

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board Meeting
August 9, 2019, 8:00am-10:00am
Public Meeting Room 321
515 Coffman (HUB), Boulder

In Attendance: Jim Adams-Berger, Frank Alexander, Robin Bohannon, Sarah Buss, Vicki Ebner, Kurt Firnhaber, Heidi Grove, Matt Meyer, Karen Roney

Guests: Annie Scott

Length of Shelter Stay for Diversion Clients

The length of shelter stay for Diversion clients was originally set at seven days, but this length of stay makes it difficult to differentiate Diversion from Navigation and allows for too much flexibility as far as timeline is concerned; the purpose of Diversion is to provide a quick resolution and if this resolution takes longer than a few days to provide, the client is not actually suitable for Diversion. The ideal Diversion client is one who comes in with an opportunity for resolution, needs only a small amount of financial assistance, and does not require ongoing case management. The recommendation is to change the Diversion stay to three days, which would still guarantee some sheltering for Diversion clients but would also maintain the integrity of the Diversion model; it also mirrors the length of stay provided by the County for homeless families. This program will kick off in January when Severe Shelter Weather is also available. Diversion will be the only service available for those clients who have been in the County less than six months; there is an understanding that most higher acuity clients have been in the County for six months or more per the Year 1 Report and therefore would be served by Housing Focused Shelter.

System Limitations

The Homeless Solutions for Boulder County system does not have the capacity/is not designed to assist all clients with housing solutions and it is helpful to focus on the purpose of the system as a whole.

Contracts/Data

There is a goal to create a more coordinated contract management approach and improve data collection and evaluation. Currently, some data is being collected outside the data system and there is little uniformity in the way data is being collected and reported. Boulder County Connect staff are working with organizational partners to increase the ability to correctly and efficiently utilize the data collection system (both regarding data input and pulling reports) and therefore audit data; data-focused meetings with organizational partners will begin taking place.

Public Health Implications

Boulder County Public Health has partnered with Homeless Solutions for Boulder County to provide vaccinations to clients where necessary; it is important to note that the high level of organization within the system has assisted in combating public health issues.

Reflection on Consortium of Cities Presentation

The cities of Superior, Broomfield, Lafayette, Nederland and Longmont attended the meeting; one of the Commissioners attended as well. A presentation on Homeless Solutions for Boulder County

took place at the meeting and focused on system improvements and successes. The Board will be informed about any follow-up from the meeting.

PIT Data

The Point in Time survey took place on January 29, 2019.

Trends and Community Comparisons

- 450 individuals made up 72.1% of respondents
- 118 chronic homeless individuals made up 26% of respondents
- 47% of respondents reported having mental health concerns
- 35% of respondents reported struggling with substance abuse
- 18% of respondents reported fleeing domestic violence
- There was a 5% increase in homeless individuals in Boulder County and 8% increase regionally

The Homeless Management Inventory System will allow for electronic Point in Time entry from shelters next year, and in-person outreach efforts will be focused on the unsheltered. Regarding Point in Time survey data in relation to the Continuum of Care, this data impacts scoring on system performance measures and allocation of funds. The Point in Time survey is also a good way to engage the community by increasing political and compassionate will.

Partner Updates

City of Longmont

There was a presentation to the Longmont City Council regarding the Year 1 Report in the spring, with follow-up meeting to be taking place soon. Because the Homeless Solutions for Boulder County system aligns with the needs identified in an assessment done in 2016, City of Longmont staff involved with the system plan to recommend that City Council make a decision to remain engaged in the system. There was discussion around work with the service-resistant population and the need for additional staffing around this. The Board discussed crafting a narrative to speak to the successes of the first phase of the system and goals for the next phase, including engaging those who are hard to serve; communication strategies around data, infrastructure, benefits of the system and having a forward-thinking vision came up.

City of Boulder

The City of Boulder noted challenges with homeless residents who are not engaging with the system; camping, needed clean-up and conflicts between residents are factors that are undermining the progress made by the system. The Board discussed that the system narrative needs to revolve around the benefits of having housed so many clients, which has in turn decreased some of these issues.

East County

Following a Homeless Solutions for Boulder County presentation, City of Lafayette staff voiced that they are seeing more homeless residents in their area and are wondering what is being done to address this. Conversations will be taking place with Mental Health Partners and Colorado Behavioral Health Council around possible service provision to this population. The City of Louisville is getting acquainted with the system as well.

Regional Affordable Housing Plan

The Board discussed nesting homeless services and exits nested within the affordable housing strategy.

Adjourn: 9:58am