health Manager, and Family Health Manager. FRN members offered support to BCPH through this transition and encouraged Lexi to connect. Susan Caskey asked if there was communication FRN members could share around vaccine distribution, to which Lexi said to expect communication from BCPH soon around opportunities to collaborate, including the Family Resource Centers (FRCs).

LAC Updates and Discussion

Katie Warning, Program Director at Sister Carmen Community Center and East County LAC Co-Facilitator, and Joni Lynch, Family Resource Director at OUR Center and Longmont LAC Co-Facilitator, provided LAC updates.

Joni shared the following updates from the Mountain Human Services Collaborative:

- EFAA's Southern Mountain Resource Liaison (MRL), co-located with the Nederland Food Pantry in the Nederland Community Center, reports that her ongoing case management has grown from six households in 2020 to 30 households in 2021.
- BCPH is working to host a vaccine clinic in the mountains and Peak to Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance is representing the Peak to Peak region on BCPH's Vaccine Equity Coordinating Committee.
- Clinica's task force continues to meet to explore services in the mountains. They are currently reviewing data to show need for health care in the mountains.
- As reported earlier this year, access to Internet and transportation continue to be barriers.
- Both the Southern and Northern MRLs continue to be overwhelmed, and report that this includes paperwork that now falls to staff that had previously been completed in person with BCDHHS staff at a monthly mini-health fair.
- Organizations continue to coordinate closely, reporting that they were able to quickly leverage a number of organizational resources to house a family experiencing homelessness.

Katie shared that in East County and Boulder, LACs continue to successfully build connections and facilitate sharing of resources across systems and sectors. LAC meetings remain focused on sharing information and changes to services in response to the pandemic and brainstorming needs and gaps. Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and Mobility for All staff attended recent meetings with updates on their services and supports, including report that Ride Free Lafayette ridership provided 1,000 rides last month. Katie also reported that Amy Nelson, BVSD's Coordinator of Equity and Partnerships in the Southwest Network, filled a BVSD vacancy with the East County LAC.

Joni shared that LAC member organizations continue to pivot and refine service provisions to meet the changing needs of the community in response to COVID-19 impacts. Examples she shared included:

- streamlining and removal of bureaucratic processes
- easing of eligibility requirements for some services such as housing
- home, hybrid, and in-person schooling options by SVVSD and child care providers like Wild Plum
- individualized food choices introduced by food pantries
- adding more virtual programming such as job fairs through Workforce Boulder County and Nurturing Parenting classes through the City of Longmont
- Wi-Fi hotspots and digital tablets for home use in response to digital divide gaps, and
- sharing information about how to access services

The Longmont LAC has also tracked and coordinated food needs across the LAC member organizations. Joni shared that child care for working parents continues to be a barrier as well as digital divide issues. Youth and working adults are burned out on screen time and older adults and other vulnerable populations are still struggling to set up virtual appointments, may not have the necessary hardware, or Wi-Fi or internet connection.

Katie and Joni asked members to discuss and brainstorm two gaps that have emerged across the LACs. First is need for continued communication around the importance of testing for COVID and Workers' Rights information and education. Public Health resource navigators are hearing that residents are not seeing the benefits of testing which may be due to having to quarantine, therefore missing hours and pay. There is also a need for communication about steps to take should an employer not be following requirements. Second issue is child care, which is impacting working parents, child care centers, who must limit the number of children they can have in class for safety reasons, and small businesses employing working parents. Katie and Joni also asked members for any questions or comments they wanted to share back with LAC members.

Feedback from the two breakout groups included the following:

- Robin said communicating information out continues to be a challenge, particularly around testing hesitancy and what that might mean for people's jobs. BCPH and Boulder County have a planned effort to engage with people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have to quarantine to determine what resources they need because many people don't have access to paid medical leave or are undocumented and will lose their jobs. The group asked if concern was specific to people that are undocumented or if it's a broader need. Katie and Joni will share this question back to the LACs. Additionally, there may be an upcoming public Town Hall that is focused on Workers' Rights and will share more information about that when it's available.
- Kristin said they talked about providing more details about needs/gaps LAC members are identifying, including source and breadth of needs. Also identified opportunity for LACs to provide and Regional Council members to respond to feedback more quickly in order to increase effectiveness. Kristin talked about opportunities to identify and ensure connections are being made with other groups addressing needs and expanding LAC membership if necessary.
- Christina said their group focused on child care and asked Danielle Butler to share what ECCBC was seeing in response to the pandemic. Danielle shared that there were about 330 licensed centers at the beginning of the pandemic and about 20 percent of those have closed. School-aged care has had the hardest time because schools closed and there were not facilities for them to hold classes. Providers that did open stayed open on a case-by-case basis, ranging from remaining open, having to close and re-open, or closing permanently. Danielle said another key part is parent preference and parents not returning. Christina encouraged the LAC members to provide more specific information they're hearing from clients and Regional Council members will continue to gather more robust data on availability of child care slots. Danielle added that a parent may also choose Family, Friend, Neighbor (FFN) care, which is informal, unlicensed care. She said our community's first goal should be to provide health and safety training for providers caring for children.
- Robin said that in thinking about the communications piece, that community partner calls hosted at the beginning of COVID by BCDHHS were a great way to get out accurate information to a broad audience.

Aligned Initiatives Updates & Discussion: Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families & Maternal Child Coordinated Services System

Susan Caskey and Dawn Joyce provided updates on aligned early childhood initiatives.

Susan shared a draft visual that outlines some of the early childhood work being co-led by BCPH and BCDHHS. Susan stressed that the draft visual represents a subset of work happening across Boulder

County focused on this population. She said staff are working to inform and connect with other partners, including ECCBC, to avoid duplication and stay aligned.

There are three main state initiatives that BCPH and BCDHHS are involved in and are helping to inform local work, including:

- Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families: Vision is to transform child welfare system to a family well-being system. Colorado is one of four states is to receive funding to support this work. Boulder County will be a demonstration county site. Funding may be available to help support this work, as well as technical assistance from state and national partners.
- Rewiring: This work is being led by Tennyson Center for Children. They have connected with philanthropic organizations to provide up front funding to organizations that can demonstrate initiatives or services that help to prevent families from going into child welfare or help to prevent children from being placed outside of the home who are in child welfare.
- Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan: Want to make sure the Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan is aligned with other early childhood initiatives. The Child Maltreatment Prevention Plan is being managed by the Colorado Office of Early Childhood.

Susan also provided an overview of local committees, including:

- Maternal and Child Coordinated Services System (MCCSS) started about 18 months ago between BCPH and BCDHHS. It is primarily focused on coordinated entry and home visitation work being led by Dawn.
- Family Resource Network is focused on early childhood services and is an important partner.
- BCDHHS Child Welfare Operations Group is focused on deeper end prevention supports and data. This group is working to identify what services are needed to reduce number of families in child welfare and reduce the number of children, especially infants, that are going into out of home placement.
- IMPACT Partnership is looking at the substance abuse continuum. They know that oftentimes the reason why families are referred, and children are placed outside of the home, is because of substance use by parent(s). They are looking at more intensive in-home and inpatient services so that moms and babies can stay together.

Susan introduced Dawn Joyce, who BCPH has been contracting with to lead the MCCSS work. Dawn provided overview and update on home visitation and coordinated entry strategies:

- Planning and community engagement for this work has been happening for the past 4-5 years. Community identified need for universal home visitation programming. First step towards that was to create a coordinated entry system that ensured effective ways of linking individuals and families into home visitation programs and had methods to evaluate extent to which existing home visitation programs meet current and evolving community needs.
- Our Boulder County coordinated entry system is modeled after New Jersey's coordinated entry system. In New Jersey, data is pulled from existing screeners for eligible individuals and families and then used to make a best fit referral for a home visitation program. About 30 percent of families opt in.
- Current Boulder County home visitation programs include Community Infant Program (CIP), Children and Youth with Special Needs, Nurse Family Partnership, GENESIS, Early Head Start, and Parents as Teachers.

- Dawn reviewed the process flow for the coordinated entry system which is currently being piloted with Clinica. Prenatal Plus was identified as the existing screener that would be used to make best fit referral to the right program for individuals and families.
- When an individual is at Clinica for prenatal care, Clinica staff will let the individual know about the different home visitation programs available and ask if they would like to be referred. If they opt in, their data is shared and referral is made. Dawn said of the 130 individuals in the pilot, only 15 have opted out.
- Dawn reviews the data weekly and refers to the best program. To help facilitate access to programs more quickly by higher acuity clients, the Clinica behavioral health specialist may make a referral directly to the home visitation program.
- Pilot is currently limited to pregnant individuals accessing services through Clinica. They are planning to expand to families with children prenatal-2 and then prenatal-5, likely in 2022. Pilot will expand to Salud later this year. They are also exploring expanding to include WIC as an additional entry point.
- Two additional home visitation programs are being added, including Child First and Family Connects.

Dawn took questions from the group, including:

- Christina asked if child care needs is asked as part of the screening process. Dawn said it is not but guesses that most home visitation programs are asking this question.
- Julie asked if they track whether households enroll in the program as a result of the referral and whether programs have capacity to expand to support a larger referral system. Dawn said they track status of referral and work closely with home visitation program staff. Dawn said current pilot with Clinica is small and will have to understand what capacity is needed when expands to Longmont.
- Family Connects and Child First will be part of the home visitation continuum. Child First will start small and expect case load will include screened out referrals from the child welfare system. Family Connects will initially start in Longmont and eventually expand countywide.
- Danielle asked for more information about how the programs were chosen. There was suggestion to have some follow-up discussion at next meeting, along with any additional feedback from Simon Smith and Rebecca Alderfer.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Family Resource Network Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 13, 2021

3:00-4:30pm, ZoomGov

Present: Rebecca Alderfer, Robin Bohannon, Danielle Butler, Marc Cowell, Suzanne Crawford, Dr. Perla Delgado, Kristen Hyser, Betsey Martens, Christina Pacheco, Janet Rasmussen (for Simon Smith), Karin Stayton, Julie Van Domelen, Dennis Whalen, Robert Williams, and Jeff Zayach (for Lexi Nolan)

Absent: Margaret Crespo and Diane Lauer

Guests Present: Jessica Bernett-Knight, Katrina Harms, Dawn Joyce, Schivonne Keller, Kristi Pellouchoud, Nick Robles, and Courtney Schwartz

Staff Present: Susan Caskey, Lane Volpe, and Whitney Wilcox

Welcome and Introductions

The regular meeting of the FRN Regional Council was called to order by Kristin Hyser. Kristin facilitated introductions.

Approval of March 2021 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes

Kristin asked for approval of March meeting minutes. There were no questions or revisions, the minutes were approved.

Maternal Child Coordinated Services System (MCCSS) & Universal Home Visitation (UHV) Updates

At the March meeting, Susan Caskey and Dawn Joyce provided updates on early childhood initiatives, including an overview of local universal home visitation and coordinated entry strategies currently being piloted with Clinica. Members continued discussion beginning with reflections from Clinica's Schivonne Keller, whose team is participating in the pilot. Schivonne said that the heavy lift was at the beginning of the project, which included identifying what data was needed to best inform referrals. Clinica had previously been referring to universal home visitation programs, the only change was the process by which they now refer. There has been some need for technical troubleshooting along the way, but referral process has gone relatively smoothly for Clinica staff. They are beginning to receive feedback about referral status and engagement rate, which is information they didn't have prior to the pilot.

Kristin asked if the group had questions. Betsey asked about lessons learned. Dawn shared that lessons are specific to the current population being served through the pilot, which has focused on patients being seen for prenatal care. The highest incident of uptake and follow-through with referrals have been with first time parents. They've seen higher enrollment rates with NFP and CIP and lower enrollment rates, up until the last 6 weeks, with PAT (which serves parents who already have children). Dawn said they're guessing the reason for this is because parents with children already have a support network in place. Dawn said she expects enrollment and referral rates to accelerate once the home visitation best-fit referral transitions from herself to a technology platform. Schivonne added that there is resistance to

relying on the current system for higher acuity referrals and that staff continue to connect with colleagues to ensure service connection for patients where there is a higher level of concern. She anticipates this will evolve with a technology platform that provides fast feedback about service connection.

Karin asked about follow-up with participating families and how pilot will be evaluated locally. Dawn said initially (pre-pandemic) they had various evaluation components built-in to the project, including participant surveys. They are currently determining which setting is appropriate to follow-up with families that have participated in the pilot, and whether that would be at Clinica, within home visitation programs, or a separate outreach to families that can provide feedback on their participation. Surveys will be administered in English and Spanish. They are working to identify translation for families that may speak other languages.

Julie asked if the uptick in referrals met expectations and whether there is capacity within the current home visitation programs to meet demand. Dawn said they saw about a 30% increase in enrollment, that most patients agreed to be referred, and that those that declined identified they had required supports in place. This is in line with New Jersey model and met expectations. In terms of capacity, as caseloads increased, there often wasn't a waitlist because services were being delivered remotely (because travel time was not a factor during the pandemic). This will change with in-person services resuming. Across the board, there is a shortage of bilingual and bicultural staff. This shortage could lead to waitlists.

Rebecca shared some of the home visitation work she is involved in at the state level. She was asked to sit on the state's Home Visiting Investment Task Force (and co-chairs the financing work group), which spent the past six months developing a statewide strategic plan around home visiting. Rebecca shared a [draft of the plan](#), which is going through the Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC) for approval and then final publication. The Task Force came out of legislation last session and included representatives from different home visiting programs, county partners and stakeholders, representatives from philanthropy, and others. Rebecca shared a few highlights, including:

- As a state, a tiny number of families with new babies (0-1) are connected with home visiting programs; the majority are families with toddler and pre-school aged children.
- Participants don't have awareness about which program they're participating in (NFP vs. PAT vs. HIPPY) – they just know they're receiving services and whether those services are valuable to them.
- Participants are looking for whole family engagement, moms want their partner or spouse to also be a participant.
- Culturally congruent care is critical.

Susan shared that leadership has changed at Tennyson. She also shared that fundraising efforts for the Rewiring project didn't meet their goals, there is no funding currently expected to come to Boulder County, and Rewiring is no longer a project they're involved with. Susan said she anticipates funding opportunities to become available through other efforts, including Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families and national partners.

LAC Updates and Discussion

Katrina Harms, Peak to Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance Facilitator, provided update on behalf of the mountain region. Katrina shared that they have been successfully working in partnership with Boulder County Public Health and Boulder Community Health to provide vaccinations. She also shared that transportation and digital divides issues continue to be significant barriers. They continue to work with Via and Mobility for All and are establishing a Mountain Mobility Committee to address transportation barriers. Katrina shared that the Emergency Broadband Benefit program doesn't include any internet service providers that provide service to the Peak to Peak Region and will work to see if mountain-serving providers will participate in the program.

Suzanne asked if transportation issues were specific to local mountain communities or mountain to other Boulder County and metro communities. Katrina said they needed local and regional supports, including pharmacy, medical, and groceries that are not available in local mountain communities. Suzanne asked if digital divide is issue with access to internet, devices, and/or skill building. Katrina said all three are issues, but most significant is that the geography limits internet access. Katrina is in touch with Boulder County's IT Director to address.

Additional information about child care and workers' rights was presented as a follow-up from the March meeting. Updates were provided by ECCBC's Programs Director Jessica Bennett-Knight, Wild Plum's Family Engagement Director Kristi Pellouchoud, and BCPH's COVID-19 Resource Navigator Nick Robles.

Jessica provided brief overview of ECCBC's role and its relationships with providers. She shared information about its Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) work, which includes collecting information about child care slots and families that are looking for care. CCR&R was managed locally for many years until it was moved to Mile High United Way to manage around 2015. During COVID, there has been a realization that local-level expertise is needed to manage this work and there are some efforts from across the state from local areas to take on some of this work to provide enhanced referrals. ECCBC is in the process of building a new database.

The data Jessica shared currently comes from several sources and takes her about 16 hours a month to aggregate (see attached slide deck for data). There was discussion in chat that numbers for child care requested were lower than expected, which is because of the current fragmented mechanisms in place to aggregate that data.

Jessica also talked about CCAP data and economic impacts of quarantines on providers.

- Jessica reviewed data for CCAP. She noted that not all programs that have CCAP fiscal agreements have CCAP slots. Providers may have a fiscal agreement and 1) slots are filled or 2) they have chosen not to serve CCAP families because of the economic impact of that decision.
- Jessica also shared information specific to quarantines. To date there have been a total of 28 outbreaks in 27 programs. Programs have worked hard to keep cohorts together so in some cases a classroom will have to quarantine (and not the entire program). Since January, 68 classrooms have had to quarantine. Jessica surveyed Directors about the costs of quarantine, which include staff salaries and refunds to families.

Jessica also touched on funding needs identified by providers and shared [resource](#) from the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment outlining recommendations for using American Rescue Plan Act funds to address early educator compensation and supports.

Kristi Pellouchoud shared impacts from the perspective of Wild Plum families and staff. Wild Plum serves Early Head Start and Head Start families in Longmont and the SVVSD area.

- Impacts to young children: family stress and fears, loss of school time (which widens learning gaps), diminished social and emotional connection, limited dental and medical visits, and inconsistent routine.
- Impacts to staff: extensive remodeling, limited preschool class size from 16 to 12, set up cohorts, implemented increased health and safety requirements, ramped up virtual engagement, and facilitated extensive outreach to families to connect with resources. Also, staff's fears/mental health, increased workload, and staff's family needs.
- Impacts to families: fear and loss, technology supports (including hardware, software, WIFI, and training), language barriers, health care access, financial impacts (for example, loss of meals and diapers previously provided in-person at Wild Plum), job loss, and child care. Kristi shared that alternate care for children (when quarantining or at home because of other illness) is almost not available. This is also a monetary concern, as some families may be able to find someone to care for a child but not be able to compensate them.

Nick Robles from BCPH shared information about workers' rights. He provided an overview of the different supports specific to paid leave and workers' rights, including:

- Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Federal protections for workers to receive emergency paid sick leave)
- Public Health Emergency Whistleblower Act (Colorado protections that prohibits adverse actions against workers who raise concerns about workplace violations)
- Healthy Families and Workplace Act (reiteration at the state level that employer should provide emergency paid sick leave)
- Paid Sick and Safe Time (employees accrue sick leave)
- Business Tax Credits (business can receive tax credits for paid sick leave they provide as a result of the pandemic); and
- Proposition 118 (12 weeks of paid family and medical leave)

Nick also shared information reported through BCPH's Contract Tracing and Resource Navigation team, including:

- The number one most frequently cited concern related to isolation and quarantining is economic stability, followed by food and concerns about employment. In April and May, workers' rights issues surpassed food for those needing to isolate/quarantine.
- They also see employees having to miss work due to their own illness or because their child's classroom was quarantined. On average, one class per day is having to quarantine.
- Continue to hear from lower wage workers that they didn't know they would receive pay if they were unable to work because they were sick with COVID (and that's why they continue to work with COVID) and hearing from their supervisor that they will not be paid if they don't report to work.

- Enforcement team has received about 4000 complaints related to businesses during COVID, about 2000 have been substantiated and there have been examples of employers telling their staff to come in who have tested positive.
- With quarantines happening so frequently at child care centers, and employees not sure they will get paid, or families not able to take time themselves or with no other place to go, the family dis-enrolls with their child care center and the next day establishes care with a new child care provider, potentially impacting another cohort.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Updates and Discussion

Group discussed funding that is coming to Boulder County and municipalities through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Robin Bohannon provided update on Boulder County's process. Robin shared that Boulder County is having some pre-planning discussions amongst employee groups and community partners to ensure funds are used effectively to meet community needs. Funds can be spent through 2024. For the first phase, County staff can enter specific project requests to be funded up to \$5 million total. Similar to CARES Act funding, the County is looking at using funds to address unmet needs, including digital divide, economic vitality, early childhood, child care, education, and behavioral health supports. Staff are also hoping to use some of the funds to support larger systems transformation to address social determinants of health and core issues that continue to impact the community. This process will likely include focused community engagement.

Christina Pacheco Sims provided update on City of Longmont's process. Christina said they are in preliminary phases of identifying what the funds can be used to support and their policy analyst is meeting with City staff to identify potential partnerships so that they're able to leverage the funding. Christina anticipates that they will continue to reach out to the County, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to continue those discussions.

Kristin provided update on City of Boulder's process. They are also working to understand how funds can be used and determining priorities and criteria for how to use. Because of the City of Boulder's reliance on sales tax, their budgets were impacted significantly this past year. While they're prioritizing community needs, there may be discussion at the City about using some of the funds to support City programs and services that had been cut. Kristin added that there have been conversations amongst the County, Longmont, and Funders Collaborative partners about a regional approach, relying on the model used during flood recovery to assess the needs and leverage the resources that are available.

Members spent the remainder of the meeting in small groups discussing how funds should be prioritized to meet community needs. Groups were asked to identify notetaker and send notes to Whitney to compile to be shared with Robin, Christina, and Kristin to help inform discussion at the County and municipalities.

The meeting was adjourned.



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Family Resource Network Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 8, 2021

3:00-4:30pm, ZoomGov

Present: Danielle Butler, Marc Cowell, Suzanne Crawford, Dr. Perla Delgado, Kristen Hyser, Betsey Martens, Sam Messier, Christina Pacheco, Simon Smith, Karin Stayton, and Dennis Whalen

Absent: Rebecca Alderfer, Robin Bohannon, Camille Rodriguez, Johnny Terrell, Julie Van Domelen, and Robert Williams

Guests Present: Joni Lynch, Kate Parker, Emily Vellano, and Katie Warning

Staff Present: Susan Caskey, Lane Volpe, and Whitney Wilcox

Welcome and Introductions

The regular meeting of the FRN Regional Council was called to order by Christina Pacheco. Christina welcomed Sam Messier, Assistant Superintendent for Strategic Partnerships and Academic Support Services at Boulder Valley School District (BVSD), to the FRN Regional Council, who will serve as the BVSD representative. BVSD was previously represented by Margaret Crespo. Christina facilitated introductions.

Approval of May 2021 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes

Christina asked for approval of May meeting minutes. There were no questions or revisions, the minutes were approved.

Pediatric Mental Health State of Emergency *(Updates and discussion with Clinica's Vice President of Behavioral Health Emily Vellano and MHP's Vice President of Clinical Care Kate Parker)*

Emily Vellano and Kate Parker talked about the pediatric mental health state of emergency declaration from Children's Hospital Colorado and impacts on local community.

Emily shared that in May, Children's Hospital CEO declared a state of emergency in youth mental health for the first time in their 117 year history. They identified a trend in low-level anxiety and depression being exacerbated by the isolation and stress of the pandemic and leading to more suicide attempts:

- Their pediatric emergency and inpatient units are overrun with youth attempting suicide and suffering from other forms of major mental health issues.
- There were many weeks in 2021 when the number one reason for presenting in their ER was a suicide attempt.
- They've seen a 90 percent increase in demand for behavioral health treatment over the past two years.
- They plan to increase their mental health inpatient, outpatient, and day services by more than 50 percent by March 2022.

Clinica is seeing similar trends locally, with more teens presenting with anxiety, depression, thoughts of self-harm, and suicide. Their patient data shows increases in depression and suicide ideation in 12-17 years-old that were screened for depression between June 2020 and June 2021, with numbers increasing by almost 10 percent for depression and 5 percent for suicide ideation. Emily said youth have been dealing with chronic stress this past year that has interrupted their normal development. She talked about the sense of hopelessness many young people are feeling, which is a predictor of suicide ideation and attempts. This is due in part to the disruptions to their routines, development, peer relationships, and missed milestones like birthdays and graduation. There is a larger negative impact on the mental health of lower-income youth of color because of systemic inequities.

Clinica is actively outreaching to families. They're calling and encouraging youth to come to Clinica in-person for well child checks and appointments. When they come in, they will be screened for depression. Youth ages 12 and older will be screened for other behavioral health concerns. They are also working to increase their staffing, including hiring unlicensed behavioral health professionals. As a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), they can't easily bill for unlicensed providers but only path forward that Clinica saw to meet the need they're seeing now and anticipate in the future.

Emily said there needs to be a focus on prevention including more soft-training for laypeople, including parents, teachers, nonprofits, coaches – anyone who can see the signs, talk to people, and connect youth with primary care providers. She also recommended that the community at large provide as much structure and predictability as possible to support youth.

Kate shared what MHP is seeing, how their teams are responding, and how the community can help support this work. Kate shared some of MHP's data, including:

- The number of crisis assessments administered during the periods of March-April 2020 and March-April 2021 increased by 300 percent, including walk-in crisis and mobile for both youth and adults.
- Crisis interventions increased by 54% for the above time period.
- Utilization of crisis services among youth 18 and under, including youth under the age of 12, has increased: 10 percent increase in youth under 18, with the highest increase among 16 year-olds, which saw a 50% increase.
- A lot of people calling for services that MHP can't provide due to a combination of a workforce shortage and the volume of calls they're receiving.
- They are trying to think of creative ways to meet need through different therapeutic and workforce initiatives.

There are currently 1700 behavioral health openings in Colorado, including 1200 across the front range. MHP currently has 55 openings. MHP is working with the State and Community Behavioral Health Council to address workforce shortage and explore changing some of the regulations to help meet community needs. Kate asked how the group can be creative and brainstorm how to address the need.

The group moved to Q&A and discussion.

Betsey and Christina asked if data shows disproportionate impacts according to income, race, and ethnicity. Emily said anecdotally yes, and will be isolating the data by income, race, and ethnicity to better understand the impacts. Kate added that MHP has had a hard time reaching the Latinx

population, and that their data may not be representative of the number of people struggling with behavioral health issues. Kate said MHP housed more than 100 people this past year, which impacts youth that are part of those households.

Betsey asked extent to which homelessness and housing instability is contributing, and what school district is seeing. Kate said they're seeing an increase in homelessness and they received an additional 50 vouchers for a total of 500 vouchers. Biggest challenge is limited housing available to place people. Kate added that MHP is working with BVSD to develop training materials for students returning at the beginning of the school year. They are also looking at train-the-trainer models to train peers with Mental Health First Aid to support their friends.

Sam said this echoes what they're seeing from students. They will have to put in a lot of effort in supporting mental health and emotional well-being for students this next year. She's excited about some of the plans they've been working on, including replacing School Resource Officers with Safety Advocates that are more focused on de-escalation, restorative practices, and intervention. Believe this has a lot of promise to address some of the behavioral health issues.

Kristin said workforce shortage and number of vacancies is concerning and stressed the importance of looking at and recruiting for a diverse workforce. She said there will be resources at the State level and asked how our community can access funds to address behavioral health gaps and whether there's any organizing the Regional Council can do to advocate for these funds.

Christina agreed. She also provided updates from Longmont and St. Vrain Valley region. Christina said the City of Longmont, in addition to Supporting Action for Mental Health, is providing presentations within the schools and facilitating some Mental Health First Aid training. She learned there may be funds available countywide to provide additional training for Mental Health First Aid to support Spanish-language training. Christina said it'll be important to look across organizations and groups to understand capacity community-wide and that this group could be a vehicle for that.

Kate said she's met with SVVSD and Boulder County Public Health staff. Kate and Christina will connect to ensure there's no duplication between their team's efforts.

Simon said resource challenge is real. Clinica has a smaller behavioral health team than MHP, but also has significant vacancies. They recruit all bilingual English/Spanish behavioral health providers. Simon said they are doing wage adjustments because the inflation cost of health care labor in the Denver metro area is growing. He added that the executive group of the Legislative Council appointed two task forces: one to figure out how to disperse the ARPA funds allocated to behavioral health and housing. Those task forces will be appointed and include recruitment for affiliated advisory groups. Clinica's Janet Rasmussen is applying to be on the task force and would expect that community mental health center leadership are applying.

Karin asked for estimate for total number of youth suffering from anxiety and depression, including number served and unserved, to better understand gap. Kate said it's a difficult measure to get and suggested the schools as a possibility. From the chat, Susan added that that are about 70,000 kids age 0-18 in Boulder County, of which about half are 12-18. Sam added that it's complicated for school district to answer because BVSD spans three counties. Karin also asked about current caseload size Clinica and

MHP are seeing for anxiety and depression. Kate said MHP's Longmont team sees 3 times more children than Boulder team. Boulder has about 1300 open cases in outpatient and health home and may not include students being seen in the schools. Emily said Clinica screened about 3700 12-18 year olds between March 2020 and June 2021. Clinica screened almost 9000 12-18 year olds between 2018-2019. Emily said they've missed many youth patients that haven't been seen in-person this past year.

Simon said connecting with adolescents is different than how they could connect with adults, and that virtual care isn't the best way to directly connect with this age group. Kate shared that one of MHP's strategies to reach adolescents is through technology and virtual reality. Emily said a hybrid approach that includes in-person and/or telehealth will be important. They're finding that patients want to have in-person visits. Kate said MHP just opened new Resource Center to support Table Mesa shooting, which is available all community members. They are talking with BVSD and others about how to make the Resource Center youth-friendly.

Kristin shared that after the Table Mesa shooting, a group has been actively meeting to discuss how to understand what the community needs to help heal from this past year. She said she'd like to utilize the group to get feedback on community engagement structure and will talk with Whitney and Christina about continuing this conversation at upcoming meeting.

Kristin asked how to move today's conversation forward and who leads it. Susan suggested the IMPACT Partnership as a forum to share this information, which serves higher risk youth and families. Emily emphasized importance of prevention and opportunities to create resiliency in youth, which could help prevent more intense treatment in the future.

Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance Supports Updates *(Kristin Hyser and Boulder County HHS's Special Projects Unit Manager Patrick Kelly)*

Kristin talked about City of Boulder's eviction prevention program. They are having conversations with Longmont and Boulder County about how the program could be replicated regionally. Kristin provided summary of No Eviction Without Representation (NEWR) history, which resulted in a city ordinance that created a rental licensing tax that supports the City's Eviction Prevention Rental Assistance Program (EPRAP). The program ensures that anyone that is at risk of eviction has access to legal representation and financial assistance. Revenues from the tax will be used to support administrative costs, legal services, rental assistance, and stipends for a Tenant Committee. The Boulder County Assessor's Office will collect the tax, which will be on rental units in the City of Boulder. All permanently affordable rental units, who are contributing to housing goals already, will be exempt from the fee. Eviction moratorium is set to expire at the end of July and have reassigned some staff to this program to help meet any uptick in needs and are coordinating closely with Boulder County, EFAA, and Boulder Housing Partners. Since January, the program has supported 70 tenants. For more information, [see Kristin's slide deck](#).

Patrick talked about Boulder County's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and the Housing Helpline. They are closely coordinating with the municipalities and Family Resource Centers (FRCs). Boulder County was awarded \$9.8 million (ERAP 1) and will receive an additional \$12.3 million (ERAP 2) to support rental assistance and program administration. The two awards will have different requirements.

- The Housing Helpline has received over 5,000 inquiries since its launch in April 2020.
- Since March 2021, they are averaging 24 calls/day.

- They have allocated \$1.6 million in ERAP funds to 311 households thus far.
- Families with children under 6 comprise 21% households, families with children under 18 comprise 47% of households.

Marc asked about number of months of rental assistance given and extent to which the assistance will stabilize households in the longer term. Patrick said they can provide the supports for 12 months with arrears. Many of the initial requests were for arrears. They are currently doing 3 month increments up to 4 times. The goal is to stabilize households through the pandemic. The new funding, ERAP 2, has different requirements and are currently working to understand ERAP 2 guidelines.

Betsey asked about the relationship between the number of inquiries received and actual households receiving supports. Patrick said the total number of inquiries reflects numbers of calls received since April 2020 and funds distributed through ERAP reflects assistance provided since March 2021.

For more information, including eligibility requirements and contact information, [see Patrick's slide deck](#).

The meeting was adjourned.



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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

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.



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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.