

**Minutes of the
Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting
May 30, 2019**

Members present include: Corbin Bruursema, Bruce Day, Mike Delger, Trever Kirkland, Jerry Loendorf, Bob Mullen, Mary Pat Penley, Daniel Pocha, Ericka Vallance, Paula Wright, Mark Young

Members absent include: Susan Geise, Debbie Havens, Maria Pace, Lois Steinbeck

Guests: Gale Anderson, Rod Applegate, Jonathan Ballew, Shawna Donaldson, Tommy Driscoll, Diane Edgar, Taya Hovan, Chrisy Ireys, Lori Ladas, Kathy Marks, Ashley Peña-Larsen

Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order at 3:33 p.m. and a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Bob Mullen made the motion to approve the April 25, 2019 Board meeting minutes and the February 28, 2019 Finance Committee minutes. Trever Kirkland seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report – Lori Ladas

Lori reported that Rocky had made their annual County Mill request to Lewis and Clark County and felt it went well. In reviewing the terms for current Board members, the only member whose term expires in 2019 is Lois Steinbeck; she will be asked if she'd like to stay on the Board for another term. Lori spoke about the structure of the Senior programs. About 16 months ago, the structure of the programs was changed to have one Program Director managing both Senior Nutrition/Transportation and the Area IV Agency on Aging. After reviewing the impact of that restructure, the decision was made to revert back to the former structure. Rod Applegate will continue as the Program Director for Senior Nutrition/Transportation, and a job posting for the Area IV Program Director will be posted soon; Heather Nicholson is serving as the interim Director for that program. The personnel costs attached to those changes will impact the County Mill projections for the upcoming year. Two Strategic Planning sessions are scheduled in June. The Program Directors will meet on June 3, and the Board will have a half-day session on June 12. As a result of Rocky's Risk Assessment, the Board members are asked to complete a Board Self-Assessment, which was distributed at the meeting. These are to be returned by June 12. Lori reported that while reviewing the rural meal sites, the decision was made to eliminate the second position at both the Boulder and Lincoln sites for reasons of efficiency. The individuals affected were given a 30-day notice of layoff. After discussion, the Board decided to cancel the July meeting this summer.

Finance Report Update – Chrisy Ireys

The current cash balance is \$636,676 and Accounts Payable is \$97,411. The Accounts Payable total is high, due to Area IV Contractor payments that will be sent tomorrow. Chrisy reported

that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed the impact of the Senior Program restructure on County Mill funding, and that after adjusting the spreadsheet County Mill funding is still positive for FY2020. Also, the Finance Committee discussed the Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion programs, regarding their progress toward Rocky's requirement of 60 VSYs per program.

Red Alder Update

Since Liz Mogstad was unable to attend the meeting, Lori gave an update on the Red Alder project. The City Commission approved the Conditional Use Permit in May. Mosaic Architecture has completed design documents and bid specs, and the project is expected to go out to bid in August. During environmental inspection, small amounts of arsenic and lead were found in a soil sample. Braun Intertec is preparing a mitigation plan for removal of the impacted soil, and depending on cost, it may be removed during the site work process. According to HOME requirements, the land cannot be purchased until the environmental work is completed, so the goal is to make the purchase by the end of August. In order to assist financially until the environmental issues are resolved, the Board was asked to approve a bridge loan agreement with Neighborworks Montana for an amount not to exceed \$600,000. The resolution showed an incorrect loan dollar amount, and will be corrected before it is signed. Rocky would only pay interest on the actual funds drawn. The interest rate on the loan is expected to be around 6%, and Neighborworks would hold no security interest in the property.

Mark Young made the motion to approve the resolution for the bridge loan, with the noted correction of maximum loan amount changed to \$600,000. Bob Mullen seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The Affordable Housing program update was moved to the June agenda, since Liz was not present. A packet of information about Rocky's properties was given to Board members for their review before next month's meeting.

Head Start Update

a. Policy Council Update

Mark Young reported that Policy Council met earlier in the day, and that Head Start classes were done yesterday. After expenses, the Policy Council fundraiser brought in just over \$7,000. They discussed how to use the funds, and are looking into working on a garden program similar to the one at the Ray Bjork site. A grant is available through Miracle Gro, and could assist in development of garden boxes at the Townsend, Whitehall, and Valley locations. Next month, the council will discuss how to spend the remainder of the fundraiser dollars. Mark also noted that 12 families have gone through Love and Logic classes, and more are planned in the future.

b. Director's Program and Budget Report

Ashley provided the Board with an updated data report, reflective of the year-end program information. Seventy-four children had an IEP this year. Overall attendance for April ended at 87.16%; one student finished the school year with perfect attendance. The budget shows just over \$20,000 to spend, but that has all been spent out since the spreadsheet was printed. A new budget for the two-month grant will be presented to the Board next month. Ashley also noted that the sidewalk chalk pictures on her reports were

submitted as part of a Head Start contest. Ashley asked the Board for any feedback on the format of the School Readiness data in the Board packet; the Board found it to be user-friendly and easy to read. A suggestion was made to include a note about where to find the full report, in case people were interested in reading more. The MPDG grant was awarded to Rocky Head Start, for a total of \$50,000. The funds will be used to complete some consultant projects, along with professional development and purchasing supplies. The Regional Head Start office has informed us that Rocky is “in negotiations” for the Head Start contract, but no official contract award has been offered as of yet. News about the grant is expected mid-June.

Trever Kirkland made the motion to approve the Head Start Director’s Program and Budget Report. Bruce Day seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

c. Child/Behavior Support Outcomes 2018-2019

Ashley reported that the School Readiness Goals align with the Head Start curriculum, and the objectives mirror the goals. The most surprising data was in the area of literacy, with 44% of children meeting expectations at the start of the year and just over 85% at year’s end. Head Start aims for percentages of 90% or greater. The language/literacy goals will be changed to meet what is observed in the students. A question was asked about the Behavior Specialist’s role; Ashley reported that the position has been supporting 30 students this year, and there has been a significant decrease in outside services needed due to needs being addressed in the classroom.

Bruce Day made the motion to approve the Child/Behavior Support Outcomes for 2018/2019. Mark Young seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

CSBG Work Plan Review

Kathy spoke about the CSBG work plan, and its format as required by the State. The services listed are what Rocky’s programs do, and the RNG NPI (ROMA Next Gen National Performance Indicator), Measurement, and Outcomes columns attempt to explain the results of Rocky’s services. Each ROMA goal must align with a specific domain, such as Education, Income/Asset Building, or Health and Social Behavior. The findings of the most recent community needs assessment also need to tie to the goals. The Executive Summary explains all of Rocky’s programs, and the Statement of Assurances addresses more specific questions. The CSBG budget is based on census numbers from 2010 for the tri-county area and how many people Rocky serves. The CSBG grant is renewed annually, but there is a timeframe of 18-20 months to spend out the funding. CSBG can be used for programs serving the low-income population only.

Kathy also handed out copies of the introduction from the book “Trying Hard is Not Good Enough”, which speaks about outcome-based services. She asked the Board members to read through the introduction in advance of next week’s Board Strategic Planning session.


Kathy extended an invitation to Board members to join Spirit of Service volunteers on June 5 for the BBQ after the event's completion. The rain date will be June 11. Currently, 578 volunteers are signed up to work on 54 houses this year. Kathy reported that 40% of the individuals receiving SOS assistance this year have been part of the program in the past several years. She also spoke to the Board about the "Chair-ish" the Seniors campaign that will help Rocky reach the matching funds goal for the Treacy Foundation grant, which promised Rocky \$20,000 toward new dining room tables and chairs if Rocky raised \$10,000 for the same goal. A little over \$3,000 has been raised by Rocky so far. A \$150 donation toward the chairs will earn a person or business recognition on a plaque in the Dinner Club.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

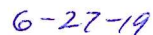
Respectfully submitted,



Diane Edgar
Executive Assistant


Lois Steinbeck

Secretary/Treasurer


Date