



Community Services Department

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Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board August 14, 2020 8:00 - 10:00am Teams Meeting

Informational

8:00-8:15

- Guest Input
- System Data Update

Discussion items

8:15-9:45

- BThere concept
- Matt Myer – ESG Funding Update
- Safelot Learnings and Data
- Proposed RV Parking Lot
- SWS Overflow
- Jeffco use of the CRC
- MHP Service Delivery
- Attending to Partner Collaboration

Member Updates

9:45-10:00

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Conference ID: 464 761 448#

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board
August 14, 2020 8:00-10:00am
Teams Meeting

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

Guest: Greg Harms

System Data Update

Recent trends were shared, including decreased screenings in Boulder and increased screenings in Longmont, with a general increase in clients being screened to Diversion services in City of Boulder and an increase in those being screened to Housing Focused Shelter in Longmont. It was discussed that Navigation data and outcomes are being further improved and a qualitative analysis was recently performed for Diversion data. In addition, resource linkage is being added as a neutral outcome for Diversion in order to allow clients to be more effectively connected back to the community they came from, where applicable.

BThere

An overview of the BThere proposal was provided. It was noted that the programming will include housing-based outreach, Coordinated Entry services, enforcement of camping regulations, and other services. The team will consist of three people who will be spending four hours per day, five days per week in the field; the team will include one person with lived experience who is trained and knowledgeable around available resources, one professional experienced in homeless service provision and outreach, and one mental health professional. It was noted that this will not be a crisis-response team, and if needed, they will connect clients with other services. The program would ideally use the recently acquired Emergency Solutions Grant as well as funds from the City of Boulder and Attention Homes. The program will work to comprehensively track, engage with, and resource clients, as well as monitor impact on local encampments and those that are unsheltered. Karen Roney moved to approve the use of Emergency Solutions Grant funding to support the BThere program. Matt Meyer seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed.

Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Update

It was noted that Emergency Solutions Grant funding comes out in two waves, and that the first wave has been awarded. Metro Denver Homeless Initiative was provided 2.24 million dollars, which will be used to de-densify congregate settings, as well as assist clients experiencing homelessness who are 65 and over, those with medical challenges and those with criminal justice involvement; services will be provided through a racial equity lens. The second wave of funding has not yet been provided. There was discussion around youth homelessness funding, as well as the need for monetary support for communities lacking sheltering systems. The group discussed the continued importance of correctly classifying clients upfront, especially regarding those with lower needs who can best utilize traditional Rapid Rehousing dollars, as well as those who are best suited for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Proposed RV Parking Lot

The City of Longmont is moving forward with an ordinance to prevent parking of RVs on public streets, and is looking to see if a piece of County property could be used as a location for RV safe parking; this would specifically act as bridge housing for those seeking a permanent housing solution. The City of Longmont had a specific piece of Boulder County property in mind, but County staff shared that this land

is in use and cannot be used for the requested purpose. It was noted there will also be an upcoming meeting about using the fairgrounds as an RV safe parking location. The group discussed the importance of incorporating these clients into current assistance programs, rather than providing special assistance for this population.

Safe Lot Learnings and Data

The new Safe Lot in Longmont, housed at an undisclosed location, currently has 8 parking spaces and is hosting approximately 15 people. Data is continuing to be gathered.

Severe Weather Shelter Overflow

The Board discussed possible options in the case that Severe Weather Shelter overflow is needed this next season. Based on previous data, Severe Weather Shelter may be triggered 30 days this upcoming year, meaning that the number of clients needing to be served would exceed space available at Boulder Shelter for the Homeless on those days. Options for sheltering could include housing clients in an unused portion of the COVID Recovery Center location, in the hotel next to Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, or by working out an arrangement with Jefferson County to house overflow clients. It was noted that hoteling would likely be the best option, with the COVID Recovery Center acting as a back-up. Matt Meyer moved to use hoteling for overflow clients for Severe Weather Shelter. Robin seconded the motion. Karen Roney noted that The City of Longmont is working to have a functioning navigation system and does not have a desire to expand their Severe Weather Shelter for the upcoming season. In that vein, it was shared that the City of Boulder is working to move towards sheltering acting as a smaller part of the system, but that in the interim, these extra beds would be needed. All were in favor except Karen Roney, who was opposed. The motion passed.

Jefferson County Use of the COVID-19 Recovery Center

The Board discussed whether it would be feasible for Jefferson County to send COVID-19-positive clients to the Boulder County COVID Recovery Center. The possibility of Broomfield County utilizing this option was also noted. Board members discussed that Boulder County might be disproportionately burdened in this situation, though the right fee structure could mitigate the impact. Cost-sharing could be beneficial, as the COVID-19 Recovery Center has available capacity. It was noted that moving COVID-19-positive clients into the County may not be ideal for a variety of reasons; though transportation back to Jefferson County would be planned and available, it is not possible to force someone to leave the County. In support of the proposal, it was noted that it would be feasible to have paperwork completed whereby clients commit to going back to Jefferson County, use could be time limited and based on availability, and Jefferson County would take care of their own testing. The Board decided that Public health and local hospitals would need to be engaged in this decision making. Karen Roney moved to continue to explore the concept and then consider a special meeting for the Board to take action on the recommendation. Matt Meyer seconded the motion and all were in favor. The motion passed.

MHP Service Delivery

It was noted that there have been challenges with the quality of case management services being delivered by Mental Health Partners; this is specifically regarding Permanent Supportive Housing clients living at the Nest. The issue is continuing to be explored.