



\*This meeting was virtual\*

**FOOTHILLS GATEWAY, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
January 20, 2026**

**Present**

Nancy Kepner  
Karen Bennett  
Mark Durand  
Steve Dandaneau  
BJ Russell  
Brittany Brown  
Mikel Zimmerman  
Lora Jonson

**Excused**

Punkie Whitely  
Chrissi Alvarado  
Ron Charkowski

**Guests**

**Absent**

**Staff**

Alexandra Braine  
Brandee Boice-Street  
Carla Conrardy  
Cynthia Hansford  
Marla Maxey  
Erin Eulenfeld  
Stacy Hill  
Lori Sauvageau  
Pat Carney  
Sara Koopman  
Ed Bowers  
Jeff White  
Teri Billingsley

President Steve Dandaneau called the meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc. Board of Directors to order at 7:01pm and welcomed attendees.

**OPEN FORUM**

President Steve Dandaneau invited guests to speak.

- No guests wishing to speak were present.

**POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS**

- Erin shared there are no potential Board members going through the application process.

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Community First Choice (CFC) - Alexandra Braine** – Alex shared a presentation on the Community First Choice Waiver, inviting questions.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2025**

***M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Approve the minutes from the November 18, 2025 Board Meeting.***

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

- **Approval of Financial Report** - Carla Conrardy presented the unaudited statement of financial position for the six months ending December 31, 2025.

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

*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 six months ending December 31, 2025.***

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Board Member terms** – Erin shared that two Board members’ terms are due to end in 2026, Mark Durand and Mikel Zimmerman. Mark and Mikel have both agreed to remain on the Board. The group also discussed the Slate of Officers; the officers are prepared to remain in their positions in the interest of providing consistency to FGI at this time.
- **Annual Meeting** – The Annual Meeting is scheduled for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the first Monday in March, in accordance with Foothills Gateway’s by-laws. The format of the meeting was discussed with the group agreeing that a virtual meeting would be preferable in this case since the meeting is on Monday evening and the presentation will feature a family with young children.
- **Sunshine Law Postings** – Stacy read the following statement: In accordance with a portion of the Colorado Sunshine Law, which states that meeting notices must be posted in a designated public place within the boundaries of the local public body no less than twenty-four hours prior to the holding of the meeting. The designated place for posting notice is identified each year at the first regular meeting of each calendar year. Foothills Gateway, Inc. has identified the following locations for notice of meetings:
  - FGI website
  - Bulletin Board outside of the facility’s main entrance
  - Bulletin Board near the Everitt Conference Room inside the main facility

### **CHIEF OFFICER UPDATES**

- **Erin** – Erin provided a state legislative update: The Joint Budget Committee (JBC) has been meeting frequently due to unresolved budget issues, including an all-day session with Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) on January 5th. Because of an unfavorable economic forecast and H.R. 1 impacts, the committee is under pressure to consider cuts that may impact vulnerable populations.  
The State Legislature is considering several upcoming bills/ballot measures, including:
  - A proposal to raise the TABOR cap by \$4.5 billion to increase K–12 education funding and potentially support other state departments.

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

- A potential initiative to implement a graduated income tax in Colorado.
- The HOME Act, introduced by Rep. Boesenecker (Fort Collins), which would allow affordable housing development on vacant land owned by schools, universities, nonprofits, and non-profit housing developers—bypassing local zoning laws.
- HCPF update: After a 1.6% cut in October, HCPF is planning to make an additional 0.75% Medicaid provider rate cut tied to Medicaid growth, with limited details available at this time. Also, HCPF proposed to consolidate all HCPF services funding into a single budget line, which would make it harder to track IDD-specific funding. Alliance is advocating that IDD budget line items continue as stand-alone budget item requests.

- **Marla** – Since our last BOD meeting in November the Case Management division has been Attending informational meetings, trainings and working on implementation of the Colorado Medicaid and LTSS Sustainability Plans that directly impacts the members we support.

This includes:

- The pause of the Nurse Assessor program and moving the reviews to the Case Management Agency.
- Additional training around the modification of the Direct Care Service Calculator and age-appropriate guidelines this includes soft caps on services that can be authorized. This includes the number of services that can be authorized by the case manager, the Case Management supervisor, or will need to be approved by HCPF.
- Implementation of the Individual Residential service and supports (IRSS)-DD waiver only rate alignments.

Stabilization and referral numbers remained about the same since the last BOD meeting. The Case Management team did experience some unexpected staff needing to take FMLI/FMLA and took action to help cover caseloads. Case Managers worked as a team to meet the needs of people applying for, and in services, while assuring all staff had the opportunity to enjoy some time off at the end of the year. We are extremely grateful to the staff that volunteered to support us in meeting these expectations.

- **Stacy** – Stacy shared that IT has developed a standard email signature template and tool to generate individualized signatures for employees. This tool has also been made available to Board Members on the Board Portal if anyone is interested in creating their own for use with their FGI email account. Stacy also shared that HR has been working on generating W2's, these will be distributed to staff next week. Claire, the Marketing and Outreach Coordinator,

resigned from her position in December to pursue employment closer to her home in Denver. This position has now been filled. The new hire, Taylor, will be starting her new position on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Stacy also shared that the Flying Pig Race has been scheduled for April 26, 2026, and the AbleLight lease has been renewed for third and final year of the current lease agreement. the new lease period begins February 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Executive Committee** – Steve Dandaneau shared that the Executive Committee met on January 9, 2026, and discussed the Board Meeting Agenda Review, Annual Meeting/Slate of Officers/Board members’ terms and the Officer Updates given above.
- **Fiscal and Property Committee** – Brittany shared that the Fiscal and Property Committee met prior to this meeting and discussed Financial Updates, Designation of \$25,000 donation, Designation of \$5,000 donations (3), Financial Statement review Fiscal year ended December 2025, and probable emergency generator replacement.
- **Legislative Affairs Committee** – Covered in the Chief Officer Updates above.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

***M-S-C (Dandaneau/Zimmerman) Adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Steve Dandaneau  
Board President

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc.  
Board of Directors will be February 20, 2026.**