



Department of Human Services

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Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 8, 2026

3:00-4:30pm, MS Teams

Attendance

Present

- Susan Caskey
- Suzanne Crawford
- Elizabeth Crowe
- Jorge De Santiago
- Samma Fox
- Kaycee Headrick
- Nancy Herbert
- Jennifer Leosz
- Heather Marcy
- Lexi Nolen
- Debbie Pope
- Karin Stayton
- Johnny Terrell
- Annette Treufeldt-Franck
- Hilda Zamora Hursh

Absent

- Robin Bohannan
- Marc Cowell
- BVSD (Vacant Seat)
- Simon Smith

Staff Present

- Georgina Becerril
- Heidi Grove
- Khari Hunt
- Liz Izaguirre
- Susana Lopez-Baker
- Joni Lynch
- Daphne McCabe

- Gwen Mossman
 - 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 facilitated the meeting in Marc's absence. Elizabeth opened the meeting by reading a passage from Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope by Bell Hooks. She then invited members to introduce themselves and share a one-word intention that they are bringing into the new year.

Approval of September 2025 FRN Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth asked for a motion to approve or amend the September 2025 Meeting Minutes. Debbie motioned to approve with Kaycee seconding the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

March Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Elizabeth reminded the Council of the cadence for chair and vice chair elections. Typically, after a 1-year term, the vice chair moves into the chair position and then a new vice chair is elected by the Council. In 2025, the Council voted to retain the 2024 chair and vice chair for strategic continuity of leadership during a season of change across the safety net. Unless a member of the Council objects, in 2026 Elizabeth will serve as chair and the Council will need to elect a new vice chair. No objections to this proposal were made. Whitney added that usually the chair and vice chair represent both government and non-government agencies as well as different geographic regions of the county. Since Elizabeth represents a government agency working within the city of Boulder, then the new vice chair will ideally represent a community-based organization with a service area outside of the city of Boulder.

Georgina asked Elizabeth if she could provide some additional context for interested members regarding time commitment, duties, etc. of the vice chair position. Elizabeth shared that the support received from Boulder County Human Services (BCHS) staff really simplified the process of facilitating meetings and leading the Council. She encouraged anyone who enjoys thinking about processes and how to influence outcomes while maintaining a collaborative space to nominate themselves. On average, Elizabeth estimated that serving as vice chair only required a few hours of time a month to check-in on FRN activities, prepare for meetings, and participate in strategic project workgroups with the acknowledgement that special events like the November All FRN Event required additional investment of time and energy.

Regional Council members with questions about and/or interest in serving as vice chair for 2026 should reach out to Marc, Elizabeth, or Whitney. The Council will vote on the positions of chair and vice chair during the March meeting.

FRN Strategic Framework 2026-2027

Whitney provided an overview of the November 2025 half-day strategic planning session that brought together members of the Council and Local Area Collaboratives (LACs) to develop the

next FRN workplan. Special appreciation was given to Sister Carmen Community Center for not only hosting the event but also opening early the day of the event and setting up/tearing down the meeting space. Whitney shared that the intent of this event was to step back from day-to-day operations and collectively take stock of pressures, concerns, and opportunities across the safety net.

During this meeting, FRN members identified trends in the service landscape across Boulder County including policy and eligibility changes at the federal and state levels, funding volatility, workforce shortages, increased demand for services coupled with constrained capacity, and heightened fear and disengagement among immigrant and mixed-status families. Using input from regional mapping activities, storytelling, and crowd-sourced ideas, the following four FRN priorities for 2026-2027 emerged:

- Navigation and referral systems
- Housing stability and eviction prevention
- Coordination and collaboration across the safety net
- Health equity and access.

As next steps, Whitney will develop a structured workplan synthesizing these priorities into strategies for implementation. The workplan will then be submitted to the Council and LACs for review and engagement before being adopted by the FRN. By identifying the FRN's scope of activity as well as where (and what type of) work is taking place among other groups or networks, this plan will inform future FRN focus areas and projects.

Elizabeth invited members to ask questions about the workplan development process and provide feedback on the November event. Samma shared her appreciation for the structure of the event and how activities were designed to narrow down focus areas. Several other members expressed appreciation for the hard work that went into organizing and facilitating the event.

Human Services State and Federal Updates

Next, Susan provided an update on several recent events impacting Human Services from state and federal sources including

- Three letters the Governor's office received on January 8, 2026 from the federal government regarding the freezing of federal funds for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), and Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). Impacts to these three programs have implications for Colorado Works, the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), child welfare, and adult protective services.
- The Colorado Attorney General's notice that a lawsuit is being filed in response to the December 15, 2025 letter from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) informing Colorado that five of its counties (including Boulder County) are required to participate in a pilot program involving recertifying all Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants within 30 days. The USDA indicated that failure to participate in the pilot program would result in USDA freezing SNAP funds on January 19, 2026.

- Recent proposals from the Colorado Departments of Human Services (CDHS) and Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) to significantly alter the existing structure for programs managed by local human services departments. If implemented, the initial district planning phase for services would begin in July 2026.

Susan emphasized that currently there is no impact to services or changes to client eligibility or benefits. However, to help plan for potential impacts to services, BCHS is beginning to analyze internal month-over-month funding as well as if any of (and for how long) the costs of affected programs could be covered by local dollars. Members asked for additional data regarding the number of community members served by CCAP and TANF broken out by municipality and unincorporated areas. Khari will work on collecting this information. At Susan's request, Whitney forwarded the email sent to BCHS staff explaining some of these impacts that contained links to fact sheets and talking points for CCDF, TANF, and SSBG.

Members also brought up concerns regarding implementation of new HR1 work and volunteer requirements for SNAP (and eventually Medicaid) participants and shared how they were receiving questions from community members about impacts. Susan offered to bring an HR 1 implementation update to the next Regional Council meeting to provide more detailed information about implementation of and populations affected by these new requirements.

Next, members discussed how to support each other during these changing requirements. Items discussed included raising collective concerns across the safety net, coordinating advocacy and messaging among partners, and continuing to strategize on a regional approach to service delivery as Boulder County faces compounding hurdles of changing federal requirements and state budget cuts. Susan asked the Council if given the nature and scope of what was happening, it would be helpful to receive an update between now and the March meeting either via an additional Council meeting or a Community Partner meeting. Elizabeth recommended holding a Community Partner meeting to include other organizations potentially impacted by these events that do not hold seats on the Council; other members agreed with this approach. Susan will schedule a Community Partner meeting for January, and additional updates will be provided on the FRN Teams Channel.

Elizabeth encouraged the Council to consider how to use their collective FRN voices to clarify impacts to the safety net and support actions taken by state or federal leadership. She asked if the Council had interest in collecting stories from community members and staff via a shared document that could be used by FRN members, as needed. Members expressed support of this action and identified the FRN SharePoint site as a preferred location to store the document. Whitney will follow-up with Elizabeth after the meeting to collaborate on next steps.

Human Services Alliance (HSA) Coordination

Elizabeth provided an update from Marc about his outreach to the HSA regarding coordination of communication campaigns surrounding local safety net needs. HSA leadership shared that they were open to this discussion. They supported sharing information to prevent duplicative efforts and complement each other's work while acknowledging differences across HSA and FRN roles and strengths.

Emerging Issues from Partners

Joni shared that since the SNAP pause in November, the OUR Center saw an increase in donations and support from the community. The OUR Center coordinated with local partners to store these additional pallets of food donations.

Annette provided an update on response efforts to the building fire in Nederland in November and shared how the community rallied around each other to provide support.

Suzanne affirmed the experience of the OUR Center and shared that Sister Carmen Community Center had similarly seen an outpouring of community support including an increase in food donations.

Daphne reminded members that WIC can provide food to families with children aged 0-5 years but cautioned that there might be a waiting list for families to get an appointment.

Jen discussed the opening of Clinica Family Health and Wellness's new acute care facility in Louisville. Since its opening, they have seen an extension of services to populations who weren't accessing support at the old location including children and adolescents.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:23pm.