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Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 12, 2026

3:00-4:30pm, MS Teams

Attendance

Present

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

Absent

- BVSD (Vacant Seat)
- Marc Cowell
- Nancy Herbert
- Simon Smith
- Hilda Zamora Hursh

Staff Present

- Georgina Becerril
- Heidi Grove
- Liz Izaguirre
- Joni Lynch
- Gwen Mossman
- Kristi Venditti
- Katie Warning

- Whitney Wilcox
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Welcome and Introductions

The Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting was called to order by Elizabeth at 3:03pm who facilitated the meeting in Marc's absence. Elizabeth opened the meeting by sharing a quote from Sojourner Truth in recognition of Women's History Month before inviting members to introduce themselves.

Approval of January 2026 FRN Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth asked for a motion to approve or amend the January 2026 Meeting Minutes. Karin motioned to approve with Debbie seconding the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

PRAPARE Screening Tool Discussion

Whitney provided an update on the status of the FRN's attempts to pilot the PRAPARE Tool for social needs screening. Two years ago, the Regional Council recommended that programs or organizations not currently using a social needs screening tool adopt a common assessment and identified PRAPARE as the preferred tool. This past fall Liz began working with the Boulder County Human Services (BCHS) child support team to pilot the use of PRAPARE. During this process, Liz learned that there is now a \$5,000 per year per organization license fee associated with PRAPARE's use.

Elizabeth then asked council members if, considering this new information, they would like to move forward with piloting PRAPARE, pause and rediscuss this effort, or no longer pursue using a common screener. Suzanne shared that while she saw value in a shared tool, some organizations might find the \$5,000 per year price point too costly to maintain especially during a season of fiscal constraints. She expressed concern that recommending a tool requiring an ongoing budget line item might put the entire notion of a "common screener" at risk when at any point, member organization(s) might decide there is not enough funding to justify the expense. Several other members agreed and shared that their organizations were currently using a different social needs screener so would not be adopting PRAPARE.

Based on this conversation, Elizabeth proposed pausing the PRAPARE pilot and re-evaluating the use of a common social needs screener at a future Council meeting. Members agreed with this approach.

FRN Strategic Framework 2026-2027

Whitney reminded members of the process for drafting the 2026-2027 FRN Strategic Framework. This plan combined the top 11 ideas voted on by members at the November 2025 All FRN Event across 4 priority areas:

- Navigation and Referral Systems
- Housing Stability and Eviction Prevention
- Coordination and Collaboration

- Health Equity and Access

Elizabeth requested feedback from members on whether they felt that the priorities and activities listed in the strategic framework reflected the work and conversations held at that November event. After incorporating Council feedback, the Local Area Collaborative (LAC) co-facilitation team will present the framework at the upcoming April All LAC Meeting for review and input by LAC members. During the May Regional Council meeting, an updated version of the plan will be submitted for final approval. Following that approval, a more detailed implementation plan (e.g., timeline, responsible FRN bodies, etc.) will be developed.

Robin thanked members for their tenacity in maintaining the work since many of the goals mapped in the framework represented a continuation of past FRN work. She then noted that some of the items in the document seemed more operational, so she wanted to make sure that FRN members have the resources and capacity to engage on those pieces of the plan. Elizabeth agreed that she appreciated not just listed goals but also anticipated outcomes. She reminded members of conversations at the November event that defined success (particularly during seasons of rapid change) as “holding the line” as well as starting new projects. The intent behind this draft framework is to provide guidance for the FRN when identifying focus areas as need and capacity allow.

Next, Susan acknowledged the aspirational nature of the plan and suggested narrowing down some of the priorities to ensure that members had the bandwidth to influence deeper systems-level change as opposed to focusing too much on surface-level work. She wondered if some goals listed might be reframed from the FRN doing the work to instead providing first-hand experience and feedback to other networks or organizations already engaged in that work. Annette shared that she also felt the plan was ambitious and wanted to make sure that the plan wasn’t so complex that it lost focus on empowering frontline staff.

Additionally, Debbie highlighted the need to identify reasonable metrics to confirm the successful completion of the plan’s goals and objectives. Elizabeth encouraged members to think about some of the framework’s key actions as educational opportunities instead of taking on the work directly. In these cases, measurement might be knowledge increases as opposed to numbers served. Whitney reminded members that the framework’s appendix included a table listing the activities and ideas on which the suggested priorities and goals were based. Susan again spoke to the FRN’s role of bridging the communication gap between service provision and community engagement. Other members affirmed this understanding of the plan.

Lastly, Kristi expressed a desire to align (where possible) Regional Council and members’ organizational priorities across the workplan. As an example, she outlined how EFAA’s priority to improve communication feedback loops between departments and leadership aligned well with the framework but that other pieces (e.g., work requirements, Medicaid updates, etc.) fell outside of the scope of EFAA’s activities. Members agreed on the importance of keeping in mind the broader safety net ecosystem that eventually impacted (even indirectly) everyone’s work while also holding the tension that direct intervention (as opposed to collaborative communication about general changes, impacts, and needs) belonged to specific organizations.

In closing, Elizabeth recommended that the Council go ahead and share the framework (including notes from this conversation) with the LACs to review and provide frontline staff perspective on capacity, duplicative efforts, and prioritization of unique, value-added goals. At the same time, a working group comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair, and BCHS support staff would convene to further refine some of the goals and objectives flagged during this meeting. Using this approach, both bodies of the FRN would work together to prioritize areas and highlight any items that might have shifted since the November 2025 event. Members agreed with this approach.

BCHS Updates

Susan provided an update on state and federal impacts to human services shared during the January Regional Council Meeting.

- In response to the State's proposal to regionalize certain services, a coalition of counties submitted an alternative plan; negotiations are ongoing between counties, the governor's office, the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF), Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS), and several philanthropic organizations. The Joint Budget Committee voted against the State's shared services model and is instead directing funds towards the proposal produced by these negotiations.
- Lawsuits are still pending for the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP) pilot and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) funding freezes. While the preliminary injunctions are in place, federal monies continue to flow into the state.

Several members expressed appreciation for Susan's leadership in these areas and for keeping stakeholders engaged while working to stabilize services. Susan emphasized the goal of avoiding service disruptions while also exploring how local funds might be applied differently on a limited basis to cover existing gaps.

In response to data requests from Regional Council members in January, Susan walked the group through 2025 Boulder County overall service numbers for the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; TANF data by municipality were also shared. Members requested copies of the tables which Susan agreed to with the caveat that the information not be broadly disseminated; Regional Council members were encouraged to use the data for their own information and consideration. Liz will coordinate with Whitney the distribution of a sharable version of the CCAP and TANF data.

Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Elizabeth reminded members of the Council's rotating leadership process whereby the Vice Chair is typically voted into the Chair position, and a new Vice Chair is elected. Since March was Marc's last meeting as Chair, members were asked to vote on approving Elizabeth as Chair as well as electing a new Vice Chair.

Next, Elizabeth invited Debbie, who previously expressed interest in serving as Vice Chair, to speak with the Council. Debbie thanked the Council for considering her for this position and

shared how the FRN's vision aligned well with EFAA's mission to strengthen families and create a thriving community. Debbie also described her experience in this space over the past 25 years and voiced appreciation for the collaborative nature of the FRN's work.

Suzanne expressed confidence in Debbie's ability to serve well as Vice Chair while also highlighting that it had been several leadership cycles since the Chair or Vice Chair positions were filled by representatives from East County. She respectfully requested that during the next Vice Chair election, the FRN prioritize electing a member from among East County safety net providers. Members expressed appreciation for Suzanne's current service as co-chair of the Family Homelessness Subcommittee which precluded her ability to serve as Vice Chair and committed to holding space for this preference next year.

A motion to approve Elizabeth Crowe as Chair and Debbie Pope as Vice Chair of the FRN was made by Susan; Robin seconded the motion. The motion passed with the acknowledgement that members would work next year to ensure that the FRN's leadership was representative of the geographic spread of services.

Mountain LAC Transition Recommendation

Whitney provided an overview of a proposed new approach to incorporate mountain safety net provider voice in the FRN's work. For members' context, she described how the Peak-to-Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance (P2P) spent the last few years evaluating its capacity to maintain the Mountain Human Services Collaborative (MHSC) which also served as a Mountain LAC to not duplicate work across that region. Last month, the P2P Chair and LAC co-facilitation team met to brainstorm options for maintaining connections with mountain safety net providers if P2P decided to no longer support the MHSC.

During its March meeting, P2P officially voted to dissolve the MHSC. As a result, Whitney shared that team's recommendation to integrate mountain partners into the existing Boulder and Longmont LACs. These LACs would be renamed to better reflect the new service area coverage. If the Regional Council approves this tentative plan, the LAC co-facilitators will bring this recommendation back to the members of the impacted LACs and submit a final recommendation to the Regional Council at a future meeting.

As P2P Chair, Annette shared that P2P members felt it would be easier to create seats on existing LACs within the FRN instead of continuing to coordinate work through the MHSC especially in the absence of a paid P2P Coordinator. She also expressed thanks to Whitney and Liz for their support of the P2P over the past year. Members had no reservations and agreed with this approach.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31pm.