

**Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**August 28, 2025, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Neighborhood Center Card Room/Zoom Conference Call**

**Rocky Board Members present:** Susan Geise, Debbie Havens, Andy Hunthausen, Paula Jacques, Trever Kirkland, Teri Lilletvedt, Dan Rispens, Jesse Swenson

**Rocky Board Members absent:** Kate Anderson, Dannai Clayborn, Bruce Day, Cory Kirsch, Charlie Lane, Erin Lyndes

**Others present:** Sarah Adydan, Hayden Behm, Beth Branam, MacKenzie Chatriand, Laura Craft, Mindy Diehl, Diane Edgar, Joanna Halland, Taya Hovan, Lori Ladas, Jean Leischner, Lee Lounder, Samara Lynde, Jim Marks, Liz Mogstad, Kelley Moody, Angela Nelmark, Ashley Peña-Larsen, Tom Robel

**Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m. and a quorum was present. Guests attending the meeting were introduced, including Sarah Adydan and Laura Craft from Pinion and Lee Lounder from the State of Montana.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Susan Geise made the motion to approve the June 26, 2025, Board of Directors' meeting minutes, April 24, 2025, Finance Committee meeting minutes, and May 29, 2025, Finance Committee minutes. Debbie Havens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Director's Report – Lori Ladas**

Lori reported that Rocky has been nominated for the 2025 Deb Spranget Non-Profit of the Year award through the Helena Chamber of Commerce. Other nominees for the award are the Holter Museum and the Myrna Loy. Nominations are submitted by Chamber members, and the winner will be announced at an event next Friday, September 5. Board members interested in attending should let Lori know. Rocky will celebrate its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an open house at the Neighborhood Center on September 11. Susan Geise noted the update from Rocky Aging included in Board packets, expressing relief that the funding situation for the program has improved, specifically regarding meals.

Lori referenced the Succession Plan update included in Board packets. The document was updated to change all Operations Director mentions to Deputy Director, as well as updating the list of contacts on page 3.

**Andy Hunthausen made the motion to approve the Succession Plan update. Teri Lilletvedt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Rocky FY25 Audit Entrance Conference – Sarah Adydan and Laura Craft, Pinion**

Laura referenced the service agreements included in Board packets, one for tax returns and the other detailing audit processes for Rocky and its housing entities. She noted that Lori will also

receive an engagement letter to sign when the audit process begins. Pinion will begin work on Rocky's audit with planning in early September, followed by field work for the single audit near the end of October and financial statement work in early November. Laura and Sarah hope to present the final audit at Rocky's December Board meeting.

Sarah presented some questions to the board in preparation for the audit. When asked about staffing changes during the audit year, Lori spoke about changes in the fiscal department including the recent outsourcing of the payroll duties to WIPFLI. She noted a couple minor policy changes and confirmed that lawyers had been consulted for employment concerns or tenant-related issues, though all cases had been closed without significant cost. No other significant changes were noted by Rocky staff or Board members, and Pinion confirmed no new standards or policies are part of the audit this year.

**Andy Hunthausen made the motion to approve the FY25 Pinion service agreements. Dan Rispens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **General Fiscal Update**

Cash balance today is \$2,288,222, which is comparable to last month's total. The accounts payable balance is \$54,364.97, which is a little higher than usual, due to an invoice for Meals on Wheels trays totaling \$17,500. No financial statements were presented this month, due to fiscal year end. Lori reported that Rocky Mountain Preschool ended the budget year with a net income of \$15,662. The indirect cost fund showed a small negative balance, but prior year funds and CSBG funding will cover that loss.

#### **Approval of Fiscal Policies**

Organizational Standards for CSBG require an internal review of fiscal policies every two years. While most policies had no substantive changes, all references to the Finance Director were updated throughout the policies, along with updates to other fiscal staff titles. The property policy had several notable updates, including increasing the threshold for capitalization to \$10,000, updating the section on vehicle logs, and adding a section on the disposition of equipment.

**Debbie Havens made the motion to approve the Fiscal Policies as presented. Andy Hunthausen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Retirement Committee Update – Andy Hunthausen**

The Retirement Committee met on July 16. Jock Bovington reviewed the last quarterly report for Rocky's pooled account, which reflected a 6.5% return. The committee discussed the transition from Rocky's pooled account to self-directed 401(k) accounts for staff, which started at the end of Rocky's fiscal year on June 30. Andy noted that going forward, the committee will only meet annually instead of quarterly. Joanna Halland and Jean Leischner provided additional information on the account transition, noting that overall, moving the accounts went smoothly. Employees can now choose their own fund allocations or use a target-date fund based on approximate retirement age. Staff from LPL Financial will hold employee meetings this fall to answer questions.

**Andy Hunthausen made the motion to approve the July 16, 2025, Retirement Committee meeting minutes. Dan Rispens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Discussion about Future of Rocky Homebuyer Education Program – Liz Mogstad**

At the end of June, Rocky's staff member who coordinated the Homebuyer Education program announced she was leaving for a position with Rural Dynamics out of Great Falls, an organization that provides similar education services to homebuyers but with a larger service area. She will remain with Rocky on a half-time basis through September 30. Liz spoke about steps that would need to be taken to maintain Rocky's Homebuyer Education program, including partnering with another agency and searching for additional funding sources, especially until a new hire would be certified. If the program was kept in-house at Rocky, a long-term commitment to financially supplement the program would need to be addressed. Since Rural Dynamics already offers homebuyer education services in the Helena area, Liz recommended that Rocky no longer provide homebuyer education services and instead relinquish the program to Rural Dynamics, which has the capacity to serve our area. If their ability to serve the Helena area changes at any time, Rocky can reconsider its role with this program.

**Andy Hunthausen made the motion to relinquish the homebuyer education program as recommended. Dan Rispens seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

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

Ashley reported that Policy Council is not meeting during the summer months. Lana Larson, who had been serving on the Rocky Board as a representative of the Head Start Policy Council, will be moving and a new representative to the Board will be selected soon.

Ashley reported that the first few days of school had been exciting, getting to know the students and their families. The program is currently looking for substitutes. A new teacher was recently hired and will be starting in mid-September, filling the last teaching staff vacancy. A supervisor position is still vacant. Head Start is seeing a high need for paraprofessional staff, as more students need additional support in the classroom. Head Start's first family event is an ice cream social that will be held on September 5 at the fairgrounds. The budget is looking good currently, as the program has not done a lot of spending over the summer months.

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

**AmeriCorps Seniors Program Presentation – Samara Lynde, Angela Nelmark, Kelley Moody**

Samara Lynde began her presentation noting that while the AmeriCorps Seniors program is not in the Federal budget yet, the AmeriCorps Program Directors are hopeful that the programs will be put back in the budget this fall. Samara provided an overview of the Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). The 94 volunteers in RSVP served 10,002 hours last year. Volunteers assist at Rocky's senior center, leading exercise classes, greeting at the front desk, and taking seniors' blood pressure at the Be Well Clinic. Rocky's Crafty Quilter's make and donate sewing projects, and a RSVP volunteer named Mary assists seniors with their technology questions every two weeks. RSVP volunteers also assist at the Helena and Augusta Food Shares, along with the gift shop at St. Peter's Hospital. The largest group of RSVP volunteers work with Rocky's Meals on Wheels program, packing and delivering approximately 200 meals each week. The Rocky Go-Getters consist of 20 volunteers who give rides to medical appointments; so far in 2025, 168 rides have been provided. Samara spoke about some upcoming RSVP events. Rocky Handmade will be held on December 4, when the Crafty Quilters and Rocky's woodcarvers will sell their homemade items. The 9/11 Day of Service blood drive is scheduled for next month at the Neighborhood Center. An



AmeriCorps Advisory Council has been established, and members will assist with planning future events.

Angela Nelmark spoke about the Foster Grandparent Program (FGP). Last year, 37 volunteers served 27,334 hours assisting students in elementary schools, Head Start, and Early Head Start. The program has volunteers at 24 stations, including Pete's Place which was a new addition this year. Five stations renewed their MOUs for the next three years. Three new volunteers were recruited, but 11 volunteers retired from the program, most due to health reasons. FGP volunteers had a direct impact on 1,245 students, with almost 100% showing academic improvement over the course of the year. Volunteers earn \$4 per hour and are reimbursed \$0.55 per mile for their drive to school and back. Volunteers state that the stipend makes a positive impact on their quality of life, and that the program adds purpose to their days. Angela recognized one of the FGP volunteers, Grandma Betty, who received the Serve Montana Lifetime Achievement Award from the Governor's Office of Community Service.

Kelley Moody shared information about the Senior Companion Program (SCP), which helps homebound seniors and individuals with disabilities through companionship, transportation, and respite services. Last year, SCP volunteers served 30,581 hours and covered 84,696 miles with their clients. Similar to FGP, volunteers with SCP earn \$4 per hour and \$0.55 per mile for a mileage reimbursement. In FY2025, 41 SCP volunteers served 146 clients through seven counties. Eight new volunteers were hired, and six retired from the program. Client surveys revealed that 95% of SCP clients had an increase in social support due to the program. Volunteers felt that participation in SCP improved their ability to engage, increased their social ties, and improved their leadership skills. Kelley provided an overview of various recruitment activities held in conjunction with FGP, and shared highlights from the June 2025 Volunteer Recognition Event at The Bear Dance Ranch in Helena.

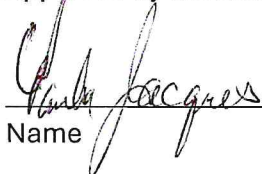
The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Edgar  
Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board of Directors:

  
Name

10/23/25  
Date