



# Department of Human Services

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## Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2023

3:00-4:30pm, MS Teams

### Attendance

#### Present

- Robin Bohannan
- Darlene Bushue
- Danielle Butler
- Susan Caskey
- Marc Cowell
- Suzanne Crawford
- Elizabeth Crowe
- Dr. Perla Delgado
- Betsey Martens
- Mandy Perera
- Karin Stayton
- Johnny Terrell
- Julie Van Domelen

#### Absent

- BVSD (Vacant Seat)
- Lexi Nolen
- Christina Pacheco
- Simon Smith

#### Staff Present

- Georgina Becerril
- Bill Cole
- Susana Lopez-Baker
- Joni Lynch
- Kammi Siemens
- Whitney Wilcox
- Jim Williams

#### Guests

- Daphne McCabe

- Felicia Cain

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## **Welcome and Introductions**

The regular meeting of the FRN Regional Council was called to order by Julie Van Domelen

## **Approval of November 2022 FRN Regional Council Meeting Minutes**

Julie called for approval of the November 2022 FRN Regional Council meeting minutes. Minutes were approved unanimously.

## **FRN Vice Chair Nominations and Election**

Marc Cowell was nominated and approved as Vice Chair of the FRN, and Julie Van Domelen moved into the Chair position. Both leadership positions are one-year terms.

## **Family Resource Network 2023-2024 Workplan Review and Discussion**

Whitney reviewed the draft of the 2023-2024 work plan and asked the Regional Council for input on overall priorities and strategies prior to asking the Regional Council for approval.

Regional Council members provided the following input:

- Suzanne supported the strategy of Regional Council members attending LAC meetings to strengthen connection between the executive and operations groups.
- Elizabeth said the work plan looked great. She asked if anyone was aware if anything on the work plan was on another group's agenda.
  - Robin identified some overlap with the advocacy and policy work the Regional Housing Partnership is engaging in. She said the group may want to ensure that there is a representative from the FRN engaged with the Regional Housing Partnership.
  - Susan agreed. She invited Susana and Bill to the meeting to make sure efforts are linked and not duplicated.
  - Julie asked for more information about the Regional Housing Partnership. Susana said the Regional Housing Partnership includes all municipalities in Boulder County. They are in the process of establishing IGAs, building out some homeownership opportunities modeled after the City of Boulder's program, and will meet later this month to discuss their 2023 goals. Susan said Boulder County HHS along with a couple of other municipalities took the lead on the work and most municipalities and towns have now signed on to work towards ensuring 12% of housing inventory is affordable by 2035.
  - Julie asked Whitney to add language in the work plan that speaks specifically to the collaboration with the Regional Housing Partnership.
  - Julie said to consider including mutual presentations by the Regional Housing Partnership and the FRN about each other's work in the action plan. She

suggested presentations include what FRN members see as a priority and share what families are currently facing. She added that the Regional Housing Partnership could provide an update on their affordability goals and opportunities for how the FRN can support their work. Robin said it was important opportunity and supported this strategy.

- Julie noted that the Family Homelessness Subcommittee is on the work plan and the plan should be reviewed with that group.
- Karin asked if there is a need to add a goal to strengthen the LACs. She asked if the membership was representative of the community and if attendance was consistent.
  - Whitney said that the co-facilitators discuss attendance and have reached out to people who haven't been attending regularly. She will also share a list of the current LAC membership with the group for feedback and recommendations.
  - Kammi said the Boulder LAC meetings, particularly around pathways to housing resources, have been very useful and effective.
  - Joni said there are members of the Longmont LAC that can't consistently attend because of scheduling conflicts and have been discussing how to address.
  - Darlene said there isn't as much representation from the northern mountain communities at the Mountain Human Services Collaborative (MHSC), including Old Gallery and LEAF in Lyons.
  - Whitney added that the LACs have seen a lot of turnover as organizations are seeing turnover and workforce shortages. She said this will be a challenge for the LACs as they work to move strategic plan priorities forward, but it continues to be a good forum for sharing updates and needs/gaps.
  - Julie asked if there was language that needed to be added to the work plan to highlight the need to support the LACs or leave as is. Kammi said that having Regional Council members attend LACs is a good strategy. There was no additional response.
- Betsey asked about the Goal 1 statement to "increase housing stability for residents." She said it wasn't clear to her what we wanted to increase. The group talked about how to clarify and agreed to edit this strategy to read: Increase housing security and housing access to prevent displacement and homelessness.
  - Karin asked if Goal 3 language needed to shift to be more specific to increasing housing access vs. increasing housing stock. Susan said a visual of what the different groups are doing could clarify understanding roles. She added that there is also discussion about applying for funds to support a centralized housing navigation system.
- Julie asked for approval for the 2023-2024 FRN Work Plan, which was approved. Whitney will take the plan to the LACs and Family Homelessness Subcommittee to operationalize the work plan.

### **Family Connects Discussion**

Whitney shared that Boulder County Public Health's (BCPH) Family Connects team reached out about alignment and interest by the FRN in serving as the program's Community Advisory

Board. Family Connects utilizes an evidence-based design to support the health of all families of newborns.

Daphne McCabe, BCPH Family Health Division Manager, and Felicia Cain, BCPH Family Health Nurse Services Coordinator, presented a video and provided an overview of this service and board requirements.

Julie asked members for questions:

- Susan said the FRN's current work plan doesn't include a focus on early childhood and asked if there was another established group in Boulder County that could serve in this capacity. She also asked if the Regional Council membership and LACs fit the service's board requirements. Daphne shared that she sees alignment in the work plan priorities focused on coordination and navigation for families to basic needs. She said the board would not be asked to advise on the service or the hospitals. She said the FRN would be asked to advise around service delivery and services provided by FRN member organizations.
- Robin asked if the Family Connects model provides any guidance about community engagement and if that includes persons with lived experience. Felicia said that including people with lived experience would be considered an innovation and is not a requirement of the model and that she is using guidance from Colorado Partnership for Thriving Families (CPTF), which does include family voice. Robin asked if it would require FRN to add a Family Ambassador if it serves as the Community Advisory Board. Felicia said they do want to hold two spaces for family representatives on the board.
- Julie said the FRN is really a service provider focused group and is a great place to connect on service referrals. She shared that EFAA's Participant Advisory Council includes stipends, child care, and leadership training. She asked if there was an alternative approach with an agency collaboration through the FRN and a direct Participant Advisory Council that informs Family Connects. Felicia said they are looking for ways to collaborate and partner and is open to how it is designed.
- Danielle said she'd be happy to connect with the Family Connects team more to see if ECCBC may be a possible home for the work.
- Daphne said their team would follow-up with Danielle and Whitney offline and provide an update at a future FRN meeting.

### **Membership Discussion**

Whitney shared that MHP reached out and expressed interest in joining the FRN Regional Council. The FRN currently has had several unrecruited and unidentified vacant seats while it was determining its focus. Whitney suggested that the FRN includes representatives from the prevention and early prevention system and that the system partners should drive the plan. MHP has staff regularly attend all four LACs and does not have a representative on the Regional Council.

Because the meeting was over, Julie suggested revisiting membership at the next Regional Council meeting and discussing filling all the vacant seats at that time. Marc agreed and noted that several members had left the meeting. Julie, Marc, and Whitney will discuss between now and the next Regional Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.