



Department of Human Services

3460 Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80304
515 Coffman Street, Longmont, Colorado 80501
1755 S. Public Road, Lafayette, Colorado 80026

Tel: 303.441.1000 • Fax: 303.441.1523

www.boco.org/humanservices

Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 08, 2025

3:00-4:30pm, MS Teams

Attendance

Present

- Elizabeth Crowe
- Susan Caskey
- Jorge De Santiago
- Nancy Herbert
- Jennifer Leosz
- Tom Mahowald
- Lexi Nolen
- Mandy Perera
- Karin Stayton
- Anne Tapp
- Julie Van Domelen
- Hilda Zamora Hursh

Absent

- BVSD (Vacant Seat)
- Robin Bohannan
- Marc Cowell
- Suzanne Crawford
- Dr. Perla Delgado
- Kaycee Headrick
- Simon Smith
- Johnny Terrell

Staff Present

- Georgina Becerril
- Heidi Grove
- Liz Izaguirre
- Susana Lopez-Baker
- Daphne McCabe
- Christine Vogel (proxy for Robin Bohannan)

- Whitney Wilcox
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Welcome and Introductions

The Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting was called to order by Elizabeth at 3:02pm who chaired the meeting in Marc's absence. Christine Vogel was introduced as proxy for Robin Bohannon during her absence. This meeting was Anne's last time attending the Regional Council Meeting since Anne will be retiring from SPAN this summer. Council members took turns expressing their appreciation to Anne.

Approval of March 2025 FRN Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth asked for a motion to approve or amend the March 2025 Meeting Minutes. Tom motioned to approve with Anne seconding the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Boulder County Findhelp Update

Liz shared an update on the FRN's launch of [Boulder County Findhelp](#). In March and April, efforts focused on onboarding partner organizations to the platform which resulted in more than 25 different organizations claiming or creating over 70 program cards on the site. Additionally, Liz made presentations about Boulder County Findhelp on behalf of the FRN to a variety of stakeholder groups (e.g., Mobility and Access Coalition, Cultural Brokers Coalition, Family Connects Regional Coordination Meeting, Boulder County Administrator's Manager and Supervisors Meeting, Behavioral Health Operations Group Meeting, Intellectual and Developmental Disability Advisory Council, etc.). The Implementation Team informed the development of a series of supportive materials including a [YouTube playlist](#) of "how-to" videos and a weekly tips email. In May and June, the implementation effort is transitioning its focus to onboarding community members through the launch of the [BoCo Findhelp Communication Toolkit](#), a press release, and outreach at summer community events.

Next Liz provided updated data on pilot project engagement. Over 1,100 distinct users have accessed the website and conducted more than 2,700 searches since mid-February. To date, 91% of FRN organizations are represented on the site with 56% of organizations having claimed at least 1 program card. The FRN's goal is to have 80% of its organizations participating in the pilot program; Liz will reach out to members next week who have not yet claimed a program card to offer support and encourage participation. An additional 7 organizations outside of the FRN have claimed program cards on the site as a result of FRN outreach efforts. Members were encouraged to reach out to Liz with any questions about onboarding to or using the site.

Safety Discussion

The Council continued its discussion concerning creating public spaces that feel open and welcoming to all community members. Examples of signage and policies provided by member organizations are now available in the Regional Council's SharePoint folder. Members are welcome to add additional materials to this folder, or email items to Liz to add.

Elizabeth reached out to the Sheriff's Office, City of Boulder Police Department, and Longmont Police Department to see if law enforcement representatives would be willing to participate in

a virtual round table discussion about safety plans. When polled, the group agreed that holding this event was still of interest to organizations. The Council discussed potential dates, considerations for encouraging staff attendance, and special subtopics related to safety to address.

Communication and Advocacy Work

Elizabeth updated the Council on the work of the Communication and Advocacy Workgroup over the last two months. She reminded the Council that this workgroup was formed to build on the Call to Action press event last fall as well as the Op Ed published this winter. The workgroup's proposed activities include:

- A proposed targeted timeline of summer/fall 2025.
- Messaging geared towards community members who are looking to take action as well as community leaders.
- Collecting stories from volunteers and advocates about why the work is important and how it benefits our communities with the goal of turning these testimonials into email and social media campaigns.

Elizabeth requested feedback from the Council to see if these proposals were capturing what the members hoped to accomplish and inspire in the community. Council members agreed with the approach while highlighting the need to emphasize the value of every gesture of support. Members also felt it was important to elevate the positive impact volunteerism has on both the volunteer and the people served. Lastly, members discussed the need to increase awareness that impacts to the safety net are being felt in every corner of our communities. Elizabeth will be reaching out to members in May or June to request assistance in collecting impact stories and supporting materials.

Family Homelessness Subcommittee Update

Anne and Julie updated the Council on the work of the Family Homelessness Subcommittee (FHS). First, Anne provided a brief history of the establishment of the FHS and how it sought to bring partners together to explore the needs, barriers, and resources available to address family homelessness in Boulder County. Julie walked members through recent data collected by the FHS that highlighted how rising housing costs are contributing to families losing stable, affordable housing; according to the most recent McKinney-Vento data, most displaced families are doubled up in living situations with friends or family members. Rental assistance is known to be a key preventive measure in relationship to family homelessness. However, Family Resource Centers are reporting increases in need while fewer dollars are available to spend. Anne then shared the three proposed 2025-2026 FHS workplan focus areas:

- Housing Continuum – to increase awareness among family homelessness service providers of the supports available for families with complex needs.
- Advocacy – to increase awareness among community leaders regarding the scope of family homelessness and resources needed to address this crisis.

- Data Management – to implement an “Annual Report on the State of Family Homelessness in Boulder County” using an agreed upon data sharing tool and practice.

Members discussed how the advocacy efforts of the FHS might align with those of the FRN. The Council also agreed that the issue of family homelessness highlights the need for organizations to understand the resources available across the community, engage in deep partnerships with each other, and strengthen lines of inter-agency communication. Some members shared the impacts of recent changes to Colorado state law on the scope of support available to families through transitional housing programs. The Council thanked Anne and Julie for the presentation and requested that the FHS continue to provide regular updates on their work to the Council.

Emerging Issues for Partners

No updates were provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24pm.