



Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 9, 2026

3:00-4:30pm, MS Teams

Attendance

Present

- Robin Bohannon
- Marc Cowell
- Suzanne Crawford
- Elizabeth Crowe
- Jorge De Santiago
- Kaycee Headrick
- Nancy Herbert
- Jennifer Leosz
- Heather Marcy
- Debbie Pope
- Annette Treufeldt-Franck
- Hilda Zamora Hursh

Absent

- BVSD (Vacant Seat)
- Susan Caskey
- Samma Fox
- Lexi Nolen
- Simon Smith
- Karin Stayton
- Johnny Terrell

Staff Present

- Georgina Becerril (Proxy)
- Christina Becker
- Susan Grutzmacher
- Khari Hunt
- Liz Izaguirre
- Joni Lynch

- Gwen Mossman
- Katie Warning
- Whitney Wilcox

Guests

- Carin Armstrong
 - Lyndall Ellingson (Proxy)
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Welcome and Introductions

The Family Resource Network (FRN) Regional Council Meeting was called to order by Elizabeth at 3:03pm. Members introduced themselves and participated in an ice breaker activity.

Approval of May 2026 FRN Regional Council Meeting Minutes

Elizabeth asked for a motion to approve or amend the May 2026 Meeting Minutes. Suzanne motioned to approve with Georgina (serving as proxy for Susan Caskey) seconding the motion. The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Overview and Discussion: Employment First and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid Work Requirements

Boulder County Human Services' (BCHS) Christina Becker, Employment First Program Coordinator, presented updates on Employment First, SNAP, and Medicaid. Christina provided an overview of H.R. 1 impacts to [SNAP](#) and how the [Employment First Program](#) (EF) can assist community members who have training, education, or work goals meet new community engagement requirements. Colorado is the only state that offers [Workfare](#) which allows participants to volunteer at a nonprofit organization or government agency to fulfill EF requirements. Organizations interested in learning more about becoming a Workfare site should email EmploymentFirst@bouldercounty.gov.

Elizabeth asked about impacts that EF staff have seen on participants who are new to these SNAP community engagement requirements. Christina shared several success stories about how EF has been able to assist participants complete certifications such as a Commercial Drivers License (CDL) or obtain clothes for job interviews. Community members seem excited to engage with this program because of its focus on gaining employment, training completion, skill attainment, or job retention to help participants no longer rely on public benefits to meet their daily needs.

Next, Elizabeth asked about the program's capacity to meet existing demand. Christina affirmed sufficient capacity while also emphasizing the desire to expand the number of Workfare sites to meet an anticipated increase in demand. The program is currently experiencing a 65% increase in referrals and 20% increase in participation. Annette shared that Peak-to-Peak Housing and Human Services Alliance's (P2P) Human Resource Fair in Nederland had seen an increase in the number of community members attending wanting to confirm that their SNAP paperwork was current. She also asked if there was any crossover between EF services and those provided by

the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Christina reminded participants that individuals meeting DVR service provision criteria were exempt from SNAP work requirements. Robin shared that [Workforce Boulder County](#) can also work with community members regardless of DVR status. Georgina described BCHS's efforts to explore creating Workfare opportunities within its programs. Planning efforts currently focus on developing volunteer job descriptions with the goal of having one or two volunteer opportunities ready soon as part of a pilot program. BCHS will share lessons learned from these efforts with other members of the Regional Council who might be interested in expanding Workfare offerings within their organizations.

Robin mentioned that the new proposal by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to overhaul uniform grant compliance rules (i.e., [CRF part 200](#)) would have ripple effects across the safety net, if passed. More information should be released in the coming weeks that can be shared with the Council.

Lastly, Susan provided an update on the implementation of H.R. 1 for Medicaid participants and administering agencies. The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) is still interpreting the federal guidance that was released at the end of June. For updates on Medicaid changes, members were encouraged to visit several resources including:

- [The HCPF H.R. 1 Medicaid Partner Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage.
- [Health First Colorado Work Requirements Screener Tool](#)
- [H.R. 1 Communications Toolkit for Colorado's Medicaid Program](#)

BCHS anticipates that between 16,000-18,000 community members currently enrolled in Medicaid will need to meet the new community engagement and six-month recertification requirements. Susan also shared that BCHS has not seen a decrease in SNAP case loads since implementation of H.R. 1 SNAP provisions. Outreach efforts aimed towards keeping qualified people enrolled in the program seemed to be working well.

Overview and Discussion: The City of Boulder's Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance Services (EPRAS) Program

City of Boulder's Carin Armstrong, Community Mediation and Resolution Center Manager, and Elizabeth Crowe, Housing and Human Services Deputy Director, provided an overview of the launch, maintenance, and impact of EPRAS. Elizabeth reminded members of the goal of this discussion – to begin conversations about what creating a county-wide rental support system might look like and consider the potential value of this type of program. The City of Boulder Ordinance 8412 established the [EPRAS Program](#) to provide rental assistance and legal representation to community members to avoid evictions and keep residents housed. A landlord tax (which in 2025 amounted to \$80.71 per dwelling unit) funds the program. Current EPRAS components include legal services, rental assistance, mediation and resource navigation. While Boulder County provides funding for mediation and resource navigation for all Boulder County residents through EPRAS, only city of Boulder residents qualify for legal and rental assistance either through the Emergency Family Assistance Association's (EFAA) program (i.e.,

prior to eviction court up to \$2,000 once per 24 months) or the City of Boulder's funds (i.e., for tenants at eviction court up to \$4,000 once per 12 months). EPRAS is run by two program administrators, one city attorney for legal services, and a five-member [Tenant Advisory Committee](#) (which is currently looking to fill an empty seat). EPRAS staff receive weekly eviction court dockets and then attempt to contact tenants for whom eviction has been filed; the program's greatest success is getting tenants to court so that they don't experience a default eviction. EPRAS serves an average of 1,000 community members per year with around half of people who report demographics representing families facing eviction. In 2025, EPRAS distributed \$216,000 directly to clients at court to prevent eviction and provided \$600,000 to EFAA in support of their rental assistance program. Debbie shared that EFAA has seen an 11% increase in participants requesting rent assistance along with a higher first dollar amount needed to prevent eviction proceedings.

Debbie asked if council members had any initial thoughts about the program. Several members shared appreciation for the detailed information provided as well as accounts of the positive experiences of community members who had received services from EPRAS at eviction court. Some members expressed concerns over how to approach the funding challenge considering American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars ending, the limited funds available through the state's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), and the county government facing a \$13.2 million budget reduction in 2027. Gwen mentioned that when monies existed for housing support mobilization staff to help at eviction court, there seemed to be more integrated support across the county. She suggested that this model might be replicable again with the identification of sustainable funding.

Next, Debbie asked members to consider what it would take to establish this needed funding. Carin offered that providing mediation services was the "lowest hanging fruit" since the current Boulder County contract covering all county residents amounted to only \$40,000. These mediators explain the eviction process, bring residents to court, and serve as general navigators during the entire eviction court process. Legal services would be the next least costly item to provide. While rental assistance dollars needed to expand the program would be significant, having this source of funding available at court was very effective in preventing evictions. Gwen mentioned that Boulder County Housing had allocated funding for mediation services in their 2027 budget and had staff that could manage the distribution of additional funds. She recommended that the Council focus on securing funding for legal services and equitable eviction prevention dollars when considering expansion of the program. Annette asked if connecting with nonprofits providing pro bono legal support might be an option, but Elizabeth replied that in the city of Boulder's experience, it was important to have attorneys with knowledge specific to housing and eviction law which was not necessarily true of all attorneys offering pro bono services.

In closing, Elizabeth asked if members were interested in looking at existing data to explore further the potential costs and structures required for a county-wide expansion of all EPRAS components. In general, members expressed a desire for additional discussion and asked to see EPRAS mediation data broken down by municipality to better understand how eviction court

services are currently being utilized by community members residing outside of the city of Boulder. Several members shared challenges due to a lack of enough funding to cover existing rental assistance program requests, especially since the amount requested was often significant and requestors did not always have a plan for how to cover future months' rent.

Emerging Issues from Partners

Elizabeth opened the discussion for members to share any pressing trends, items of concern, or ways to partner with and lift each other up across the safety net. Annette shared that P2P started hosting weekly [Take Care Tuesdays](#) at the Nederland Community Center from 12-2pm now through the end of the year. Activities include yoga, Acudetox, community connections, and a free lunch.

Other members shared that there were no additional updates or emerging items of concern. Elizabeth thanked members for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.