

Minutes
Consortium of Cities
June 1, 2016
Boulder County Courthouse
1325 Pearl Street, Boulder CO

Representatives and Alternates Present: Elise Jones and Deb Gardner, Boulder County; Suzanne Jones, Mary Young and Jan Burton, City of Boulder; Polly Christensen, City of Longmont; Chris Leh, Louisville; Dallas Masters, Nederland; Alexandra Lynch, Lafayette; Connie Sullivan, Lyons; Waylon Schutt, Erie; Sharon Tessier, Broomfield; and Chris Hanson, Superior

Staff Present: Heather Balsler, Louisville; Shawn Lewis and Joanie Marsh, Longmont; David Driskell, Boulder; Robin Bohannon, Mark Ruzzin and Michelle Krezek, Boulder County.

Consultants: Tom Hart and Jenny Rodgers – Community Strategies Institute

Approximately 25 members of the Ten Year Board, Non-profit partners and the public

1. Presentation by the Community Strategies Institute on the Permanent Supportive Housing Study – prepared for the Consortium of Cities and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness Advisory Board

Jenny Rodgers and Tom Hart provided an overview of the plan – the final written plan, approximately 50 pages in length, will be available in two to three weeks.

Discussion on possible next steps:

- Discussion with all community's planners about changes to zoning codes to address tools to better fit with the needs for permanently supportive housing – first attempt at this was not very successful. This effort could be renewed to work as a group to develop a model that will make the development of affordable housing consistent across the county.
 - This could be low-hanging fruit for some communities, but may be more difficult for other communities.
 - We need to have more clarity on the objectives/outcomes for these meetings before all communities can commit to participation in this work – Boulder County will put together some information on this and send it out to the group
 - It may be worthwhile to also look at materials and construction techniques that would make development more cost effective
- Declare a county-wide housing crisis – Using the Portland experience as a guide – dedicate funding to Affordable Housing and work on development review timelines to speed up the development of affordable housing units.
 - Need to be careful using language about a crisis without first providing information to the communities to move the conversation forward.
- Cost sharing across communities
- Better articulate that this is a county-wide problem to the county as a whole – make sure constituents in all communities understand the bigger picture behind the current affordable housing situation, including the need for permanently supportive housing developments.
 - HOME Consortium is working on putting together a strategic plan and starting conversations with stakeholders throughout the county later this summer/fall which could help with the community education

- Also need to have better communication with councils and boards in each community to make sure elected leaders have the correct information about PSH
- What are the short-term actions that could be taken to promote the acceptance of vouchers by landlords to start solving this issue now, because building a PSH community takes time and money?
- Work with the CU architecture school to design sustainable, low cost housing solutions.
- HOME Consortium is working on putting together a strategic plan and starting conversations with stakeholders throughout the county later this summer/fall
- Also need to include discussions about work-force housing, not just PSH.
- Look at the use of tiny homes for both emergency and permanent affordable housing – these can be a cost-effective solution