



\*This meeting was virtual\*

**FOOTHILLS GATEWAY, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
April 21, 2026**

**Present**

BJ Russell  
Brittany Brown  
Chrissi Alvarado  
Lora Jonson  
Mark Durand  
Mikel Zimmerman  
Punkie Whitely  
Ron Charkowski  
Steve Dandaneau

**Excused**

Karen Bennett

**Guests**

Jessie Israel  
Todd Hockenberry

**Absent**

**Staff**

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

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.

- Jessie Israel from Journey of Care spoke to the Board about remote support benefits available to Members. Erin Eulenfeld shared that FGI holds Provider Fairs bi-annually that the agency can attend to meet FGI Case Management staff and Members.

**POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Case Manager of the Year - Merrily Bowers, Case Manager** – Erin Eulenfeld shared information on the 2026 Case Manager of the Year award, which was won by Merrily Bowers, an FGI Case Manager.
- **FGI Facilities Update – Cynthia Hansford** – Cynthia provided an update on Foothills Gateway's facilities, inviting questions.

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 nine months ending March 31, 2026. *Detailed financial information can be found in the Board Meeting packets, which are posted to the Foothills Gateway website.*

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **State Budget/Legislative Update** – Erin explained that the Long Bill includes a 2% rate cut for all Medicaid services effective July 1, on top of a previous 1.6% cut, totaling a 3.6% reduction for the fiscal year. Certain therapy services (OT, PT, SLP) have already seen 10-15% cuts as of April 1. Several potential ballot measures were discussed, including a graduated income tax amendment, a proposal to maintain the current income tax rate at 4.4%, a measure to allow the state to retain revenue above the TABOR cap for K-12 funding, and Initiative 175, which would divert funds from the general fund for roads, potentially harming Medicaid and education budgets. Erin detailed how the cuts and policy changes will affect members, including new caps and reductions effective April 1 and July 1, the reintroduction of post-eligibility treatment of income payments for residential services, and the pausing of IRSS rate alignment proposals. Due to budget constraints, youth transitioning from children's programs are no longer guaranteed DD resources and must seek services through alternative waivers. Additionally, the process for filling DD waiver slots has changed, requiring two individuals to leave before a new person can be admitted from the waiting list, likely increasing the numbers of individuals on the waiting list. Final legislative decisions are expected by mid-May, though delays are possible. The board discussed the likelihood of continued budget difficulties in the next fiscal year and the uneven impact of cuts across different service areas.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- **FY27 Holiday Schedule** - Erin Eulenfeld presented the proposed FY27 holiday schedule for Foothills Gateway, outlining the selection of holidays based on state, federal, and county calendars.

**M-S-C (Russell/Zimmerman) Accept and approve the FGI Holiday Schedule for FY27 as presented**

## **CHIEF OFFICER UPDATES**

- **Stacy** – Stacy announced open enrollment for staff who choose to receive health benefits will be held in May. Stacy described the recently held Person-

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Centered Thinking (PCT) training sessions which were held in April and attended by 16 staff. Stacy also promoted the upcoming Flying Pig 5K that takes place on April 26th and the Service League's Taste event on June 11 and acknowledged the efforts of staff and volunteers in organizing these events.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Executive Committee** – Steve Dandaneau shared that the Executive Committee met on April 10, 2026, and discussed the Board Meeting Agenda Review, Nancy Kepner's Resignation and Board Member #s Discussion 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 designation of donations – two donations for \$25,272.30 from the Susan Ann Patton Sanchez Trust and \$10,000 from the David Nichols family were designated to Non-IDD Operating Expenses. The committee also voted to Approve reserving the Anthem payment of 50% of stop loss claims from FY 24/25 (\$138,290.80) for future employee benefit costs. The committee also discussed Financial Statement review Fiscal year ended March 2026, FYE 6/30/2025 Single Audit Completion, 990 Review, Investments First quarter returns and Alternatives rebalancing, and FGI's Grant budget.
- **Legislative Affairs Committee** – Ron shared that the Legislative Affairs Committee met on April 17<sup>th</sup> and discussed the State Budget Update and Alliance Updates.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

***M-S-C (Russell/Zimmerman) Adjourn the meeting at 8:01pm.***

Respectfully submitted by,

Steve Dandaneau  
Board President

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Foothills Gateway, Inc.  
Board of Directors will be May 19, 2026.**

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