



This meeting was held virtually

**FOOTHILLS GATEWAY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 16, 2024**

Present

Brittany Brown
Karen Bennett
Mark Durand
Mikel Zimmerman
Punkie Whitely
Steve Dandaneau

Excused

Nancy Kepner
Aaron Vogt
Ron Charkowski
Chrissi Alvarado

Absent

Guests

Staff

Erin Eulenfeld
Debbie Klein
Ed Bowers
Carla Conrardy
Brandee Boice-Street
Laura Sidener
Pat Carney
Cynthia Hansford
Lori Sauvageau
Marla Maxey
Stacy Hill
Teri Billingsley

President Mark Durand called the meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc. Board of Directors to order at 7:00 pm and welcomed attendees.

OPEN FORUM

Mark Durand invited guests to speak.

- No guests were present wishing to speak.

POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS

- Debbie shared that no one is currently going through the membership application process.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Early Intervention – Laura Sidener:** Laura gave a presentation on Early Intervention and invited questions. Laura also announced that FGI has received the intent to award the Early Intervention contract.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024
- Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2024

M-S-C (Whitely/Zimmerman) Approve the Consent Agenda as detailed above.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- **Approval of Financial Report** - Carla Conrardy presented the unaudited statement of financial position for the nine months ending March 31, 2024. *Detailed financial information can be found in the Board Meeting packets, which are posted to the Foothills Gateway website.*

M-S-C (Brown/Zimmerman) Accept and approve the preliminary financial report position for the nine months ending March 31, 2024.

The above minutes are tentative until voted on and approved at the following month's board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Transition Phase II highlights** – Erin shared that, as of March 1st, FGI transitioned to being the new Case Management Agency (CMA). Even though FGI had spent a lot of time preparing for the transition, FGI has been functioning in crisis mode continually since March 1st. Erin shared that this perfect storm was created by new initiatives put in place in 2023. The Care in Case Management System (CCM), which was supposed to be a more effective and efficient system to replace three other legacy data systems, has had many problems. Entering information in the CCM takes much longer than the previous systems and requires lengthy workarounds to get work done. HCPF recognizes that there are issues and they're working with the CCM contractor to improve this new system. FGI staff are working with HCPF and providing monthly detail on the issues being experienced by Members and agency staff. HCPF is providing some flexibilities and case managers can do virtual assessments instead of in-person visits which is saving time. FGI continues to deal with a workforce shortage which causes the shifting of individuals to caseloads which are too large until new staff can be hired and trained. In order to promote our open positions, FGI is paying Indeed a sponsorship which increases the visibility of our jobs which has helped recruit applicants. Erin shared that we have also lost a new case manager and two coordinators recently. We have retooled job titles, created two associate directors and lead case management positions. Erin also shared that we have asked the State for more flexibility in required timelines to help staff focus on priorities. The state is considering requests to support the Case Management Agencies across the state. After March 1st, there was a 500% increase in call volume to FGI's main switchboard number, however, as of this meeting, the call intensity has tapered off. Erin further shared that we are currently in Transition Phase III, and, in this phase, FGI will take on additional children/families served in the Children's Home and Community Based Services (CHCBS) program. Mark shared the Boards appreciation for the efforts FGI staff have made during this time and offered the support of the Board. Erin also shared that the Long Bill includes \$27million that will be allocated to the 15 CMA's based on the percentage of Members served in the catchment area for CMA Stabilization efforts.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2024/2025 Agency Calendar** – Erin shared that, historically in April, the Board would review a list of agency closure dates for the coming fiscal year. However, as a part of FGI's CMA contract with the State, FGI will now only plan to be closed on State and Federal holidays. Since the Long Bill is not yet signed, we do not have a final list of holidays to use in creating our agency calendar. Erin also shared that the Governor usually adds days to some of the Federal holidays, i.e., the day after the 4th or July or the day after Thanksgiving. As such, FGI is proposing the tentative list of holidays included in the Board Packet, and this will be amended when more information is available in June. FGI would also like to offer staff a number of floating holidays, and floating holidays will increase benefit to staff while allowing the agency to remain open. Mark suggested being generous with floating holidays, given the challenges staff have experienced in the last year.
- **Anti-Discrimination Policy change/addition** – Debbie shared a small change in the wording of the Anti-Discrimination policy and explained that this change is being made to meet Colorado State requirements. The change was adding "political beliefs" to the list of protected classes.

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M-S-C (Whitely/Zimmerman) Approve the Policy change as discussed.

CHIEF OFFICER UPDATES

- **Debbie Klein** – The Flying Pig is scheduled for Sunday April 28th. FGI is renting a portion of our main building to AbleLight, a service provision agency. Debbie shared that there was an article published that may have given the impression that FGI were in partnership with AbleLight and that FGI day program services were taken over by AbleLight. Debbie clarified that FGI is only renting space to AbleLight, the section of the FGI building being rented to that agency is separated internally, postal delivery and public access to each entity is completely separate. Debbie also shared that people in FGI's Day Program Services chose new service agencies prior to FGI's transition to CMA, some people chose AbleLight as their new service provision agency and some chose other agencies. In addition to case management, IT, Accounting and Payroll have been adjusting to the new financial tracking required by FGI's appointment as CMA. Debbie is reworking the Board Member training to reflect FGI's expanded mission. FGI is working on staff retention, case management staff received bonuses from the state, non-case management staff received a bonus from FGI. There is a Staff Social scheduled for Friday April 19th from 4-6 pm, this event will be held at the Drake Center, Board Members are invited to join this event if they wish.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Executive Committee** – Mark Durand shared that the Executive Committee met on April 5, 2024, and discussed the Board Meeting Agenda, and the Officer updates given above.
- **Fiscal and Property Committee** – Mark Durand shared that the Fiscal and Property Committee met prior to this meeting and discussed the designation of a \$5,000 donation, the financial statement review YTD – February and March, FGI's 990 Review and the Investment Quarterly Report
- **Legislative Affairs** – Erin shared an email was sent to Committee members that focused on the Long Bill and the additions to support Members and the CMAs. The Long Bill has been passed by the legislature and sent to the Governor for his signature. There will be significant increases in targeted rates which will benefit PASA's. There is also a 2% rate increase across the board. Also included are funds to assist with Case Management stabilization, 129 new DD waiver resources for people who need 24/7 supports.

M-S-C (Alvarado/Zimmerman) Adjourn the meeting at 7:52pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mark Durand

Board President

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc.
Board of Directors will be May 21st, 2024**

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