

**Rocky Mountain Development Council, Inc.**  
**Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**October 24, 2024, 3:30 p.m.**  
**Neighborhood Center Card Room/Zoom Conference Call**

**Members present:** Bruce Day, Susan Geise, Debbie Havens, Andy Hunthausen, Trever Kirkland, Teri Lilletvedt, Erin Lyndes, Daniel Pocha

**Members absent:** Kate Anderson, Dannai Clayborn, Paula Jacques, Jerry Loendorf, Bob Mullen, Lindsey Richtmyer

**Others present:** Rod Applegate, Hayden Behm, Diane Edgar, Joanna Halland, Danielle Horton, Taya Hovan, Lori Ladas, Kendall Larson, Jean Leischner, Samara Lynde, Jim Marks, Liz Mogstad, Kelley Moody, Angela Nelmark, Joel Peden, Ashley Peña-Larsen, Tom Robel

**Call to Order/Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by Trever Kirkland at 3:32 p.m. and a quorum was present.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Andy Hunthausen made the motion to approve the September 26, 2024, Board of Directors' meeting minutes and the August 29, 2024, Finance Committee meeting minutes. Daniel Pocha seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

**Director's Report – Lori Ladas**

Lori referenced the committee list included in Board packets and asked if anyone wanted to make changes to their current committee appointments. Erin Lyndes offered to fill the vacant position on the Personnel Committee. Trever Kirkland expressed a desire to exit his position on the Nominating Committee, and Debbie Havens agreed to fill that slot.

**Susan Geise made the motion to approve the committee list, with the discussed changes. Teri Lilletvedt seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

Lori mentioned that Jerry Loendorf had reviewed Rocky's bylaws and articles of incorporation, per Rocky's request. His comments and recommendations were included in Board packets for review. Lori noted that in the Articles of Incorporation, the named agent is incorrectly listed as Curt Chisolm, so she will update that. Jerry made some recommendations to change language in the bylaws, mainly on the topics of open meeting rules and the board approval process for committee membership. Lori will update the articles of incorporation and bylaws per Jerry's recommendations and bring both documents to the next meeting for approval.

The Conflict-of-Interest Form was included in packets this month, and Lori asked the Board to turn in their signed forms as requested annually. Discussion moved to Rocky's Confidentiality Policy, as Jerry Loendorf had questioned the necessity of the policy and whether it should be re-written or possibly eliminated. After discussion, Erin Lyndes offered to draft a revised Confidentiality Policy for review at the next Rocky Board meeting.

Lori provided a timeline for the upcoming Strategic Planning process. Jill Steeley will be facilitating the sessions, which will be a combination of meetings with Rocky staff, leadership, and Board members. The Board is scheduled to attend a session the week of November 18, and a Board committee will be formed for the following two sessions.

#### **General Fiscal Update – Lori Ladas**

Cash balance is \$2,334,666, and the accounts payable balance is \$36,859.55, which is current. The WIPFLI team provided a six-month check-in, and their feedback was included in Board packets. Lori announced that Jean Leischner has accepted the position of Controller, which includes supervision of the Fiscal department. She also announced that MacKenzie Chatriand will fill the Budget Analyst position vacated when Rod Applegate retires at the start of next year. MacKenzie's current Payroll Specialist position will be posted. The auditors will begin their audit work soon for the single audit, and Head Start has been selected as the major program this year.

#### **Accept Limited Partnership Interest in Eagle Manor II Residences, LP – Liz Mogstad**

Liz reported that Eagle Manor II will hit the year-15 mark at the end of this year, and the investor will be exiting. Liz requests that Rocky accept the limited partnership at a cost of \$100, and the general partner will then be asked for its approval.

**Andy Hunthausen made the motion to accept the limited partnership interest in Eagle Manor II Residences as presented. Susan Geise seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Head Start Director's Program Report and Budget – Ashley Peña-Larsen**

Ashley asked if any Board members would be interested in joining the Head Start Policy Council as a Board representative. Susan Geise volunteered to fill that role. Ashley reported that Head Start is fully staffed. Just over half (57%) of the children in the program have high needs, and six students currently require one-on-one services. Head Start held its Fall Dance last week at Kleffner Ranch and it was well attended. A vendor fair was set up at the event, offering services for families. Ashley spoke about a delay in the construction project at the Townsend Head Start property and explained that a variance was needed. The additional costs associated with this issue are unknown at this time. Extravaganza went well, with the program netting around \$27,000. Ashley also reported an increased interest in volunteers for the Friends of Head Start committee. The program budget is in good shape at this point of the year.

**Daniel Pocha made the motion to approve the Head Start Director's Program and Budget Report. Erin Lyndes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Results Oriented Management and Accountability (ROMA) Training – Lori Ladas**

A video providing an overview of the basics of ROMA was shown to all in attendance.

#### **Rocky Aging Program Presentation – Jim Marks**

Jim began his presentation by asking three of the newest staff members of Rocky Aging to introduce themselves. Those present at the meeting included Resource Specialist Danielle Horton, Program Coordinator Joel Peden, and Local Long-Term Care Ombudsman Kendall Larson. Jim talked about some changes since his report to the Board last year. He reported that Montana currently has the 5<sup>th</sup> largest population of older adults in the country and is also the state that is aging the fastest. He noted that improved health care options are leading to people living longer lives. Last year, Jim

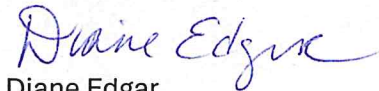
reported on the effects of Medicaid unwinding. Rocky Aging is still seeing the ramifications of that process.

Rocky is one of nine Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in Montana. Jim reported that a small number of sub-recipients --- the AAA contractors --- regard the AAAs as unnecessary "middlemen". None are from Area IV. They advocate that Older American Act funding be distributed directly instead of through the Aging Services Network. Based on the guidelines of the Older Americans Act, Jim does not foresee any upcoming changes to how the contracting is currently done through the AAAs. There's just too much infrastructure behind the Aging Services Network, he said, including local and statewide strategic planning. Jim also spoke about some efforts being made to improve services. One is presumptive eligibility for Medicaid, which recognizes the inability of the DPHHS Office of Public Assistance to keep up with the Medicaid applications and ongoing supports for the health coverage. Empowering organizations like Rocky to assist would help address faster access to health care. Another idea includes changing the business model of nursing homes; to transition their staff to provide in-home care, as fewer people are entering nursing homes and are instead opting for aging in place in their own homes and communities.

Jim concluded his presentation by mentioning that the Administration on Community Living of the US Department of Health and Human Services announced new regulations for the Older Americans Act in the spring of 2024; they were last published in 1988. The new regulations reflect greater compliance demands on the Aging Services Network and assign more power to the state unit on Aging; in the case of Rocky, that is the Aging Services Bureau of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services.


The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Diane Edgar  
Executive Assistant

Approved by the Board of Directors:

  
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Rocky Secretary/Treasurer

11/21/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

