



This meeting was held virtually

**FOOTHILLS GATEWAY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 16, 2021**

Present

Heather Hmieleski
John Haley
Steve Dandaneau
Mikel Zimmerman
Mark Durand
Tracy Katz
Aaron Vogt
Amanda Fabrizio
Solito Sumulong
Ron Charkowski
Nancy Kepner

Excused

Linda Drees

Absent

Punkie Whitely

Guests

Staff

Erin Eulenfeld
Debbie Klein
Carla Conrardy
Brandee Boice-Street
Stacy Hill
Ed Bowers
Judy Tomcak
Marla Maxey

President Mark Durand called the meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc. Board of Directors to order at 7:05pm and welcomed attendees.

OPEN FORUM

Mark Durand invited guests to speak.

- No guests were present wishing to speak.

POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS

- Ron Charkowski's Board Member Application – Mark introduced Ron, who shared his motivation for joining the Board. Mark asked the Board to ratify the email vote approving Ron's application as a Board Member, which was done.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Community Outreach** – Stacy Hill, the Development & Communications Director gave a presentation on the operation of the Community Relations Department, inviting questions. Mark asked about subscribers to the Ink newsletter that might not be digitally inclined. Stacy shared that anyone wishing to receive the newsletter in print may do so, however, at present there are only a handful of people who do. Ron asked if there are any branding standards for Board Members to use on their signatures when using their FGI email. This has not been implemented but Stacy will provide the brand standards to Ron. Solito asked if there were any standards regarding Board Member activity on social media. Stacy shared that person first language and including up to date terminology regarding the individuals we serve are important. Nancy asked about helping the business community become more

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involved – donations, volunteers, employees, etc. Stacy shared how she connects with people who are interested in FGI.

[Tuesday 7:29 PM] Vogt, Aaron – SSC (from virtual meeting chat)

Ditto. I can envision many opportunities for individuals in the school district to volunteer and support FGI, namely individuals with IDD in PSD transition programs working on post-secondary transition goals (internships, pre-employment skills, etc.)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of Board Meeting Minutes - October 19, 2021

M-S-C (Durand/Katz) Approve the minutes from the Board Meeting held on October 19, 2021.

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Carla Conrardy presented the unaudited statement of financial position for the month ending October 31, 2021. *Detailed financial information can be found in the Board Meeting packets, which are posted to the Foothills Gateway website.* Mark shared, for the benefit for the newer members, that financials are reviewed in detail at the Prop Finance Committee Meeting.

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Accept and approve the preliminary financial report position for the month ending October 31, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss

NEW BUSINESS

- **Cancellation of the December Board Meeting** – Erin shared that historically the Board discusses the December Board Meeting in November to decide if it should be cancelled due to the holiday season. Should the need arise for the Board or one of its committees to meet, a meeting will be scheduled, with the usual notification given to Board Members and the public as appropriate.

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) – Approve the cancellation of the December Board and Committee Meetings.

EXECUTIVE TEAM UPDATES

Erin Eulenfeld –

- **Workforce Shortage and ARPA Update:** HCPF is working on another rate increase ranging from 6.6% to 60.9% effective 1/1. The intention around the rate increases is to get all DSPs up to \$15/hour. If an agency is already paying \$15/hour or more, the funds can be used to help offset other agency

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expenses. HCPF is also working on residential rate increases, too, but they aren't sure how to implement the residential rate increase yet. HCPF will be hosting a stakeholder meeting tomorrow to outline the new rate increases and the expectations that go along with the increases.

- **Governor's Proposed Budget Highlights** – released on 11/1 and will be reviewed as part of the upcoming legislative session. Some of the IDD highlights are:
 - The Governor proposed a 1% Common Policy Provider rate increase for all Medicaid services,
 - Proposed additional rate changes: Children's Habilitation Residential Program rate increase to align with similar services on other waivers; an increase to some case management services to create parity in rates paid to SEPs and CCBs; and an increase to Non-Medical Transportation rates to create parity across all waivers.
 - DD Waiver Resources: The request includes funding for Adult Comprehensive (HCBS-DD) reserved capacity and emergency enrollments totaling 411 enrollments in FY 2021-22, 411 enrollments in FY 2022-23, and 411 enrollments in FY 2023-24.
 - Early Intervention (EI): The Governor is proposing a public-private partnership to create a new program designed to serve the children who are no longer eligible for EI in the wake of the July 2020 eligibility restriction.

- **Case Management Redesign (CMRD):** HCPF staff finished their work on the CCB Designation application for use as of 7/1/2024 and have sent the information to Alliance's CMRD Shock Team for review later this month. HCPF and HCBS Strategies (contractor) are working on a more specific CMRD timeline. The draft timeline has much more detail and has generated a lot of questions. CCBs and SEPs have been asked to submit questions by Friday, 11/19. FGI has submitted questions and we'll be meeting with HCPF again regarding the timeline at the end of the month. More information on CMRD and the timelines will be reviewed at the January Board Meeting.

Debbie Klein –

- Ron has completed his Board Member orientation.
- OSHA temporary standards came out on November 4th. We are being advised to continue working to be prepared for a vaccine mandate. All lawsuits have been compiled and the 6th circuit court will hear the one single case. Exemptions for medical or religious issues will be a part of the mandate if it is passed. Mark asked if FGI should be looking at hiring another person to manage COVID related issues. This was discussed. Discussed at home testing, Solito shared a link in the chat to obtain at home COVID test kits - <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid-19-testing-at-home>

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Mark Durand shared that the Executive Committee met on November 5th, 2021 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 Financial Statement review YTD October, Designating the Clays for Kids donation of \$18,000, and Investments. The Fiscal and Property Committee voted to designate the \$18,000 donation to Bright-Start.

Legislative Affairs – John shared that the Legislative Affairs Meeting was held on the 12th of November and discussed the Governors Proposed Budget, a HCPF (Health Care Policy and Financing) update. John shared that the rate increases in the proposed budget are intended to be permanent. John also shared the funds requested of HCPF to help the agency with Conflict Free Case Management/Case Management Redesign changes.

Executive Session

This was discussed, it was not necessary to hold the Executive Session.

Other – Steve spoke to the impacts COVID has had on staff, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Adjourned the meeting at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Linda Drees

Board Secretary

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc.
Board of Directors is January 18th at 7:00 pm.**