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Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 13, 2023

3:00-4:30pm, MS Teams

Attendance

Present

- Susan Caskey
- Marc Cowell
- Suzanne Crawford
- Jorge De Santiago
- Jennifer Leosz
- Jackie List
- Anne Tapp
- Julie Van Domelen

Absent

- BVSD (Vacant Seat)
- Robin Bohannan
- Danielle Butler
- Elizabeth Crowe
- Dr. Perla Delgado
- Lexi Nolen
- Christina Pacheco
- Mandy Perera
- Simon Smith
- Karin Stayton
- Johnny Terrell

Staff Present

- Georgina Becerril
- Bill Cole
- Katrina Harms
- Kelli Hintch (Lexi Nolen designee)
- Kari Hunt
- Gwen Mossman
- Whitney Wilcox

Welcome and Introductions

The Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting was called to order by Julie Van Domelen.

Family Resource Network Updates

- May's meeting minutes were unanimously approved.
- Betsey Martens, a long-time council member, is stepping down after over a decade of service. Appreciation for Betsey was expressed.
- Four newly elected members (Jennifer, Jorge, Jackie, and Anne) have been appointed by the BOCC to the Regional Council.
- El Comité has joined the Longmont LAC and staff are actively working to connect with Out Boulder County to join the Boulder LAC.

Workplan Status Update

Whitney Wilcox provided an update on the status of work plan activities using a Gantt chart. Highlights include:

- Successfully shared messaging about the end of the Eviction Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) across the FRN.
- Published and promoted housing navigation maps.
- Initiated discussions about coordination opportunities with the Regional Housing Partnership (RHP).
- Formed a small team (Sister Carmen, EFAA, OUR Center, City of Boulder HHS, City of Longmont Human Services, and Boulder County HHS) to develop and monitor the Rental Assistance Dashboard. Updates on this work will be provided at a future Regional Council meeting.
- Getting ready to kick-off a work group to aggregate a centralized list of affordable rental units.
- LACs have been working on a Resource Directory Navigation map. More details were shared later in the meeting.
- LACs are also working to identify a low barrier communications tool for real-time information sharing among safety net organizations. Updates on this work will be shared at a future Regional Council meeting.

Whitney invited questions from members about the progress on these activities.

FRN Workplan Housing Security Goal: RHP & Opportunities for Coordination and Collaboration

- Whitney outlined potential coordination activities based on the discussions with the FRN and RHP in May. These activities mainly focused on the RHP's role in sharing

information about affordable housing efforts and leveraging FRN connections to increase community support.

- Specific requests by the FRN involved addressing families' specific needs in affordable housing units and establishing connections between the RHP with the Mountain region.
- Activities were shared with Bill Cole of the RHP for his perspective. Bill will share the coordination activities with the RHP members for input.

Whitney invited discussion and input from the group regarding this collaboration.

FRN Workplan Family Support and Navigation Goal: Resource Directory Map

Whitney Wilcox, Marc Cowell, and Julie Van Domelen led the discussion on the Resource Directory Map and proposed 6-9 month pilot of using Findhelp:

- The Boulder, East County, and Longmont LACs were tasked with identifying key resource guides they use in their work to create a resource directory map to help connect frontline staff with reliable navigation tools for safety net services. LAC members shared that information found on websites and in resource guides quickly become outdated. LAC members commonly relied on Google to identify resources. Additionally, teams/organizations create internal directories and often seek advice from trusted networks.
- An initial draft of the map, categorized by population, need, and region, was shared. It included resources like the Behavioral Health Access Services Directory, Findhelp, and the Peak to Peak Get Help Guide. The final version will be published on the Resource Navigation web page.
- Discussions in LAC meetings focused on identifying reliable guides due to concerns about resource guide reliability. The Findhelp platform emerged as a potential tool because it allows real time updates and was recently adopted by the Early Childhood Council of Adams County (ECPAC). A team met with ECPAC to understand their experiences and reasons for choosing the Findhelp platform.
- The potential benefits of using Findhelp includes a closed-loop referral system, real-time updates, customizable screeners, and multi-language support.
- A proposed 6-9 month pilot by the FRCs leading in collaboration with the LACs was discussed. Various concerns were discussed, including managing multiple platforms, potential resource duplication, and potential integration with systems like 211, UniteUs, and Community Connects.
- Planned next steps include discussing the pilot with the LACs in August, exploring platforms used by other counties, and forming an implementation team.

FRN Workplan Family Support and Navigation Goal: Standardized (Common) Screener

Whitney shared survey results about screeners and FRN members' interest in a shared screening tool. The survey revealed that slightly over 70% of respondents were interested in using a common screener.

Whitney proposed convening LAC and Regional Council members in the fall to learn more about screener usage in Boulder County. The goal would be to discuss the barriers and opportunities with adopting a screener, learn about screeners being used in the County, and decide on whether to adopt. There was agreement to learn more about and discuss this topic in the fall.

Other Business/Partner Updates

- Willoughby Corner groundbreaking is scheduled for July 19 at 9am, with an open house set for July 26.
- MHP is celebrating its 60th anniversary on Thursday, August 3 from 4-6pm
- An RFP for a SNAP Outreach contractor will be released from Boulder County HHS. The initiative aims to increase SNAP enrollments by approximately 3500 participants each year over a two-year period. Contact Susan Caskey if you're interested in reviewing the RFP applicants.

The meeting was adjourned.