

Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.
Board of Directors' Meeting
May 28, 2026
Neighborhood Center Card Room/Zoom Conference Call

Rocky Board Members present: Kate Anderson, Katelyn Buck, Bruce Day, Susan Geise, Debbie Havens, Andy Hunthausen, Paula Jacques, Trever Kirkland, Cory Kirsch, Teri Lilletvedt, Erin Lyndes, Dan Rispens, Jesse Swenson

Rocky Board Members absent: Dannai Clayborn, Charlie Lane

Others present: Diane Edgar, John Gorton, Joanna Halland, Taya Hovan, Lori Ladas, Jean Leischner, Samara Lynde, Liz Mogstad, Angela Nelmark, Ashley Peña-Larsen, Diane Robel, Tom Robel, Jonathan Schmitz, Katie Tuxbury, Evad Vanspoore

Call to Order/Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Trever Kirkland at 3:33 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Erin Lyndes made the motion to approve the April 30, 2026, Board of Directors meeting minutes and the March 26, 2026, Finance Committee meeting minutes. Debbie Havens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report – Lori Ladas

Lori asked for any questions regarding her written report to the Board. She highlighted the amount of donations received in the month of May.

General Fiscal Update – Lori Ladas

Cash balance reported was \$2,842,387. Jonathan Schmitz reviewed the financial statements ending March 2026. Rocky maintains a strong cash position, with 2.15 months of cash on hand. The current ratio of assets versus liabilities is 2.16. The statement of activities reflects a positive cash revenue of \$431,481. Programs contributing to that positive cash balance include Rocky Mountain Preschool, General/Admin, and Affordable Housing. Preliminary April financials show no concerns at this time.

Lori reported that Budget Analysts are working on the FY2027 budget, which will be presented at the June Board meeting. She noted that the budget had been presented to Lewis & Clark County Commissioners, with a 2.7% increase requested. Presently, the budget reflects that Rocky will end FY2026 with \$130,000 in County Mill carryover funding.

Discuss/Approve Investment Options – Evad Vanspoore, First Interstate Investment Services

Evad Vanspoore from First Interstate Investment Services presented options to consider regarding the funds currently held in Rocky's money market account. The account is gaining around 3.3% interest and totals approximately \$1.4 million. Evad's recommendation is for First Interstate to become a fiduciary on the account, taking the specific day-to-day decisions about the account off the Rocky Board. An Investment Policy Statement would be created, establishing guidelines as to how funds will be allocated and how often decisions are made. The roles and responsibilities of both parties would be defined in the policy statement, along with investment objectives. Evad spoke about how the funding is 100% liquid and a cash payout could be provided within a couple

days upon request, when needed. During their meeting earlier today, the Finance Committee determined that the Balanced Account Objective provided an appropriate level of risk versus return for Rocky's funds. Evad noted that Rocky would want to select a Tactical Asset Allocation, since Rocky is a non-profit and not concerned about the tax consequences of account activity. He also discussed the fee schedule, which is based on the total funds held in the account. Rocky would receive a 20% discount on the fees as a non-profit.

Dan Rispens made the motion to adopt the Finance Committee's recommendation to pursue the Balanced Objective with a Tactical Asset Allocation. Erin Lyndes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approve Updated Purchasing Policies and Procedures – Lori Ladas

Lori reminded the board that the Purchasing Policy was approved in August with the rest of the fiscal policies. Some changes were made to Uniform Guidance in October, and the policy has been updated to reflect those changes. The micro-purchasing threshold will be increased to \$15,000, and the simplified acquisition threshold will be increased to \$350,000. The policy will also reflect a change to increase the required pre-approval threshold by the Executive Director from \$5,000 to \$15,000, to synchronize amounts and reduce the volume of requests.

Susan Geise made the motion to approve the updated Purchasing Policies and Procedures. Dan Rispens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Approve New Janitorial Contract – Lori Ladas

In June of 2025, Rocky made the decision to outsource its janitorial work due to hiring and retention challenges. A contract was signed with Priority Clean, and over the past 10 months, recurring issues with the contractor have led to the decision to terminate the contract. Rocky would like to contract with Kleen King, which will cost approximately \$150 more per month.

Debbie Havens made the motion to approve the new janitorial contract with Kleen King. Erin Lyndes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Rocky Aging Updates – John Gorton

John presented the findings from Rocky Aging's most recent state audit, noting that several items have already been rectified. He presented two policies for adoption, one regarding voluntary client contributions toward Older Americans Act funded services and the other safeguarding any of those voluntary contributions.

Erin Lyndes made the motion to approve the Rocky Aging policies as presented. Dan Rispens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Head Start Update – Katelyn Buck and Ashley Peña-Larsen

Katelyn reported that Policy Council met and discussed wrapping up the school year, along with finding recruits for next year. Funds for end-of-year parties were determined. Two Head Start Family Advocates are retiring, and interviews have been held to fill their positions. The Policy Council discussed potential changes to Head Start's partnership with East Helena Schools next year.

Ashley continued the discussion about removing a Head Start classroom from East Helena next school year, noting that a minimal number of families will be impacted and Head Start is working

with those individuals to make plans for the upcoming year. Ashley spoke about a new partnership with Edgewood Senior Living. The seniors will come to the classrooms once per month for a grandparent program, and Head Start students will go to Edgewood occasionally as well. Edgewood Senior Living is providing a \$1,000 sponsorship to Friends of Head Start as part of this collaboration. Head Start has been conducting interviews for vacant positions and has filled two Family Advocate vacancies along with three Professional Development Specialist positions. Open positions include Teacher Assistants and Permanent Substitutes. The current Head Start school year ends on June 9, and the program will celebrate with a spring picnic on June 8 at the Fairgrounds. Ashley reported that Friends of Head Start will support bussing for Townsend families next year so the entire program can gather for activities like the picnic. Head Start's last staff meeting of the year will be held on June 5. Ashley noted that the budget shows \$16,000 not yet spent. Those funds are earmarked for projects including the Valley Center deck and resurfacing of asphalt. The budget will be fully spent. An in-kind waiver request of \$189,000 will be submitted, which is considerably lower than the initial amount discussed. Ashley feels that ideas implemented throughout this school year will be used from the start of next year and more in-kind should be documented.

Andy Hunthausen made the motion to approve the Head Start Director's Program and Budget Report. Kate Anderson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Energy Services Program Presentation – Tom Robel

Tom provided an overview of the three parts of the Energy Services program: LIHEAP, Weatherization, and Energy Share. LIHEAP is based on a person's financial situation. Often people are directed to LIHEAP by Northwestern Energy, and the LIHEAP program may be able to pay off what they owe and supplement future energy expenses. Those who qualify for LIHEAP also qualify for Weatherization. The Weatherization program can improve the energy efficiency of a property by completing tasks such as a new roof, windows, or insulation. These improvements can lower future heating costs. Energy Share assistance can be requested to help during an emergency situation or change in life circumstances. The program can provide an applicant up to \$2000 over 5 years.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Edgar
Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board of Directors:


Name _____

6/25/24
Date _____

