



Community Services Department

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Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board May 8, 2020 9-10am Teams Meeting

Welcome and Introductions

Information

9:00-9:20

Data brief and workgroup updates

- CRC update
- LHA changes and implications
- Other information from the field

Discussion

9:20-9:50

- Exits as an ongoing focus
- Collaborative planning and new challenges (encampments, prison releases, etc)

Member Updates

9:50-10:00

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board

May 8, 2020 9:00-10:00am

Remote Meeting

In Attendance: Jim Adams-Berger, Frank Alexander, Robin Bohannon, Sarah Buss, Vicki Ebner, Kurt Firnhaber, Heidi Grove, Alice Kim, Karen Kreutzberg, Angela Lanci-Macris, Eliberto Mendoza, Matt Meyer, Karen Roney, Wendy Schwartz, Annie Scott

Data Brief and Workgroup Updates

It was noted that most clients utilizing Diversion services are referred from the Denver area; it is challenging to reunify those coming from adjacent areas due to gaps in services in the areas they would be reunified to. It is too soon to tell if Diversion services, as a whole, are a successful component of the system.

COVID Recovery Center Update

56 individuals have been served at the center since opening, with six to ten clients being served on an average day. There is discussion about closing the center; the trigger for closing would likely be 10-14 days with no positive clients staying there. Trigger criteria will be finalized sometime next week. There would be plans to stand the center back up if needed, ideally at a lower cost. If a client is symptomatic after the center closes, the client could be housed in a hotel and visited by Medical Reserve Corps until they recover.

Longmont Housing Authority Changes and Implications

The oversight of the Longmont Housing Authority has moved to the City of Longmont. A plan is in place regarding immediate actions that need to be addressed as well as intermediate and longer term system issues regarding the Housing Authority. After 18 to 24 months, it will be determined whether or not the Housing Authority will merge with the City of Longmont.

Other Information from the Field

The City of Boulder is decreasing its homelessness budget by \$500,000 this year; this decrease will not impact the voucher program. There is a recommendation that the 30th street site not be re-opened and that Severe Weather Shelter be moved to Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. This means that the client census at Boulder Shelter for the Homeless will need to be decreased through housing opportunities. There is also a reduction in cost needed for Navigation services. It was noted that the City of Boulder is looking for a more effective approach to implement the camping ban.

Housing Exits as an Ongoing Focus

Regarding current resources, there are 47 housing opportunities currently available for use in the next three months. In addition, \$600,000 is currently available through the Housing and Human Services Investment Group to target service gaps for system high utilizers and 50 units will be available by the end of 2021 through a partnership between Boulder Shelter for the Homeless and Element Properties. It was noted that system providers plan to work more collaboratively with clients taking part in the voucher lottery system through the Housing Authorities to assist in expediting the housing process. The

system is also utilizing strategic planning and prioritization to decide how best to move housing work forward; it was reiterated that additional units will be needed to meet housing goals. There are three potential funding streams that could be utilized towards this end including Housing and Urban Development Permanent Supportive Housing vouchers, Emergency Solutions Grant funds and Community Development Block Grant rental assistance funds. It was noted that the state is prioritizing COVID-19 response over typical homelessness solutions, including prioritizing housing for those who are positive for COVID-19 or were put up in hotels due to COVID-19 risk; the Board discussed the importance of advocating to maintain current prioritization criteria.

Collaborative Planning and New Challenges

It was noted that the Department of Corrections is attempting to decrease the census at state institutions by 10% due to COVID-19 risk; they are looking to parole clients, including those with a COVID-19 diagnosis, back to their communities, even if the clients are being paroled to homelessness. The Board discussed that collaborative system-level work is needed to address this challenge.

HOMELESS SOLUTIONS FOR BOULDER COUNTY: SUPPLEMENTAL EXECUTIVE BOARD BRIEF

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

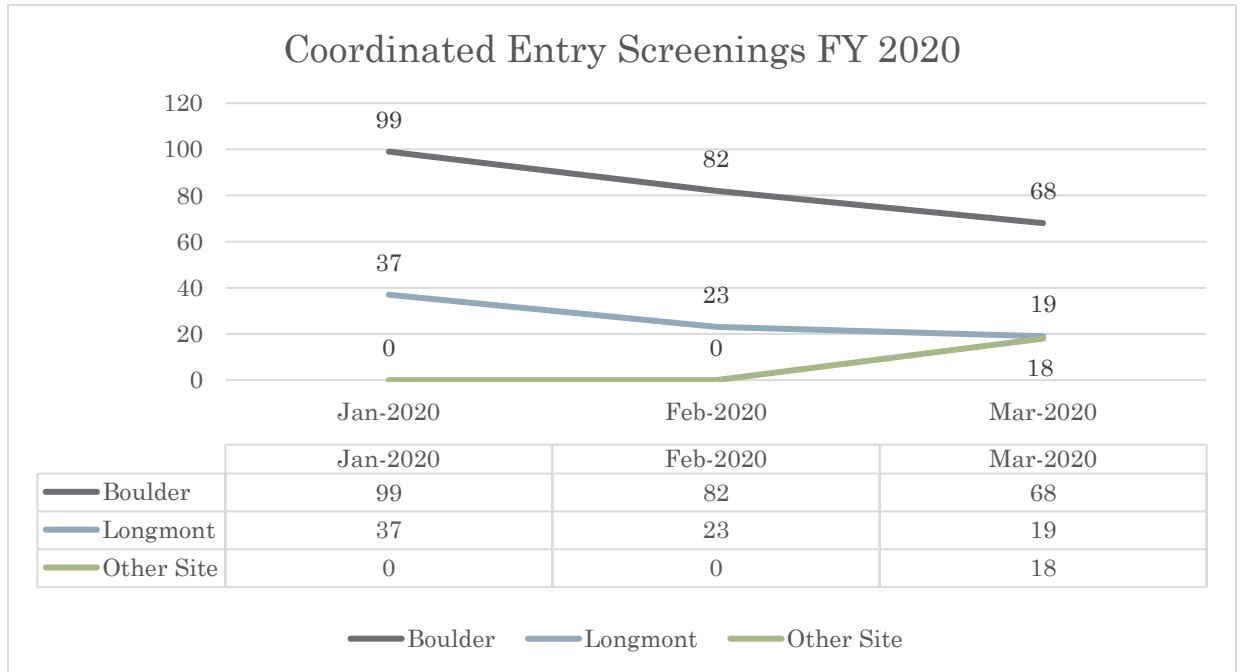
The following summary reflects a high-level overview of data points and narrative found in further detail throughout this report:

- 346 individuals were screened through Coordinated Entry since January 2020.
 - 72% (249) screened in City of Boulder
 - 23% (79) screened in City of Longmont
 - 5% (18) screened virtually
- 30% (64) individuals reported residing in Boulder County; 42% (88) individuals reported residing in Colorado but not Boulder County; 28% (58) individuals reported residing outside of Colorado¹.
 - 52% (46) reported Denver as their last residence
- 85% (293) of those screened reported a homeless situation
- 67% (231) reported a disabling condition at screening
- With the integration of Diversion, Navigation referrals decreased substantially in the month of February 2020
- 36% (126) were screened and referred to Diversion services
- 105 individuals experiencing homelessness exited homelessness since January 2020

¹ Data point reflected is based on new data integrated in February 2020

COORDINATED ENTRY

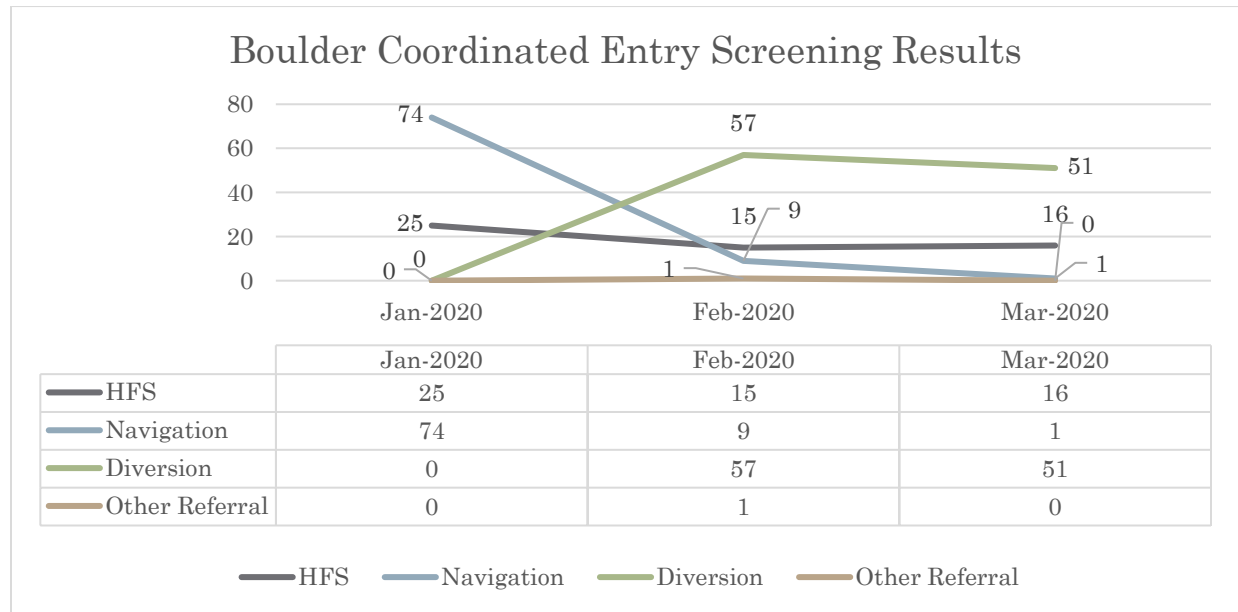
- A total of 346 unique individuals experiencing homelessness were screened through Coordinated Entry between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020. As reflected below, the number of unique individuals experiencing homelessness presenting a Coordinated Entry has steadily declined per month apart from the location identified as “Other” which is mobile screening that was introduced during COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020. On average, 72% (249) presented in the City of Boulder, 23% (79) presented in the City of Longmont, and 5% (18) presented through mobile screening.



COORDINATED ENTRY SCREENING RESULTS PER LOCATION

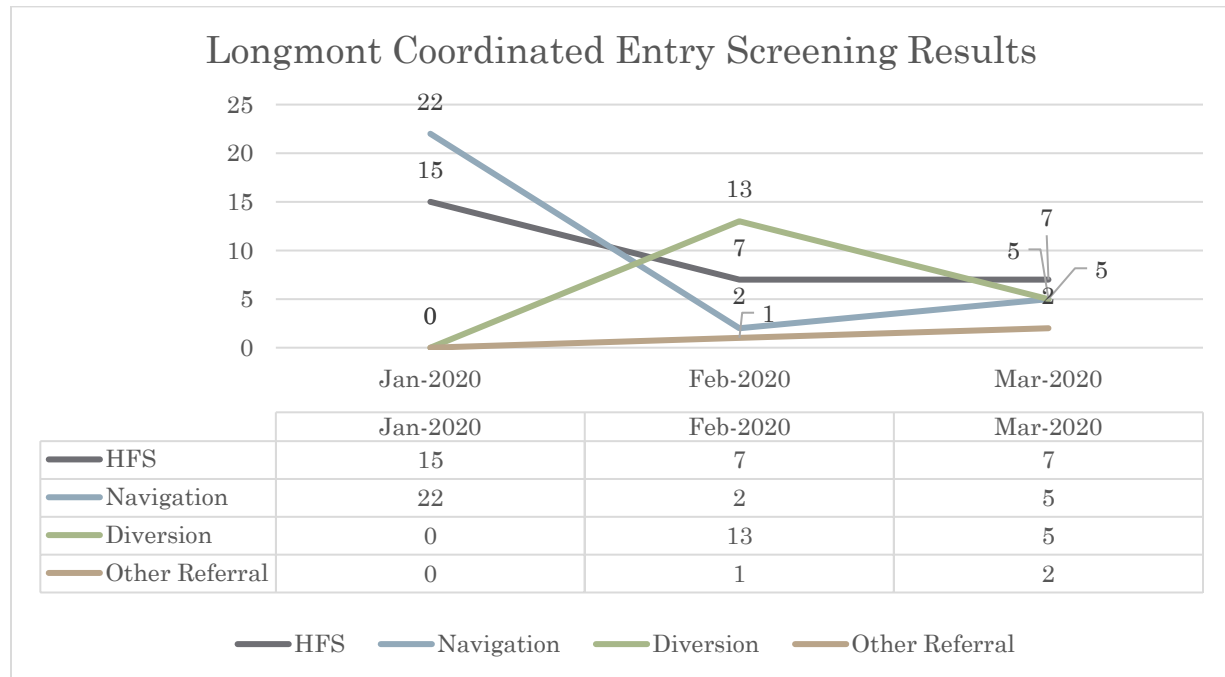
City of Boulder

As reflected below, with the integration of Diversion services in February 2020, referrals to Navigation services decreased substantially in the City of Boulder. Referrals to Housing Focused Shelter remained stable month over month. Prior to the integration of the new screen tool, referrals to Other organizations were not tracked. As a result of the new data element, one individual experiencing homelessness was referred to Attention Homes.



City of Longmont

As reflected below, with the integration of Diversion services in February 2020, referrals to Navigation services decreased substantially in the City of Longmont during the month but increased between February and March 2020. Referrals to Housing Focused Shelter decreased in January but stabilized February to March. Prior to the integration of the new screen tool, referrals to Other organizations were not tracked. As a result of the data element, three individual experiencing homelessness were referred to services provided by EFAA.



Other Screening Location

With the pandemic crisis in March 2020, Coordinated Entry transitioned from site based in the cities of Boulder and Longmont to phone screening. As a result, 18 screenings originated from non-traditional locations throughout Boulder County. Of those screened, 33% (6) were screened to Housing Focused Shelter; 28% (5) were screened to Longmont Navigation services; and 39% (7) were screened to Diversion services.

CLIENT PROFILE

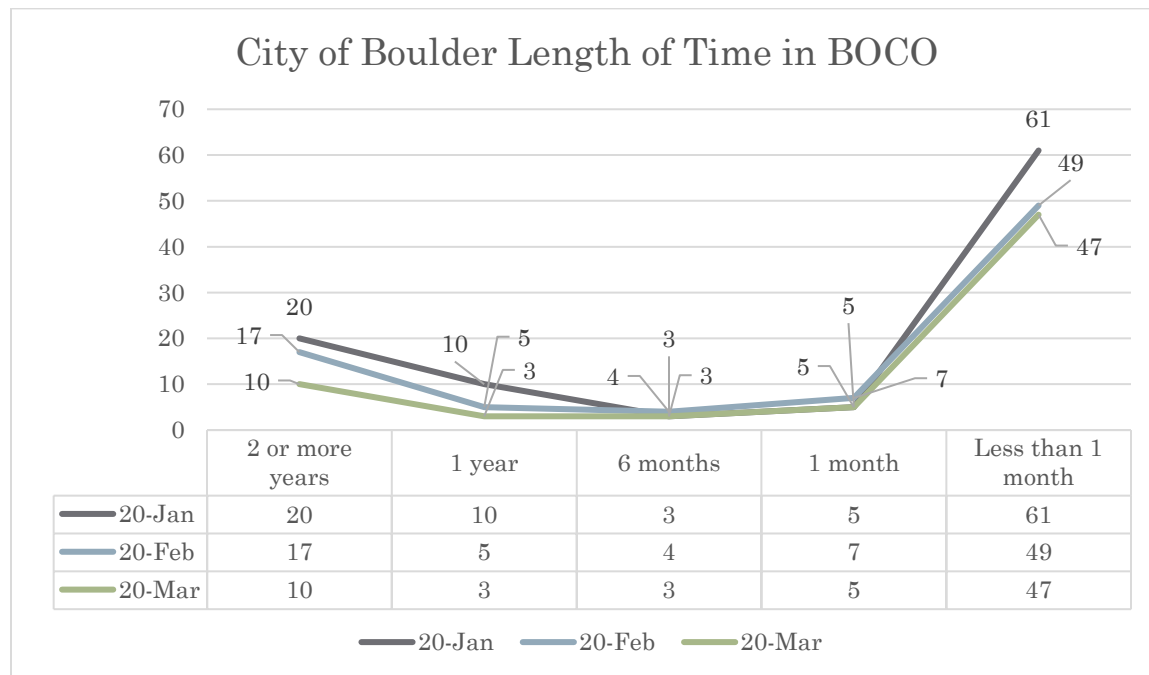
City of Boulder Length of Time in Boulder County

Of the 249 unique individuals experiencing homelessness presenting at Coordinated Entry between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020, 70% (174) reported being in Boulder County for less than six months.

Beginning in February 2020, with the integration of new data collection processes, we began to collect data regarding where individuals last resided. Of the 82 individuals screened in February 2020, 32% (26) reported residing inside Boulder County; 40% (33) reported residing within Colorado but not Boulder County; and the remaining 28% (23) reported residing outside of Colorado. It is important to note that of the 33 individuals whom reported residing in Colorado but not Boulder County, 64% (21) reported Denver as their last residence.

In March 2020, of the 68 individuals screened, 21% (14) reported residing inside Boulder County; 54% (37) reported residing within Colorado but not Boulder County; and 25% (17) reported residing outside of Colorado. It is important to note that of the 37 individuals whom reported residing in Colorado but not Boulder County, 62% (23) reported Denver as their last residence.

The below chart reflects the month to month trend regarding length of time residing in Boulder County as reported at Coordinated Entry.



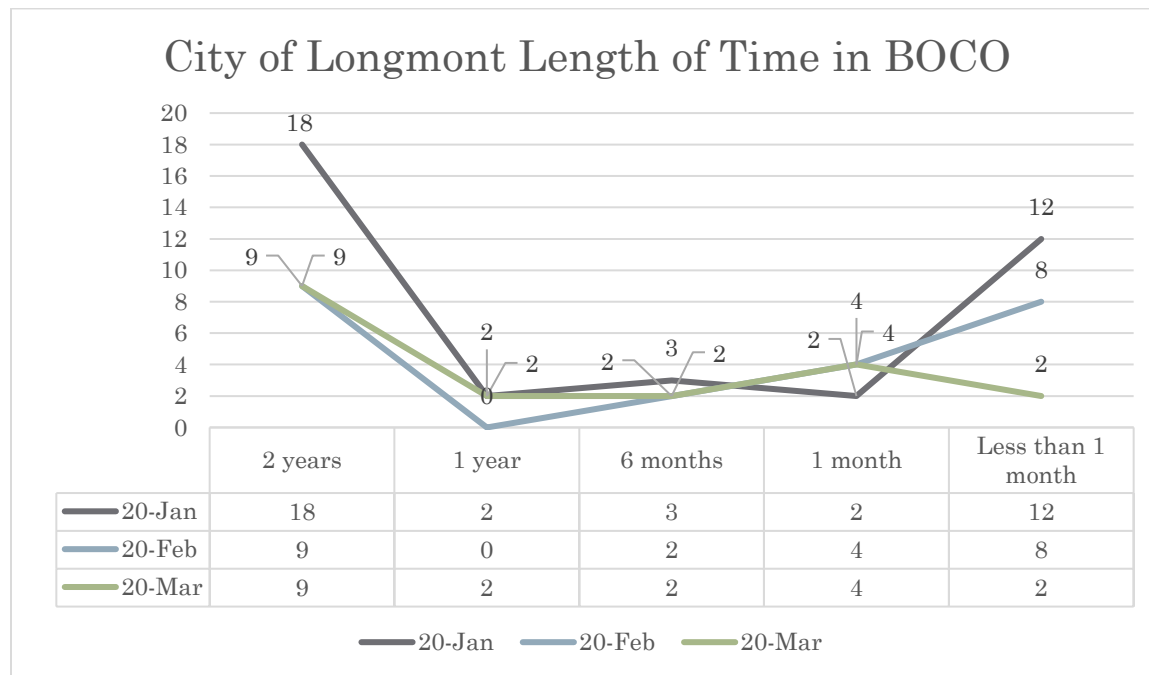
City of Longmont Length of Time in Boulder County

Of the 79 unique individuals experiencing homelessness presenting at Coordinated Entry between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020, 41% (32) reported being in Boulder County for less than six months.

Beginning in February 2020, with the integration of new data collection processes, we began to collect data regarding where individuals last resided. Of the 23 individuals screened in February 2020, 49% (11) reported residing inside Boulder County; 26% (6) reported residing within Colorado but not Boulder County; and 26% (6) reported residing outside of Colorado.

In March 2020, of the 19 individuals screened, 37% (7) reported residing inside Boulder County; 37% (7) reported residing within Colorado but not Boulder County; and 26% (5) reported residing outside of Colorado. It is important to note that of the individuals whom reported residing in Colorado but not Boulder County, 29% (2) reported Denver as their last residence.

The below chart reflects the month to month trend regarding length of time residing in Boulder County as reported at Coordinated Entry.

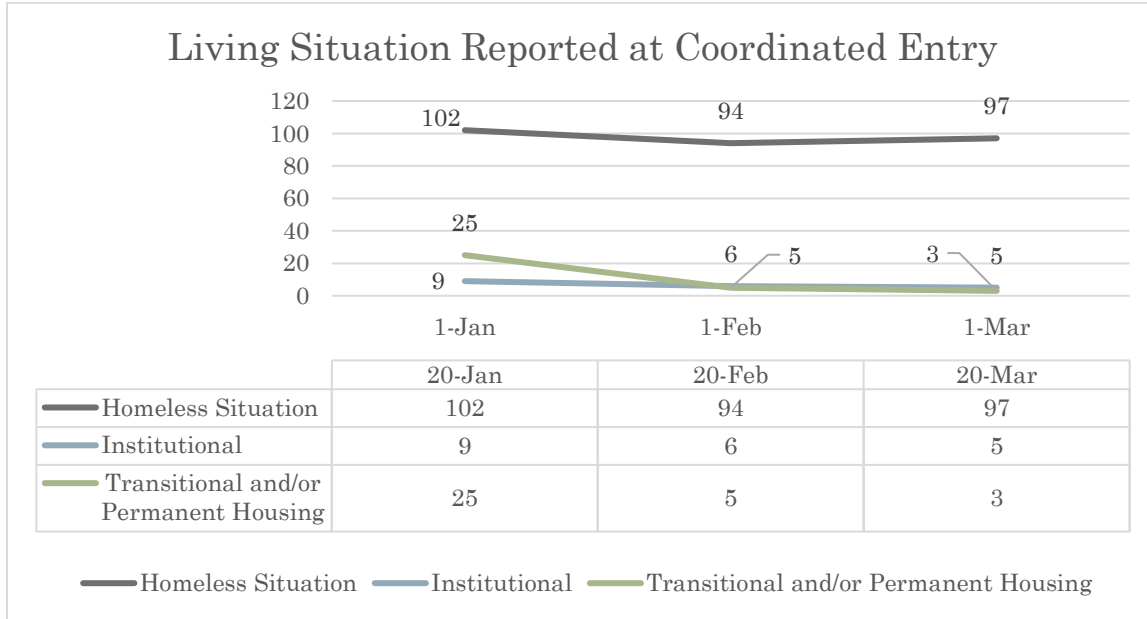


Other Screening Location Length of Time in Boulder County

As mentioned in prior sections, with the pandemic crisis in March 2020, Coordinated Entry transitioned from site based in the cities of Boulder and Longmont to phone screening. Of 18 screenings originated by mobile screening 61% (11) reported 6 months or more in Boulder County.

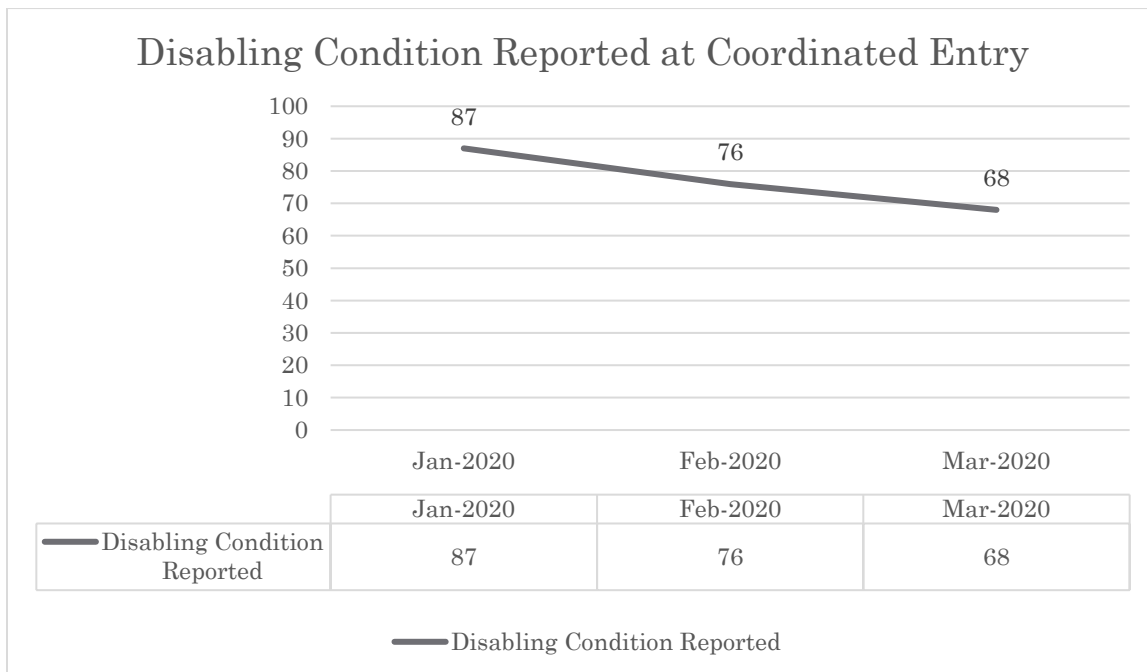
Boulder County Living Situation reported at Coordinated Entry

As reflected in the chart below, of the 346 unique individuals experiencing homeless screened at Coordinated Entry, a vast majority 85% (293) reported a homeless situation. These data have remained consistent month over month regarding an individual's current living situation.



Boulder County Disabling Condition reported at Coordinated Entry

Of the 346 unique individuals screened for services through Coordinated Entry between January 1, 2020 and March 31, 2020, 67% (231) report a disabling condition. This data trend continues to stay stable in relation to the population in general.

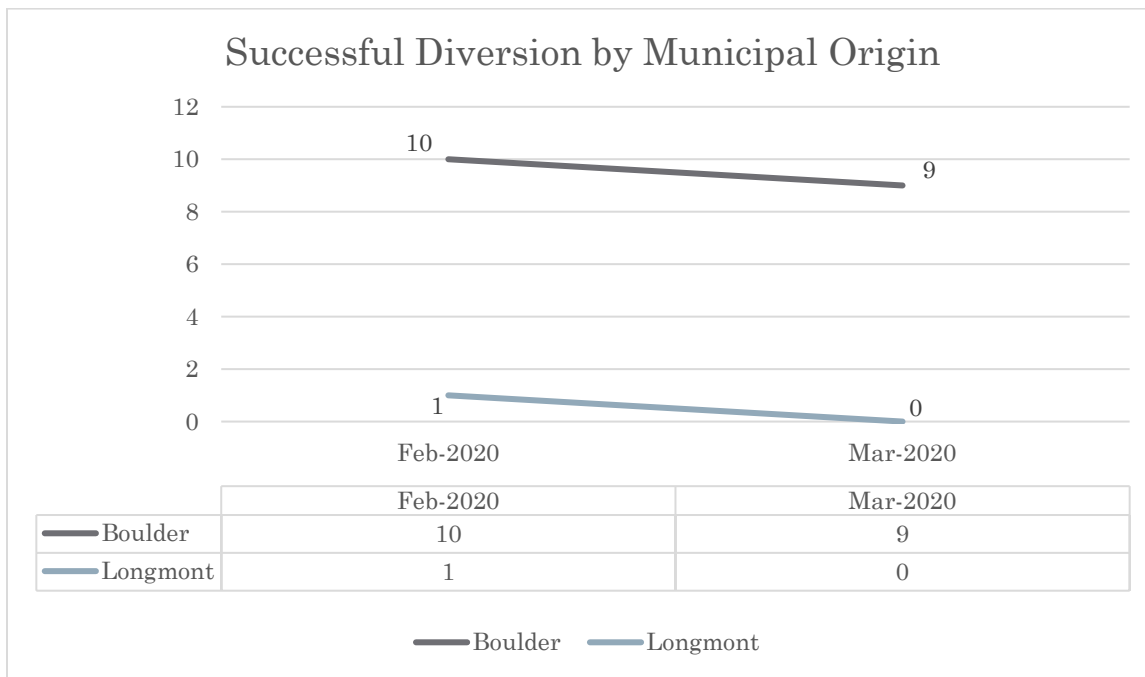


DIVERSION SERVICES

After a month delay with data system integration, Diversion services were launched in February 2020. In the first month, February 2020, 67% (70) unique individuals experiencing homelessness were screened and referred to Diversion services. Of the 70 unique individuals 16% (11) were successfully diverted from sheltering systems with 82% (9) diverted through reunification and 18% (2) through providing transportation assistance. A total of \$1,969.89, average \$179.08, direct service dollars was provided during the month.

During the month of March 53% (56) unique individuals experiencing homelessness were screened and referred to Diversion services. Of the 56 unique individuals 16% (9) were successfully diverted from sheltering systems with 33% (3) through reunification, 33% (3) through deposit assistance, and 33 (33%) through transportation assistance. A total of \$3,233.43, average \$359.27, direct service dollars was provided during the month.

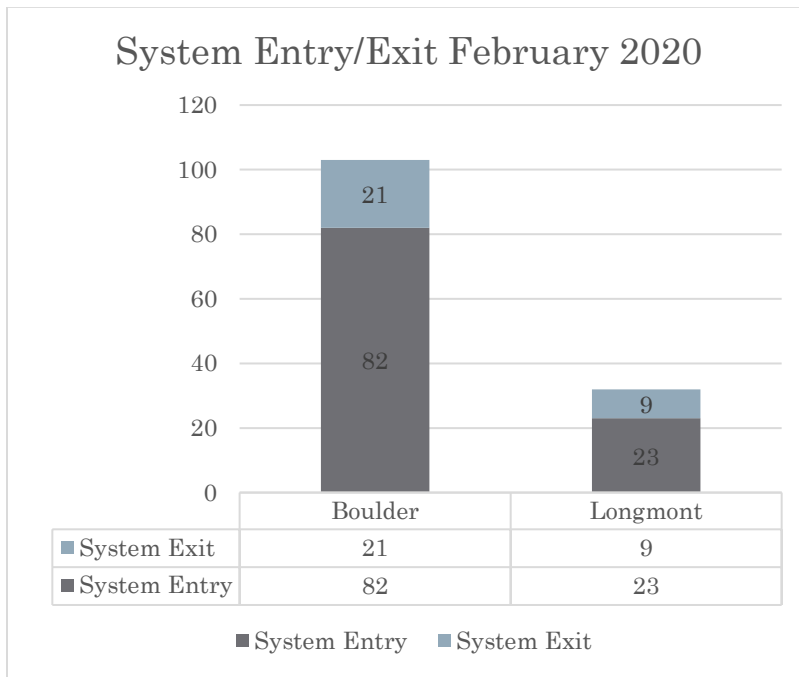
The following graph reflects the municipal origin of successful diversion services.



HOUSING OUTCOMES

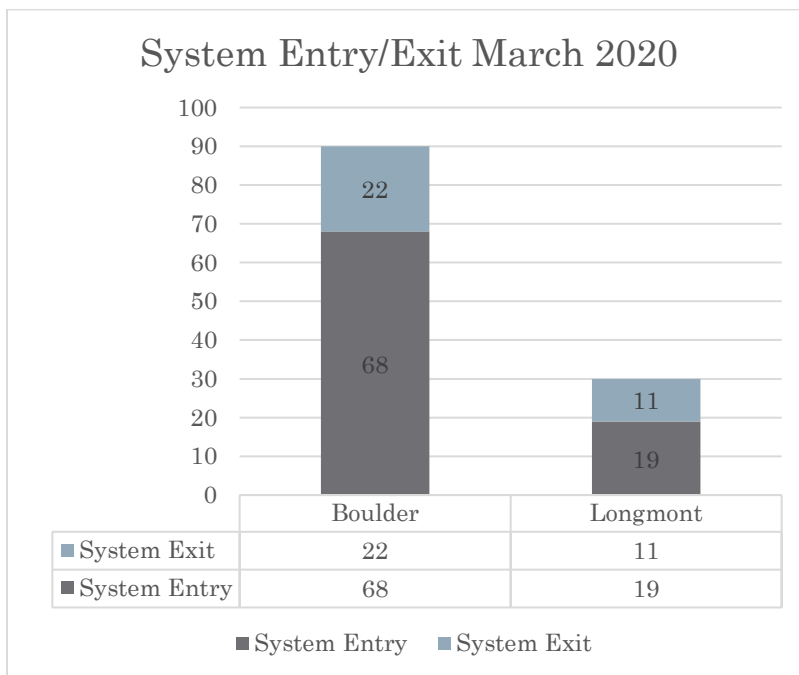
The following data and charts reflect individuals experiencing homelessness who have exited the homeless services system to a stable housing outcome. ***It is important to note that the data reflected in the following charts reflect Housing Outcomes via system entry and exit are not the same individuals.***

System Entry/Exit February 2020



System Entry/Exit

During the month of February 2020, 30 individuals exited the HSBC system into a stable housing outcome.

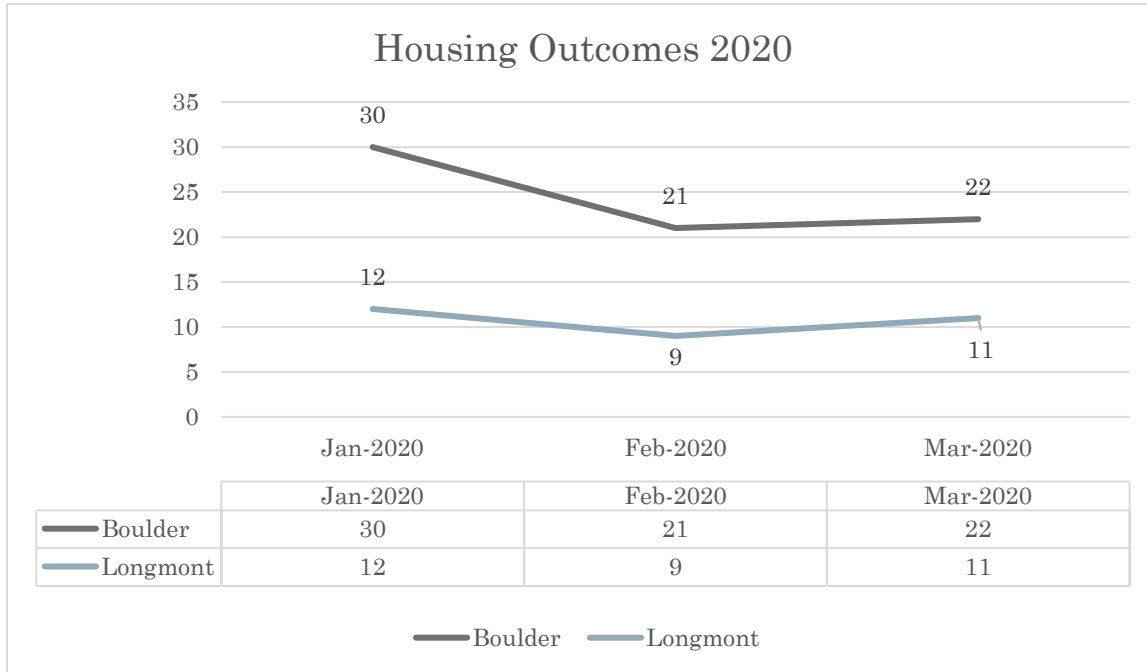


System Entry/Exit

During the month of March 2020, 33 individuals exited the HSBC system into a stable housing outcome.

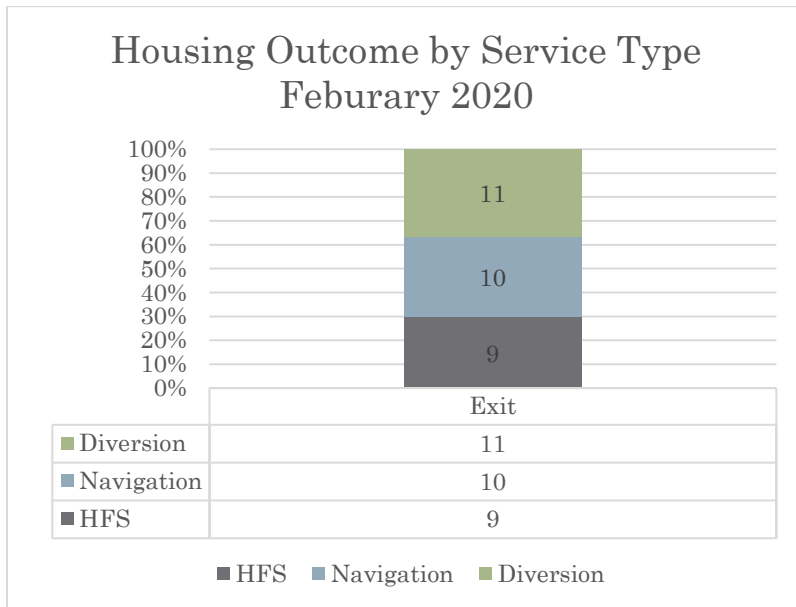
Housing Outcomes Fiscal Year 2020

As reflected, a total of 105 individuals experiencing homelessness exited homelessness. The following data reflect the housing exits trends for the fiscal year of 2020.



Housing Outcome by service type

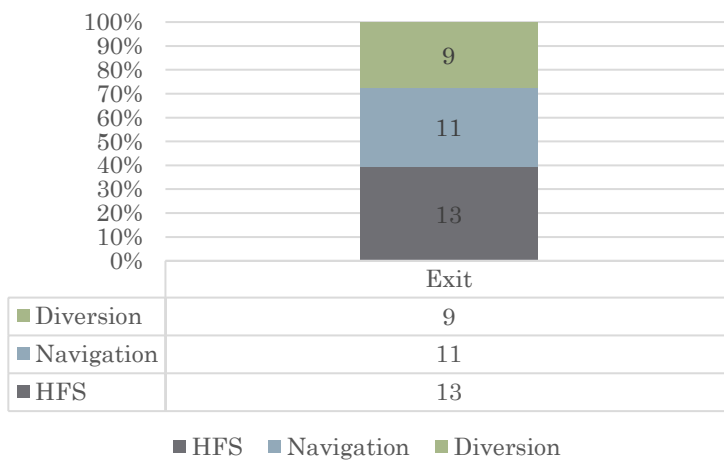
The following data reflect the service type resulting in a housing outcome for the months of February and March 2020. These charts also integrate the housing outcomes of individuals screened to Diversion services.



Exit by type

During the month of February 2020, the housing outcome per each service type was equally distributed resulting in a total of 30 housing exits.

Housing Outcome by Service Type March 2020



Exit by type

During the month of March 2020, the housing outcome per each service type was equally distributed resulting in a total of 33 housing exits.

WORKING GROUP PROGRESS

- **Systems working group** has increased the frequency of meetings and repurposed during the pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, all shelter providers began meeting multiple times per week to discuss, identify, and address emerging issues during a time of crisis.
- **Communications working group** has been placed on hold during the pandemic to ensure that communication and media requests are met as they arise.
- **Housing Exits working group** was placed on hold in the first month of the pandemic. This group began meeting in April to identify and address any barriers to housing during COVID-19. The group is currently reviewing the Mega Waiver released by Housing and Urban Development to leverage housing resources.
- **Management working group** has been placed on hold during the pandemic. HSBC remains in contact with all service providers on a regular basis.
- **High Utilizers working group** has been placed on hold during the pandemic.
- **Outreach working group** held its most recent meeting in the beginning of March. Immediately following this meeting, the Center for Disease Control released recommendations to suspend relationship-based outreach activities. As a result, outreach efforts have stalled during the month of March. Providers are currently reviewing how to restart these efforts in the month of May 2020.
- **Implementation working group** is currently reviewing, discussing and problem-solving emerging issues and will begin to meet weekly in May 2020.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

- **SAMHSA Grant** continues to provide on-going services for housed clients via virtual case management. Housing Choice Vouchers were distributed prior to the onset of the pandemic and as a result, Mental Health Partners were able to house individuals during the months of February and March. The housing outcome data is reflected in the housing exit charts in the prior section.

EMERGING ISSUES

As a result of the onset of the pandemic and stay at home orders, there have been multiple emerging issues as identified below.

Housing Outcomes:

Stay at home orders had a direct impact on housing outcomes. This is a result of the absence of in person briefings, landlord engagement, and housing navigation. In April 2020, Housing and Urban Development released a Mega Waiver to impact the stagnation created during the pandemic to assist individuals to transition into housing. The following bullets reflect both the challenges and opportunities that have presented in the upcoming months.

Challenges

- Housing Choice Vouchers (set asides) was projected to provide an additional 50 vouchers during 2020. However, due to funding constraints, they will most likely not release any vouchers for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- Across the county, Housing Authorities have eliminated face to face briefings and have had to reallocate staffing resources to conduct recertifications for current tenants.
- Continuum of Care voucher expansion (11 spots) was not funded through Boulder Housing Partners in collaboration with Boulder Shelter for the Homeless.
- Social Securing Administration Offices and the Department of Motor Vehicles remain closed preventing vital doc acquisition and income verification documentation.
- Mental Health Partners has ceased face to face client contact. This prevents the level of engagement commonly needed to get through the voucher and housing application process.
- Limited landlord face to face client activities have led to difficulty preparing units for leasing have slowed the lease up process.

Opportunities

- City of Boulder released funding for 2020 creating 18 vouchers with greater flexibility to allow for creative housing placement solutions. Boulder Shelter for the Homeless is currently piloting a master lease concept.
- 39 Boulder Housing Partners Non-Elderly Disabled (NED) vouchers will be available to distribution in the near future.
- City of Longmont / Longmont Housing Authority locally funded PSH vouchers are still approved in the current fiscal year budget and should be available in the upcoming months.
- The awarded \$600k of flexible funding from the county for housing resources has allocated and Implementation Team is currently working on identifying avenues to leverage these funds to house individuals experiencing homelessness.
- Normal program attrition will create approximately 10 - 15 PSH spots at MHP/BSH/BHP throughout 2020.
- There are indications that Housing and Urban Development may release up to 500,000 vouchers nationwide. It remains unclear how these vouchers will be distributed and/or prioritized across the country.
- As a result of the pandemic, private landlord expansion opportunities may exist as a result of the economic impact of the COVID crisis. Landlords maybe more willing to accept voucher-based income than they have been in the past.
- Some Housing and Urban Development, as well as Colorado Department of Housing criteria barriers have been temporarily relaxed as a result of the Mega Waiver.

Encampments:

A rise in encampments have been reported across municipalities throughout Boulder County. Both Cities of Longmont and Boulder are currently working on plans to address this emerging issue and will be presenting them to the HSBC Executive Board in the near future.

Shelter Capacity:

As a result of the pandemic, shelters have decreased their census to ensure social distancing.