



## RESOLUTION 2019-05

### A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING AN EPIDEMIC IN BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO, OF CHILDREN EXPERIENCING OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY

**WHEREAS**, the health and well-being of children is a primary concern of the County of Boulder; and

**WHEREAS**, obese children are more than twice as likely as non-obese children to become obese adults later in life. Children experiencing overweight and obesity are also at increased risk for serious health problems in adulthood, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, asthma, and cancer; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs of addressing obesity are high. Annual health care costs from obesity have surpassed \$190 billion nationwide, or 21% of total health care spending, and these costs are expected to continue rising substantially; and

**WHEREAS**, Colorado may have the lowest prevalence of adult obesity, but that is not true for children. There were 12 states with lower prevalence rates of obesity than Colorado in 2017 among children ages 10-17 years; and

**WHEREAS**, more than one quarter of Boulder County children (26.6%) experienced overweight or obesity in 2015-2017, which was higher than the Colorado average (24.3%). The prevalence of child overweight or obesity in Boulder County increased from 16.4% in 2012-14 to 26.6% in 2015-17; and

**WHEREAS**, overweight and obesity also disproportionately impact youth of color and those of lower socio-economic status; and

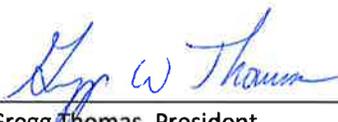
**WHEREAS**, 28.2% of Boulder County Hispanic high school students in 2017 were experiencing overweight or obesity compared with 9.7% of white high school students; and

**WHEREAS**, the prevalence of obesity among Colorado children living in households with income between 0-250% of the federal poverty level (FPL) is significantly higher than the prevalence among children living in households with income greater than 250% FPL (15.5% vs. 4.8% in 2015-17); and

**WHEREAS**, children ages 2-4 years enrolled in the Boulder County Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program experienced a higher prevalence of overweight or obesity (22.0%) than the same age group of children in 14 other Colorado counties, including Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Douglas, Eagle, El Paso, Fremont, Garfield, La Plata, Moffat, Montrose, Pueblo, Rio Grande, and Yuma.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOULDER COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO**, that the rising rates of overweight and obesity and the inequitable impact among children in Boulder County experiencing overweight and obesity is a public health epidemic that must be addressed with a coordinated public health response.

**ADOPTED** this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.



Gregg Thomas, President  
Boulder County Board of Health

