



# Community Services Department

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## Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board February 14, 2020 8-10am Public Meeting Room 321, 515 Coffman in Longmont

- Welcome and Introductions 8:00-8:05am
- Public Comment 8:05-8:10am
- Data Briefing 8:10-8:20am
- Discussion Items 8:20-9:10am
  - Point-In-Time
  - Housing Exits Strategic Planning Outcomes
  - Diversion Implementation
- Emerging Issues and Updates 9:10-9:40am
  - Patient Drop-off Updates
  - Encampments
  - Safe Lots
- Partner Updates 9:40-10:00am
- Adjourn 10:00am

Call In Information:  
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**Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board Meeting**  
**February 14, 2020 8-10am**  
**Public Meeting Room 321, 515 Coffman in Longmont**

**In Attendance:** Jim Adams-Berger, Robin Bohannon, Sarah Buss, Vicki Ebner, Kurt Firnhaber, Heidi Grove, Karen Kreutzberg, Angela Lanci-Macris, Karen Roney, Annie Scott

**Data Briefing**

There was a decision that both monthly and cumulative updates would be provided going forward.

**Discussion Items**

**Point-In-Time**

The 2020 Point in Time Count included magnet events that took place in East County and Longmont; it was noted that overall increased effort around the 2020 count may mean that an increased number of people experiencing homelessness were counted. The Board shared that there is communications work being done around the messaging of this issue. There is typically variability around the Point in Time outcomes depending on volunteer numbers and overall effort provided by each community in a given year, and the higher temperatures and fair weather may have allowed for a more complete count as well. There were technical challenges with the online data-gathering system, which may or may not have an impact on the outcome of the count. Regarding the encampment at Arapahoe and 9<sup>th</sup> Street, there were approximately 30 people staying there, many of whom were not engaged in services or interested in sheltering; the group overall did show an interest in housing.

**Housing Exits Strategic Planning Outcomes**

- More formally integrate Attention Homes into the Homeless Solutions for Boulder County system
- Map the flow from System entry through exit into housing, and note where clients are exiting the flow pre-housing
- Investigate methamphetamine-resilient units
- Create a plan for utilizing \$600,000 from the Human Services Investment Group
  - o Likely will be purposed to serve populations who are not well served by the current system
- Create a common Housing Authority application for set aside vouchers
- Utilize Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration carryover funds to create a landlord navigation position

**Diversion Implementation**

It was noted that Diversion Services are now being provided, and the Boulder County Connect database is operational. There was discussion around the need for continued problem solving, flexibility and collaboration among providers, as well as provision of additional support for agency staff where necessary. Discussion took place around the challenges of serving clients who have been recently released from the Department of Corrections and as well as clients choosing not to access Navigation Services due to Severe Weather Shelter now being open every night.

**Emerging Issues and Updates**

**Patient Drop-off Updates**

Agencies outside of Boulder County have been referring clients just released from mental health facilities to Coordinated Entry. A joint meeting with Britta Fisher of City and County of Denver, as well as

Denver-area hospitals, will take place. In addition, Denver Department of Human Services will be working with client-facing staff to make sure they are not referring clients to Coordinated Entry. There was discussion around the need for increased resources in other communities to assist in serving this clientele. Data is continuing to be collected around this issue.

### **Encampments**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Street encampment was closed on February 13<sup>th</sup>; it was made up of 15-30 tents at the time and was known to be a location where methamphetamine dealing was taking place. The encampment received significant outreach prior to closure from both Boulder Shelter for the Homeless and Mental Health Partners. Staff worked to connect encampment residents to services including Coordinated Entry and housing resources; in addition, bus tickets were provided as needed, the Homeless Outreach Team assisted with rides, and Boulder Shelter for the Homeless and Bridge House operated on extended hours. It was noted that there were available shelter beds the night of the closure. The encampment at Goose Creek will be closed soon, and the same process will take place for any other encampments with more than two or three people. Longmont is also working to manage encampments, as there is camping taking place in public parks with curfew hours.

### **Safe Lots**

City of Longmont staff will be providing an update to Longmont City Council on the topic of safe lots on Tuesday and the City of Longmont Safe Lot Task force is completing research, data gathering and a cost-benefit analysis around the need for that service. HOPE is working to begin a Safe Lot pilot in May, though without the assistance of any City of Longmont resources. The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative also has a work group around the issue; the group is tasked with bringing a policy statement recommendation to the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Board. It was noted that the Safe Lot model is counter to the agency's philosophy, but that in the absence of sufficient housing, a harm reduction approach (for example, safely living out of a vehicle) could be recognized as viable solution.

### **Partner Updates**

#### **City of Boulder**

Two Board members will be attending the upcoming Downtown Business Owners meeting, as there will be a focus on homelessness. On March 12<sup>th</sup>, there will a bus tour of homeless services throughout the City of Boulder for members of City Council, the Human Relations Commission, and residents. City of Boulder staff will be presenting at the March 16<sup>th</sup> joint meeting of the Housing Advisory Board and Human Relations Commission.

#### **Metro Denver Homeless Initiative**

The Board discussed providing the Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Board a tour of the Homeless Solutions for Boulder County system. In regarding to Housing and Department of Urban Development funds, Tier I funding was announced (all requested funds were received), Tier II funding has not yet been announced and the final round of Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program will be open soon. There will also be a visit from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

#### **Boulder County**

The Emergency Solutions Grant has nearly been expended through the Rapid Rehousing Program; a \$30,000 increase in funding has been applied for.