



This meeting was virtual

**FOOTHILLS GATEWAY, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
February 17, 2026**

Present

BJ Russell
Chrissi Alvarado
Karen Bennett
Lora Jonson
Mark Durand
Mikel Zimmerman
Ron Charkowski
Steve Dandaneau

Excused

Brittany Brown
Nancy Kepner
Punkie Whitely

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
Olivia Knieff

President Steve Dandaneau called the meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc. Board of Directors to order at 7:00pm 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

- **Children w/Complex Health Needs (CwCHN) - Olivia Knieff** – Olivia shared a presentation on the Children w/Complex Health Needs Waiver, inviting questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2026**

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Approve the minutes from the January 20, 2026 Board Meeting.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

- **Approval of Financial Report** - Carla Conrardy presented the unaudited statement of financial position for the seven months ending January 31, 2026. *Detailed financial information can be found in the Board Meeting packets, which are posted to the Foothills Gateway website.*

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Accept and approve the preliminary financial report position for the six months ending January 31, 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Slate of Officers** – Erin announced that the current officers, listed below, have agreed to continue in their roles for another year.
 - Steve Dandaneau – President
 - Chrissi Alvarado – Vice President
 - Ron Charkowski – Secretary
 - Brittany Brown – Treasurer

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Accept and approve the slate of officers as listed above.

CHIEF OFFICER UPDATES

- **Erin** – Erin provided an update on Medicaid sustainability efforts and state budget challenges, Erin shared that the Governor's office submitted a letter to the Joint Budget Committee indicating general fund expenditures for Medicaid will be \$70 million higher this fiscal year and \$138 million higher next year than previously projected, primarily due to community-based long-term care and pharmacy costs. Erin explained that if targeted reductions cannot cap Medicaid growth at 5.6%, a 3.9% across-the-board rate reduction for all Medicaid providers is proposed, though the preference is for targeted actions to address the budget gap. In response to Steve's question, Erin noted that advocacy groups have pushed back against cuts to children's programs and residential rates, but further targeted reductions may be necessary, and the Joint Budget Committee is reconsidering previously paused sustainability actions. Erin responded to Mark's inquiry by noting that other states have different Medicaid structures, with some making severe cuts such as Idaho's proposal to eliminate all home and community-based services, while Colorado faces unique constraints due to the TABOR law.
- **Marla** – Marla reported that the Case Management Division continues to receive about 300 referrals per month, with each case manager taking on at least one new member weekly and highlighted the impact of paused state

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policy changes on staff and members. Marla described the challenges of the public health emergency unwind, particularly the end of extended financial eligibility, which has led to confusion among members and increased workload for case managers assisting with eligibility clarifications. Marla shared that five LTSS positions at FGI have been filled and are in training, with three more to be backfilled, and noted an increase in applications but ongoing challenges with staff retention.

- **Stacy** – Stacy informed the board of a contingency plan for virtual meetings, advising members to check their Foothills Gateway email for alternative platform links if Teams is unavailable, and noted this reminder will be included in future invitations. Stacy announced the upcoming Flying Pig 5K on April 26 and the Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 2, encouraging board participation and volunteerism.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Executive Committee** – Steve Dandaneau shared that the Executive Committee met on February 6, 2026, and discussed the Board Meeting Agenda Review, Board Member Terms and Recommendations for Officers, Executive Committee and Annual Meeting – February 19th and March 2nd and Follow up on complaints
- **Fiscal and Property Committee** – Mark shared that the Fiscal and Property Committee met prior to this meeting and discussed the Investment Presentation, Financial Statement review Fiscal year ended January 2026, Committee report review of Designated funds IDD vs Non-IDD balances – estimate through December, FYI FYE 6/30/2025 Single Audit and Generator purchase
- Legislative Affairs Committee was cancelled this month.

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Unanimously approved convening an Executive Session to discuss a matter pursuant to section 25.5-10-209-2, b, IV (C) and G of the open meetings statute at 7:43pm

M-S-C (Durand/Zimmerman) Move to adjourn Executive Session and reconvene Regular Board Meeting at 8:11pm.

ADJOURNMENT

M-S-C (Alvarado/Zimmerman) Adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

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Steve Dandaneau
Board President

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc.
Board of Directors will be April 21, 2026.**

DRAFT

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