



# Community Services Department

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## Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board December 13, 2019 8-10am 515 Coffman St. (Hub) room 321

<b>Welcome</b>	<b>8:00-8:05</b>
<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>8:05-8:10</b>
<b>Information Items</b>	<b>8:10-9:00</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Executive Board briefing</li><li>• Presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ New CE/Diversion Screening</li><li>○ Safe Lots</li></ul></li></ul>	
<b>Discussion Items</b>	<b>9:00-10:00</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communications</li><li>• RFP/Contracting update</li><li>• DOLA invitation – discussing purpose</li><li>• Partner updates</li></ul>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>10:00</b>

**Homeless Solutions for Boulder County**  
**Executive Board Meeting**  
**December 13, 2019: 8-10am**  
**515 Coffman St. (Hub), Room 321**

**In Attendance:** Robin Bohannan, Sarah Buss, Vicki Ebner, Heidi Grove, Eliberto Mendoza, Karen Roney, Jeff Zayach

**By Phone:** Karen Kreutzberg

**Executive Board briefing**

The Boulder County Housing and Human Services Investment Group pre-funded Boulder County Housing Authority with \$600,000, broken out into \$300,000 over each of the next two years; there is an expectation that the funding may continue. The goal is to reimburse Longmont Housing Authority and Boulder Housing Partners for work with locally funded vouchers, including administrative costs. The Investment Group is requesting outcomes as a result of these funds, especially around a reduction in un-housed high utilizers

The Justice Systems work group will be meeting with the Corporation for Supportive Housing for a technical assistance walk-through around a data-crosswalk for high utilizers. This is specifically focused on the intersection between the justice, healthcare and homeless systems; the City of Boulder is taking the lead on this work. The goal of this group is to create a local priority list of high utilizers.

There is work taking place with Veterans Affairs on data sharing, as the two systems have not had matching clients lists and it appears that there is a significant number of veterans in Boulder County who are not interfacing with Veterans Affairs. Veterans Affairs plans to send an outreach worker up to the area more frequently and to additional locations in order to connect with a broader client base.

The Outreach Work Group has a long-term goal of doing cross-sector collaborative outreach across the County, targeting clients who are considered both engaged and not-yet-engaged. The purpose of the group is to establish a continuum of services towards housing outcomes.

**Presentations**

**New CE/Diversion Screening**

New Coordinated Entry screening data points have been identified and submitted for integration into Boulder County Connect. Diversion services are being incorporated into the Coordinated Entry process and there is an effort to collect more data on the front end to assist with case management. In addition, common definitions around housing exits have been identified to better streamline data among providers and align with the Homeless Management Information System; these will be submitted for integration into the system next week.

**Safe Lots**

As a model, the Safe Lot provides safe legal overnight parking along with case management and basic services. This model could be helpful for those who are resistant to staying in a shelter, do not consider themselves homeless, or have temporarily lost housing. Currently, Safe Lots are primarily located on the West Coast and are found in locations where the gap between income and housing costs is high. The Board discussed the need to create a policy around

putting resources towards services not directly leading to housing outcomes, such as a Safe Lot. The Metro Denver Homeless Initiative will be making a policy decision around Safe Lots which will be presented to their board in February; it was decided that the Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board will wait to make a policy decision until this takes place. Metro Denver Homeless Initiative noted that they oppose ordinances that criminalize staying in a vehicle and believe in a harm reeducation approach in absence of other options, but also support client engagement and believe that housing clients is the ideal solution. The City of Longmont has created a taskforce at the direction of Longmont City Council to examine whether the Safe Lot model is viable for the community, including return on investment, eligibility, costs, target audience, unmet need for this type of service and other possible solutions (mater leasing, for example). There is a goal to have this research completed by the end of the first quarter in order to present a cost/benefit analysis prior to the beginning of the 2021 budget process.

### **Communications**

A communications team has resumed meeting and is made up of staff from the cities of Longmont and Boulder, as well as the County. The goal of the team is to be proactive in telling the story of Homeless Solutions for Boulder County, defining key messaging and highlighting improvements. The team also developed a logo and tagline.

### **RFP/Contracting update**

City of Longmont will communicate about their contracting structure when more information is available. County contracting around utilization of the HUB for Coordinated Entry/Diversion services is still in process.

### **Department of Local Affairs Invitation**

The Board discussed inviting Department of Local Affairs staff to a Board meeting in order to keep them apprised of what is going on within the Homeless Solutions for Boulder County system; it was agreed that this would be a beneficial next step.

### **Other Discussion**

Regarding methamphetamine use, it was noted that the Boulder County Housing Authority will not lease units or provide Housing Stabilization Program services to clients who have used methamphetamine within the last 12 months or other illicit substances within the last six months. Methamphetamine use and the Housing First model are not compatible; mitigation funds, which were presented as a possible solution, are cost-prohibitive. Because there has been little guidance from Metro Denver Homeless Initiative or Housing and Urban Development, the office of the Boulder County Attorney is drafting an advisory memo on the topic. Metro Denver Homeless Initiative noted that they are concerned about methamphetamine use jeopardizing housing availability and stated that Homeless Solutions for Boulder County will not be penalized for taking precautions around serving/housing clients who are using methamphetamine. The Board discussed the need to consider other housing options for this population and track data around clients who are not being successfully housed. It was noted that this will be an upcoming Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Coordinating Committee

agenda item, and that the regional group of Public Health/Housing and Human Services directors can discuss the issue at an upcoming meeting.