

**Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**October 23, 2025, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Neighborhood Center Card Room/Zoom Conference Call**

**Rocky Board Members present:** Kate Anderson, 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:** Hayden Behm, Beth Branam, MacKenzie Chatriand, Diane Edgar, Steven Ferriter, Joanna Halland, Taya Hovan, Lori Ladas, Jean Leischner, Samara Lynde, Jim Marks, Liz Mogstad, Kelley Moody, Angela Nelmark, Ashley Peña-Larsen, Tom Robel, Jonathan Schmitz

**Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. and a quorum was present. No public comment was received.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Andy Hunthausen made the motion to approve the August 28, 2025, Board meeting minutes. Debbie Havens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Director's Report – Lori Ladas**

Lori referenced the new Employee Resource Guide, which was created to provide basic program information to all staff about every Rocky program and appropriate points of contact for questions. Lori invited all Board members to attend the community partnership event to be held at Mountain Pacific Quality Health's new office space on October 29. Rocky staff will be present to talk with attendees.

Lori presented two corporate resolutions to the Board. Due to Kathy Marks's retirement, her name needs to be removed from all Rocky financial accounts. One resolution removed Kathy's name from the accounts, and the other added Rocky's Deputy Director, Beth Branam, as an authorized signer.

**Susan Geise made the motion to approve the two corporate resolutions regarding bank signers. Erin Lyndes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**General Fiscal Update – Lori Ladas and Jonathan Schmitz**

Cash balance today is \$2,320,090, and the accounts payable balance is \$37,617.12, which is current. Lori reported that the retirement plan audit is nearing completion, and a draft should be ready to review soon. Field work for the Rocky audit will happen the week of November 3. Major programs selected for review this year are LIHEAP and the Aging Services Cluster. Lori provided an update on the government shutdown and its impact on Rocky programs. Lori has been receiving regular updates from a lobbyist in D.C. who is working on gathering support for LIHEAP and CSBG, both of which are zeroed out in the president's budget proposal. Both programs have bi-partisan support in Congress.

Jonathan Schmitz spoke about the August 2025 Financial Statements. Two months into the fiscal year, cash is stable, and Rocky has around 2 months of cash on hand. The Statement of Activities shows excess revenue of \$22,936. This is mostly due to salary savings in the Rocky Mountain Preschool Center program. Jonathan gave an update on the status of County Mill funds. When the FY2026 budget was approved, the expectation was that county mill carryover funds would be completely used in FY2026. Due to some additional revenue received by Rocky Aging and a few other budget adjustments, it now appears that Rocky will have County Mill carryover funds going into FY2027. Long-term concerns about County Mill funding remain.

### **Annual Meeting Business**

Debbie Havens reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. The committee recommended the following slate of officers for the upcoming year: Trevor Kirkland, President; Andy Hunthausen, Vice President; and Paula Jacques, Secretary/Treasurer. No additional nominations were suggested.

**Debbie Havens made the motion to approve the slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee. Erin Lyndes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

The board reviewed its current committee list. As officers are required to serve on Rocky's Executive Committee and Finance Committee per the bylaws, Paula Jacques will serve on both in her new role as Secretary/Treasurer. Erin Lyndes offered to fill the vacant spot on the Finance Committee, serving as a representative of the low-income sector. Newly elected Head Start Policy Council Chair Katelynn Buck will join the Personnel Committee, also as required by Rocky's bylaws.

**Erin Lyndes made the motion to approve Rocky's committee lists with the changes discussed. Susan Geise seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

### **Head Start Update – Ashley Peña-Larsen**

Ashley reported that the Policy Council met and did some training. Katelynn Buck will be representing the Policy Council on Rocky's Board of Directors this year. Policy Council discussed ways to support the program, especially regarding behavior management. The group will also partner with Friends of Head Start in its fundraising efforts. Ashley asked for a Board representative willing to serve on the Policy Council. Kate Anderson volunteered.

Ashley referenced the informational memos received from Head Start, and mentioned she expects to see more when the government shut down ends. Rocky's Head Start program is not directly impacted by the shutdown at this time. Funding from the Child and Adult Care Food Program for meal reimbursements may be at risk. Rocky's program has been advocating for other programs that are more directly impacted. A copy of Head Start's Program Information Report (PIR) was provided. This document provides data from the 2024-2025 school year and is a federal reporting requirement. Ashley spoke about behavior supports, as the program is seeing higher numbers of children with behavioral needs and those needs are more extreme than previously seen. About half of the Head Start staff was able to attend Crisis Prevention Intervention training. Ashley reported signs of staff burnout, and the program is working to make plans to address those staff needs, along with meetings with parents to determine the best way to support the kids in the classroom. Rocky Head Start will be participating in an upcoming wage survey. Ashley said that Head Start

Extravaganza was held last Thursday at Brothers Tapworks and the event brought in approximately \$30,000 for Friends of Head Start. The funding is used for things like school-to-home projects, bookshelf builds, and emergency funds for families.

Ashley invited interested Board members to serve on Head Start's grant planning committee, which will review budgets and discuss ways to reduce costs without reducing the number of children served by the program. Meetings will start in late November. Paula Jacques, Kate Anderson, and Teri Lilletvedt volunteered to represent the Board on this committee.

The Head Start budget is doing well. The program continues to work on getting more in-kind and tracking the in-kind that is earned. The total in-kind needed for the program is \$776,000, and most comes through the involvement of Head Start families.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Edgar  
Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board of Directors:

  
Name

11/20/25  
Date

