

NorthWest Colorado Center for Independence, Inc.

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Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 28th, 2025 @ 1:30 PM

Members Present: Michael Toothaker, Board President (Remote)
Bruce Roemmich, Board Vice President (Remote)
Don Godshaw, Board Member (Remote)
Craig Kennedy, Board Member (Remote)
Dan Bonner, Board Treasurer (Remote)
Lisa Fraser-Eck, Board Member (Remote)

Staff Present: Ian Engle, Executive Director (Remote)
Mike Bertram, Assistant Director (Remote)
Jessica Bertram, Finance Manager (Absent)
Hope Hunt, Transportation Coordinator (Remote)

1:40pm: Bruce Roemmich calls the meeting to order.

1:42pm: Craig Kennedy makes a motion to pass the minutes from April 30th, 2025
Lisa Eck seconds, the motion passes.

1:43pm - Development report is presented. Significant recent funding awards include \$100,000 from Rocky Mountain Health Plans to be processed through the United Healthcare corporate office for purchase a new accessible vehicle used to provide accessible non-emergency medical transportation and \$50,000 awarded from Caring for Colorado for general operating. Ian suggests consideration of an increase to the FY2025-26 budget line for grant income based on trending activity.

- Ian informs the Board that Rachelle is currently working on the NWCCI 2025 Annual Campaign for distribution to donors and partners. Don requests the Annual Campaign be sent to the Board prior to distribution, with 10 days to edit and return with revision suggestions. Don recommends the Annual Campaign be shorter than prior editions to capture the attention of those receiving it. Bruce suggests including a sentence about potential cuts to Medicaid funding affecting our consumers. Don states we should be straight to the point about government cutback concerns.
- Ian shows the picture of the sled hockey event and activities, confirming our intention to pass this program endeavor to STARS. Don suggests promoting the sled hockey project in a PR piece that includes the opportunity for public participation to clarify it is not just for spectators. Dan Bonner asks about the financial status of the sled hockey grant. Ian reviews the sled hockey budget

informing the board about the status of income and expenditures, most of the income has been spent buying sleds and equipment, with some going toward renting the hockey arena and about \$6000 left for further expenses to wrap up our contribution to this project as a pass-through start-up for STARS to take over this Autumn. Don suggests selling tickets and collecting email addresses to maintain contact and keep spectators/participants informed.

2:08pm: Finance and HR Operations Report is presented. The Board is informed that FY 2024-25 NWCCI IRS Form 990 has been submitted for filing of Federal Taxes.

- Don asks for an update about the investigation into acquiring a Line of Credit loan. Ian informs the Board he inquired about a line of credit loan through Edward Jones, per the suggestion during last month's Board meeting, and we are not eligible to apply for a line of credit with Edward Jones. Bruce asks about collateral on the loan. Ian indicates reticence to place a lien on the Craig building and property NWCCI bought and currently owns outright. Bruce states that as long as the money is working for us in the CD accounts then it would not be smart for the line of credit with a high interest rate and the Board agrees. Don suggests continuing to pursue securing a rainy day funds option and looking into rates associated with putting our building up as collateral for a line of credit. Craig Kennedy clarifies that to do so would be securing a second rainy day fund as the CDs serve as our current operating reserve. Bruce mentions we used to have a line of credit with Alpine Bank and suggests inquiring about options with them. Ian states we can liquidate one of the CDs if necessary, we have reinstated all four CDs after liquidating two of them when purchasing the Craig office. Dan recommends not securing a line of credit loan and the Board agrees.
- Ian informs the Board that the Financial Operations Audit with the CO Dept. of Labor and Employment Fiscal Monitoring Unit was completed with no findings.
- Ian states we are still waiting for a final answer from the state on our debt settlement proposal which is currently being reviewed by the state controller.
- Ian informs the Board that our data specialist and access control position was eliminated.
- Dan Bonner goes over the Profit & Loss report with the Board. Bruce asks about the listed advertising expense, Dan replies that the \$6,000 paid for the promotional films opportunity he passed along that were created for the organization. Dan informs the Board the \$12,000 listed as supplies expense paid for the hockey sleds. Bruce inquires about the negative income listed as bottom line on the Profit and Loss, Dan replies that this was due to expected cash flow monitored by the Finance Committee and not an issue of concern. Bruce states the board had 25 minutes to look at all the information for this meeting and he does not feel good about voting on the financials without reviewing them because he does not trust the numbers and if we were to vote now he would vote no on approving the financials. Don Godshaw agrees,

stating this is dereliction of duty and suggests that if Ian Engle is not able to perform his duties and send the financials prior to the meeting then maybe Mike Bertram needs to take over that task. Dan Bonner motions to table approval of the financials, Don seconds, motion passes.

2:27pm: Program report is presented to the Board. Mike Bertram informs the Board about the Disability Innovation Fund pilot project contract secured through the Office of Independent Living Services with the State from a Federal grant awarded to the CO Dept of Labor and Employment (CDLE). NWCCI will implement this pilot program in collaboration with Steamboat Springs High School and the local Division of Vocational Rehabilitation office, a kickoff meeting will be held on June 20th at the Steamboat Springs High School.

- Mike informs the Board that Housing Navigator contract has been secured with the CO Dept. of HealthCare and Policy Financing (HCPF) providing at least \$1,000/mo regardless of deliverables. This contract augments our nursing home transition program and we are currently working with 6 active nursing home transitions and we continue anticipating growth of the program. The nursing home transition program billing is the reason NWCCI will meet fee-for-service income projection in the current FY 2024-25 Budget. Bruce Roemmich asks if there were any activity for transitions from the Casey's Pond hiccup. Mike replies there were 2 and others decided to stay once the crisis was abated. Mike states we have activity within all the nursing facilities operating in our catchment area and have experienced significant growth of the program to meet the need.
- Mike talks about NWCCI staff engagement in the veterans administration visit to Craig.
- Mike points out the program report year to year comparison shows we are serving as many consumers with the same amount of services and doing so with less staff working more efficiently. The program report also shows consistency month to month and we anticipate serving 300 people this year, which brings us back up to pre-COVID numbers. Bruce Roemmich asks if the increase in number of consumers served reflects and increase in budgeted expenses. Dan Bonner replies that there is no direct correlation between number of people served and budget expenditure. Dan clarifies that the largest expenditure line in our budget goes to pay personnel wages, benefits, travel, training and reimbursements, indicating if a condensed cadres of staff are producing more effectively and efficiently, we can consider compensating them accordingly. Lisa Fraser-Eck asks if we have considered a position again for social security. Mike states we restructured the program so every office and county we serve has an Independent Living Coordinator available who is fully trained and proficient with handling benefits application assistance for consumers in those communities. Bruce suggests we discuss gaps in service provision next month at the retreat and the Board agrees

2:44pm: Transportation Services Report is presented to the Board. Hope informs the Board of staff changes for driver positions.

- Hope tells the Board about the the Bustang event coming to Craig as a result of Leo and Evan's engagement with statewide transportation stakeholders.
- Hope presents her research findings for purchase of a new vehicle to the Board for approval. Don Godshaw suggests purchasing a good but used vehicle and then use the rest of the money elsewhere like paying drivers. Mike Bertram and Ian Engle mention this grant from Rocky Mountain designates restricted funding for purchase a new vehicle and significant repairs on existing vehicles. No motion is made for a vote and approval of the purchase is tabled.

2:48pm: Ian talks to the Board about the benefits of partnership with Rocky Mountain Health Plans (RMHP) for NWCCI and our consumers . RMHP is one of four managed care organizations designated as Regional Accountable Entities contracted with HCPF (State Medicaid Agency) to establish and manage Medicaid payment and support agreements with providers throughout the entire western slope, NWCCI has been involved with the RMHP Member Advisory Council and built a partnership around NWCCI support of Medicaid members and providers with care coordination, transportation, nursing home transition, benefits application assistance and more. Ian was offered the voting position to advise HCPF on development and implementation of Medicaid managed care contracts on the Program Improvement Advisory Council (PIAC) designated to RMHP for representing the interests of Medicaid providers and members. After a couple years as a voting member on the PIAC, Ian was nominated by the other voting members to fill his current position as co-chair of the council. Ian shared with the Board that he is the longest tenured CIL Executive Director in the state and NWCCI has become a recognized leader in the field, as was evident at the statewide IL conference.

2:54Ppm: The NWCCI Board Retreat will be on June 27th, 2025 9:30am to 3:00pm at the STARS Ranch.

2:58pm: Dan Bonner motions to adjourn the meeting, Bruce Roemmich seconds and the motion passes.