



# Land Use

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## BOULDER COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Wednesday December 19, 2018, at 1:30 p.m.

Commissioners' Hearing Room, Third Floor  
Boulder County Courthouse, 1325 Pearl Street, Boulder, CO

### STUDY SESSION, Discussion Item Only

### Docket BCCP-18-0003: Proposed Addition of Public Health Element to Boulder County Comprehensive Plan

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## AGENDA

1. Staff presentation
2. Planning Commission discussion

## INTRODUCTION

In 2017, a team of staff from Boulder County Public Health and Land Use Departments conducted initial research to explore development of a Public Health (PH) element to be incorporated into the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP). In December 2017, Planning Commission (PC) expressed support for continued work towards developing a Public Health element.

The purpose of introducing a new PH element to the Boulder County Comprehensive Plan (BCCP) is to set forth the foundational document that outlines the county's vision and values for the health of all county residents and its visitors. The element goals and policies will guide regulations, funding requests, and program development by the county for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The draft content presented here reflects community priorities identified through Boulder County Public Health's (BCPH) five-year Community Health Assessment (CHA) process, BCPH agency priorities, and community input gathered through an open house and online comments as part of this process.

The purpose of this study session is to obtain direction from Planning Commission (PC) and to gather feedback on initial draft content. Staff is interested in feedback on general themes, goals, level of detail and scope of policies, and any other related topics of PC interest.

This document includes an overview of the objectives for the new PH element, the process and sources of content, a summary of proposed goals and policies, and focus questions for the PC Study Session. For simplicity, this document refers to the changes under consideration as “proposed” changes. No specific content is being proposed for approval at this study session. PC input at this study session will inform final preparation of proposed content in the PH element to be incorporated into the BCCP.

## ACTION REQUESTED

Planning Commission feedback on concepts to inform staff preparation of Public Health element.

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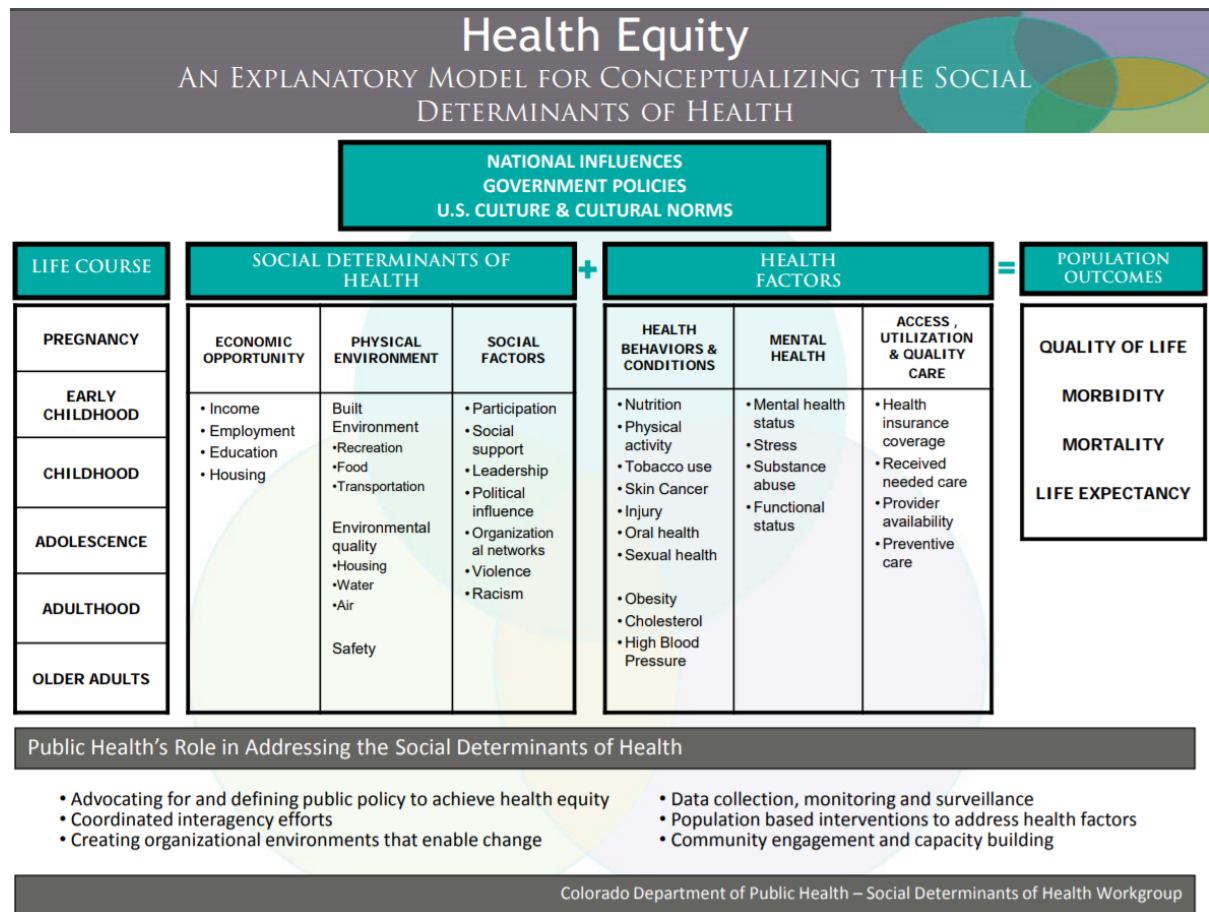
## I. BACKGROUND

### A. Objectives and Core Concepts for the New Public Health Element

The PH element is a blueprint of the Boulder County Public Health Department’s (BCPH) vision: that Boulder County is a socially just, inclusive community where physical and mental health, social well-being, and the environment are valued, supported, and accessible to all. The element explicitly establishes the link between the traditional components of planning (transportation, agriculture, environmental resources, etc.) with health themes (physical activity, healthy eating, mental health, etc.) to help facilitate decisions around health and the built and natural environment. The new addition to the Plan recognizes and bolsters existing goals and policies that support health and public health strategies, expands on the scope of topics related to public health that are referenced in existing elements, and introduces new content areas not currently included in the BCCP. The new element will

establish a multifaceted policy framework based on the social determinants of health<sup>1</sup> that reflects Boulder County’s commitment to ensuring the opportunity for a healthy life for all residents and visitors.

**Figure 1. Colorado Department of Public Health – The Environment’s Health Equity Model.**



The element follows BCPH’s overarching framework and the department’s guiding principles and priorities set by the community and Public Health Department. Every five years, each local public health agency in Colorado uses data to examine the health of the community they serve and identifies solutions to address the important health issues found in the assessment. The Community Health Assessment is required every five years for all local public health agencies per the Colorado Public Health Act of 2008 (SB 08-194 CRS 25-1-501 et seq.) and the national Public Health Accreditation Board. The Assessment guides Boulder County Public Health’s Public Health Improvement Plan.

<sup>1</sup> The complex, integrated, and overlapping social structures and economic systems that are responsible for most health inequities. These social structures and economic systems include the social environment, physical environment, health services, and structural and societal factors. Social determinants of health are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources throughout local communities, nations, and the world (Commission on Social Determinants of Health).

Developing population-level health policies that seek to improve health and supporting environmental changes through the built environment allows the county to work towards reducing health inequities and improving health outcomes for everyone in Boulder County. The following guiding principles describe the actions the county takes to conduct public health work in order to make significant and sustainable improvements to health in the region.

- Use data and community input to identify factors that significantly impact equity, health, and quality of life. Employ evidence-based strategies and evaluation to inform decisions, assure quality, and demonstrate outcomes in policies and programs.
- Initiate, enhance, and promote efforts to address the social determinants of health to ensure health equity for all people in Boulder County. Support community capacity in leadership and organizing that demonstrates collective power to affect change and influence public health programming, policy, and systems change efforts.
- Promote primary prevention and population-based approaches to maximize health impact at the broadest possible level, while intentionally targeting prevention resources toward populations that are experiencing inequities.
- Collaborate across sectors to initiate and strengthen partnerships toward making a collective impact to ensure common goals, shared measurement, coordination of activities, and reduced duplication.
- Clarify appropriate roles of BCPH and our partners in the public health system.
- Ensure that people in Boulder County are empowered and equipped to make informed decisions for adopting healthy behaviors.
- Educate and influence policy makers so they are able to set policies that protect and enhance the health of individuals, families, communities, and the environment.
- Implement strategies in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

## **B. Sources for Goals and Policies Presented in the Draft Element**

In 2017, Boulder County Public Health conducted a thorough assessment of the health of the county's residents (Community Health Assessment – See attachment B). Along with a thorough analysis of demographic and health data. The assessment included conversations with groups of residents to ensure that the community perspective was included, particularly from those experiencing barriers to health (i.e. health inequities). The results of these conversations were utilized to inform the creation of this Public Health element. Residents, stakeholders, and partners voted and identified mental health as the focus for Boulder County Public Health and community partners for the following five years (2018-2023).

- Conversations were facilitated with 53 resident groups (over 600 people) throughout the county ( see attachment C)
- Groups represented populations facing barriers to health from various ages, races/ethnicities, income levels, and life experiences

- Residents provided 3,021 ideas about things that could improve their health, marking 1,776 of these ideas as priorities
- Ideas ranged from nutrition, to accessing health care, to racism.
- Housing and mental health were identified as the top priorities

The top eight priority areas of focus identified through the Community Health Assessment process included:

- Active Living & Environment
- Social and Community
- Affordability
- Health Care
- Housing
- Healthy Eating
- Mental Health
- Environmental Quality

During the research phase for this BCCP effort staff conducted a thorough review of the existing public-health related content in other elements of the BCCP and researched national examples of comprehensive plans with public health elements or plans with health integrated throughout various elements. Existing BCCP elements that reference and support health and that offer opportunities to bolster existing policies to further increase support for health include:

- Environmental Resources
- Transportation
- Natural Hazards
- Agriculture
- Housing
- Sustainability
- Economics

For example, Goal B.5 in the Environmental Resources element states that Boulder County shall seek to protect overall public and environmental health by enforcing regulations relating to air, soil, water, noise and light. Additionally, Goal 4.04 in the Transportation element references the creation of a transportation system that enables active and healthy lifestyles (please refer to Section II for further details).

Rural communities with health elements in their comprehensive plans were provided by ChangeLab Solutions, an innovative organization that creates laws and policies to ensure everyday health for all. Staff researched thirteen examples provided for themes relevant to Boulder County. Staff also looked to local examples, such as the Envision Longmont Plan and the Town of Bennett, Colorado's Comprehensive plan, as well as examples from progressive counties like Alameda County's Ashland and Cherryland Community Health and Wellness element for areas outside of San Francisco and King County's comprehensive plan in Seattle.

In August 2018, staff from Boulder County Public Health and Land Use departments held an open house and initiated an online form to gather public comment. The open house provided an

opportunity for public input and feedback on how to bolster existing strategies in the BCCP that support health, as well as identify new ways to improve health. Themes raised as priorities based on online comments and feedback from the open house included:

- Climate change/greenhouse gases
- Indoor air quality for housing
- Prioritizing county lands for healthy and sustainable food production
- Access to parks/open space for mental health
- Sun/shade/water access on county properties
- Greener/cleaner county purchasing
- Transportation-vision zero, access to healthcare and services, and impacts on infrastructure
- Heat/fire/smoke

Following the open house staff began drafting a Public Health element, drawing on the range of data sources described above.

**Figure 2. Summary of Public Health Element Activities**

Activity	Timeframe
Public Health Department Research into potential new Public Health element	Mid 2017
Planning commission support for continued work	December 2017
Open house for Boulder County Comprehensive Plan Public Health Element	August 2018
Draft Public Health Element	August - November
Internal staff stakeholder meetings	November
PC Study Session	December
Referral Process (gather input on draft element content from internal stakeholders and the public)	January
BOCC Study Session	Anticipated February 2019
PC Public Hearing and Decision	Anticipated for February-March 2019

## II. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED GOALS AND POLICIES

The following section provides an overview of the goals and related policies included in the draft Public Health element.

### *Recreation and open space for physical and mental health*

**Boulder County collaborates with partners and municipalities to promote safe and healthy recreation and open spaces that support physical and mental health.**

Currently the BCCP Open Space element supports conservation efforts to protect open space values and functions and provides for land dedications of parks and open space, trails, and necessary public access to those areas where appropriate. There are opportunities, however, to more directly link the benefits of the natural environment to physical and mental health. The public health element would include a policy that articulates how Boulder County recognizes and values the physical and mental health benefits of open space, trails and amenities that allow members of the public to safely enjoy outdoor experiences and connect with nature. The policy content considered under this proposed goal would provide the link between health and the environment and expand on components within open space that directly contribute to public health.

Staff would appreciate Planning Commission feedback on whether to include policy content that prioritizes the addition of sun shade amenities, sun screen dispensers, and amenities for passive recreation on open space property, as resources permit. Policies addressing these and related topics would support the health of individuals recreating on open space properties, and provide an open space experience that may improve the likelihood that a broader range of users would visit open space properties.

### *Transportation Safety and Accessibility*

**Boulder County supports transportation pathways that are safe and accessible for all residents regardless of geography or transportation mode.**

The existing Transportation element references topics such as efficiency, safety, convenience, and affordability for all users irrespective of ability, income, or personal vehicle ownership. It commits to enabling active living and healthy lifestyles by providing safe and attractive opportunities to walk and bike as part of everyday living, and ensures access to transportation systems for low-income, elderly, and mobility-impaired populations. Although the existing elements touches on several topics related to public health and equity, the policies under the proposed PH goal aim to address these topics as they relate specifically to public health. Safety for example, is addressed through specific projects with objectives to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities resulting from collisions, focusing on crash trends and mitigation strategies, and on-going local, regional, and statewide safety assessments. These policies establish the link between access to transportation and increased access to healthcare, mental healthcare, and social services, and call out rural and mountain communities in need of transportation options and education on awareness of existing transportation resources.

### ***Agriculture preservation and access to healthy food***

#### **Boulder County supports the local food system, healthy food access, and community farming to preserve regional agriculture and improve community health and resiliency**

Agricultural enterprises and activities are considered an important sector of the Boulder County economy. Through existing policies, the Agriculture element of the BCCP promotes a diverse and sustainable agricultural economy and supports the preservation and conservation of agricultural lands and activities in order to eliminate sprawl and strip development and ensure the continued utilization of agricultural resources. The element, however, does not specifically address the health benefits of preserving agricultural lands and utilization of the county's natural resources for the benefit of supporting local, healthy food access, and farming within the community. The policies listed under the proposed goal emphasize fruit and vegetable production, efforts to reduce food waste, and increased healthy food access and healthy food distribution, especially to underserved populations such as low-income residents and rural and mountain communities. The policies also establish the importance of supporting local farmers and training the next generation of farmers to ensure an ongoing source of locally-grown food.

### ***Protection and preservation of existing affordable housing (Topic of discussion)***

#### **Boulder County recognizes safe, stable and healthy housing as a social determinant of health and prioritizes the protection and conservation of existing affordable housing to align with the County's affordable housing goals.**

The housing needs for low- and moderate-income families and senior citizens in Boulder County are addressed in the existing Housing element in regard to support for cooperative housing programs, maintenance of housing conditions, dispersal of housing, and encouragement of legislation and policies that enhance equal housing opportunities. In addition, the county is in the process of updating the Housing element of the BCCP, and work is underway to refresh the existing Housing-specific policies to better address the challenges facing the county today and in the future. The proposed housing-related goal for the new PH element focuses on strengthening housing resources in the community due to housing's critical role as a social determinant of health.

One of the county's affordable housing assets is its mobile home parks. The policies under the proposed goal focus on the preservation of existing mobile home parks as a form of unsubsidized affordable housing and support for resident-ownership. The policies highlight a multiagency collaborative approach to examining state policies and statutes that govern mobile home parks to strengthen regulation through legislation. The policies also address minimizing the negative effects of displacement on low-income persons and support for relocation assistance. Considering the Boulder County Land Use department is in the process of updating the BCCP housing element, the appropriate scope and level of detail for housing-related policies in the PH element is a topic that is up for discussion.

### ***Indoor air quality***

#### **Boulder County supports housing with healthy indoor environments that reduce health issues from radon gas exposure, asthma and unintentional poisoning and promote a healthy indoor air environment.**

The Environmental Resources element of the BCCP emphasizes the county's values in preserving, conserving, and restoring the unique and distinctive natural features, ecosystems and landscapes of

the county through the use of sound resource management principles and practices. The fundamental and essential resources of air, soil, and water are also considered and addressed. The proposed PH element links the protection of air, water and soil resources and quality to overall environmental health and addresses the elimination of pollution of air, water, and soil, and pollution caused by noise or light to prevent potential harm to life and health. Additionally, the element emphasizes the evaluation of land use proposals and other planned activities in considering the cumulative impacts on public and environmental health. The proposed policies under this goal specifically address indoor air quality in regard to radon testing and support for installation of Radon Reduction techniques, which is not currently referenced in the BCCP.

### ***Climate change***

#### **Boulder County works to mitigate the negative effects of climate change on physical, mental, and environmental health.**

Through the BCCP Environmental Resources element Boulder County recognizes that climate change is having a significant impact on the region's environmental resources and commits to incorporating the best scientific information into planning and decision-making to adapt to and offset those impacts. The existing Sustainability element also references climate change. The county recognizes the need to modify plans, policies and regulations as necessary to adapt to climate change in order to reduce species and ecosystem vulnerability and other potential adverse impacts on environmental resources. The existing BCCP content does not, however, establish a clear link between changing climate conditions and public health. The policies proposed as a component of this goal in the proposed PH element aim to protect residents from the negative impacts of climate change through reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, emergency preparedness planning (e.g., for vulnerable populations facing more frequent heat waves and drought), among other strategies.

### ***Fostering healthy families***

#### **Boulder County creates environments that foster healthy families.**

The policies under this proposed PH goal are based on additional Boulder County Public Health content areas that are not specifically addressed in the current BCCP, yet impact the health of Boulder County residents. The proposed policies reference support for economic development that increases the portion of living wage jobs available, supporting the adequate location of childcare facilities, adoption of family leave policies and family friendly workplaces, and the reduction of youth and adult substance abuse through limiting residents' exposure to secondhand smoke and vapors, as well as considering the location and proximity of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco facilities to youth-facing buildings. This section includes a policy related to addressing substance abuse disorders through collaboration with experts and support for harm reduction strategies. Under these policies, Boulder County also recognizes gun violence as a public health issue and supports the safe storage of guns, and further research into injury prevention and risk mitigation strategies.

### *Engage and Collaborate*

### **Boulder County actively engages and collaborates with stakeholders and partners to promote public health values.**

The policies under consideration would express the county's commitment to maintaining strong outreach and public education activities, and engaging the public in planning efforts. The policies would also guide the county to collaborate and partner with communities and other regional stakeholders in the identifying and addressing public health priorities.

## **IV. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Would PC like to see changes in the set of goals addressed in the draft element?
2. Does PC support the types of policies staff has initially proposed for the element?
3. Under Goal 1, what is an appropriate level of detail for policies related to open space and recreation?
4. Under Goal 2, would it be appropriate to add language similar to that in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan related to accessibility and mobility for all?<sup>2</sup>
5. Under Goal 4, what opportunities exist to align the BCCP with the goals and policies related to mobile home parks that are set forth in the Boulder Valley Comprehensive Plan?
6. Under Goal 5, would it be appropriate to add a policy to address mold?

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<sup>2</sup> BVCP 6.06 Accessibility and Mobility for All "The city and county will continue development of a complete all-mode transportation system accommodating all users, including people with mobility impairments, youth, older adults, nonEnglish speakers and low-income persons. This will include increased support for mobility services for older adults and people with disabilities, reflecting the expected increases in these populations. Efforts should focus on giving people options to live well without a car and may include prioritizing affordable public transportation and transit passes, new technologies such as electric bikes, mobility services and prioritizing connections between multimodal transportation and affordable housing to facilitate affordable living."

7. Does PC have additional feedback to share?

## V. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

The addition of a Public Health element to the will provides a means of clearly stating within the county's foundational policy document the county's vision for a socially just, inclusive community where physical and mental health, social well-being, and the environment are valued, supported, and accessible to all. The element's content will bolster and expand upon existing BCCP goals and policies that support health, addressing the full breadth of the county's health-focused policy vision in one place within the plan.

Staff will revise proposed content based on outcomes from the Planning Commission study session, then share an updated draft with internal county stakeholders and the public for comment. Staff will further refine the draft content based on that feedback and will then gather input and guidance from the BOCC. Staff will make further revisions as appropriate and present a proposed draft to PC with a recommendation for approval, anticipated for February or March, 2019.

## VI. LIST OF HYPERLINKS

- Community Health Assessment Datasheets: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/community-health-assessment-datasheets.pdf>
- Community Health Conversations – Summary of Findings: <https://assets.bouldercounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/summary-of-community-conversations-cha.pdf>

## BCCP Public Health Element – DRAFT

*For December 19, 2018 Planning Commission Study Session*

### **I. Purpose**

Keeping our communities healthy means ensuring that all residents can breathe clean air, drink clean water, have safe places to live, be active and experience the health benefits of open space, access and afford healthy food, minimize risks from substance abuse and violence, and are prepared for the health effects of climate change. The *Public Health Element* is a blueprint of the Boulder County Public Health Department's (BCPH) vision: that Boulder County is a socially just, inclusive community where physical and mental health, social well-being, and the environment are valued, supported, and accessible to all.

Section II provides a brief overview of public health in Boulder County. It includes an overarching framework, definitions, the department's guiding principles and the priorities set by our community and Public Health Department.

To ensure that the opportunity to live a healthy life is available to every Boulder County resident, the goals and policies in Section III bolster and complement existing areas of the Plan that are already supportive of health, and address gap areas related to public and environmental health.

### **Information to Implement in Sidebar**

*Through a thorough review of the BCCP, staff identified existing elements that reference and support health: Environmental Resources, Transportation, Natural Hazards, Agriculture, Housing, Sustainability, and Economics. For example, Goal B.5 in the Environmental Resources element states at Boulder County shall seek to protect overall public and environmental health by enforcing regulations relating to air, soil, water, noise and light. Additionally, Goal 4.04 in the Transportation element references the creation of a transportation system that enables active and healthy lifestyles.*

## **II. Boulder County Public Health**

### **a) Public Health Framework and Overview**

Boulder County generally enjoys the reputation of being a prosperous and healthy place, and is recognized nationally as a community that values local food and farms, bike paths and hiking trails, open space preservation, and the creation of affordable housing. Health data for Boulder County reflects our community's investments in health: in general, smoking rates are lower than the state average, residents eat more fruits and vegetables, exercise more often; and have lower rates of chronic disease than the nation as a whole.

However, looking only at broad health data does not provide a full picture of Boulder County's community health. A closer look through an equity lens reveals that not all members of the county have equal access to such health and quality of life. Nearly 20 percent of children live in poverty, binge-drinking rates are among the highest in the nation, and child obesity has made alarming inroads in the community. For these reasons, BCPH is committed to addressing the root causes of health inequities to reduce barriers so that all residents have the opportunity for a healthy life.

### **Information to Implement in Sidebar**

*Boulder County Public Health maintains community level health data on its website in order to assess and evaluate health outcomes.*

*[https://www.cohealthmaps.dphe.state.co.us/cdphe\\_community\\_health\\_equity\\_map/](https://www.cohealthmaps.dphe.state.co.us/cdphe_community_health_equity_map/) These data contain the Estimated Life Expectancy at Birth for residents of census tracts across the State of Colorado based on vital records data from 2010-2015.*

Boulder County's public health goals and policies can create a framework to improve equity and reduce disparities. These goals and policies acknowledge the complex system of social, economic and environmental factors that influence individual and community health outcomes over the life course. These factors are often referred to as the social determinants of health are further detailed in Figure 1 below.

Overarching goal and policy statements in this chapter call out the community's health priorities and provide the broad vision for supporting health in Boulder County. Ensuring that health and equity are considered when making decisions regarding our community's future is based on national best practices in public health. Developing population-level health policies that seek to improve health and supporting environmental changes through the built environment allows us to work toward reducing health inequities and improving health outcomes for everyone in Boulder County. As illustrated in Figure 2 below, developing and implementing policies that impact socioeconomic factors and change the environment to make the healthy choice the default have the greatest impact on population level health outcomes.

Health interventions that address the social determinants of health can have a larger impact on the health of a population than interventions that focus on one individual.

Figure 1. Colorado Department of Public Health the Environment's Health Equity Model

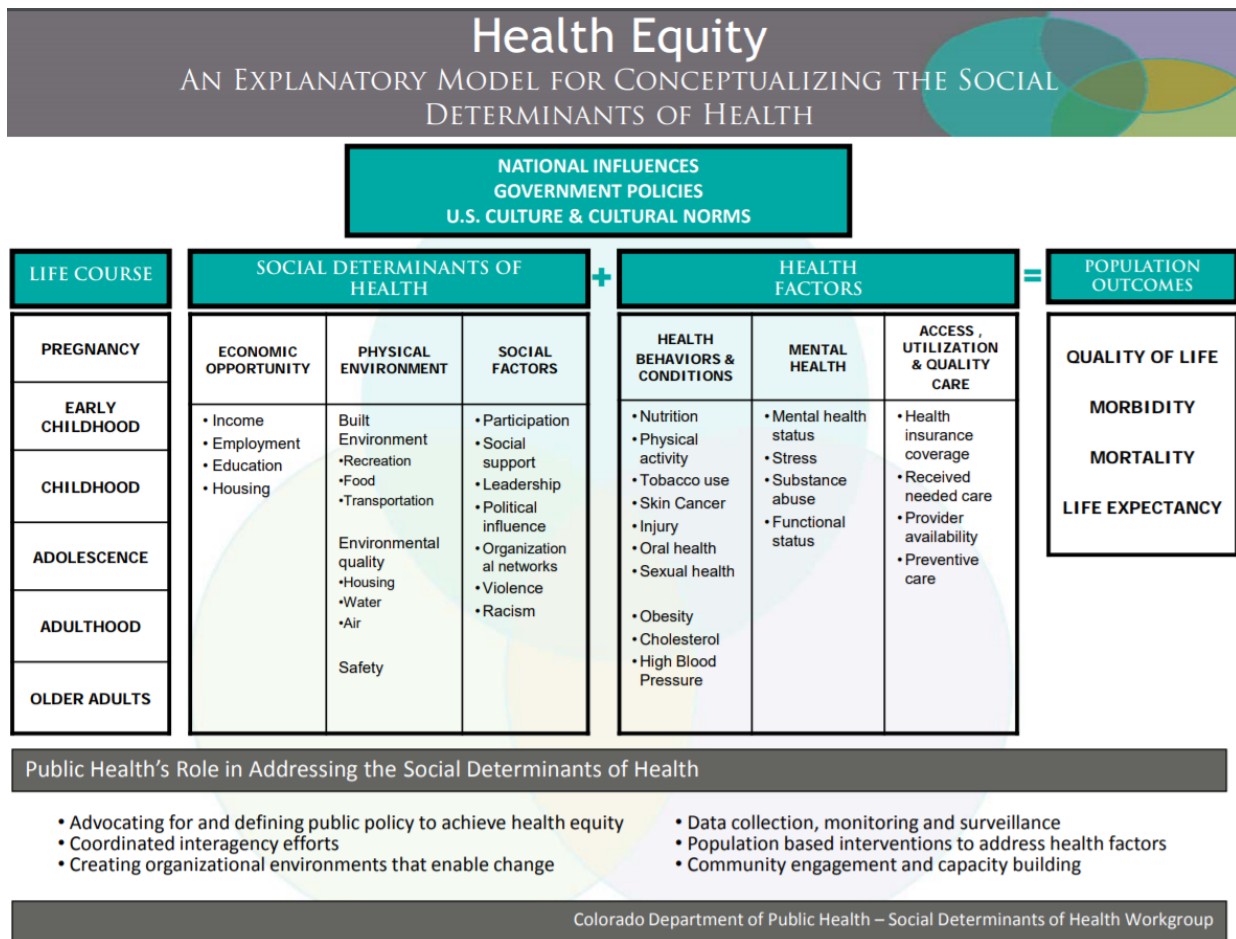
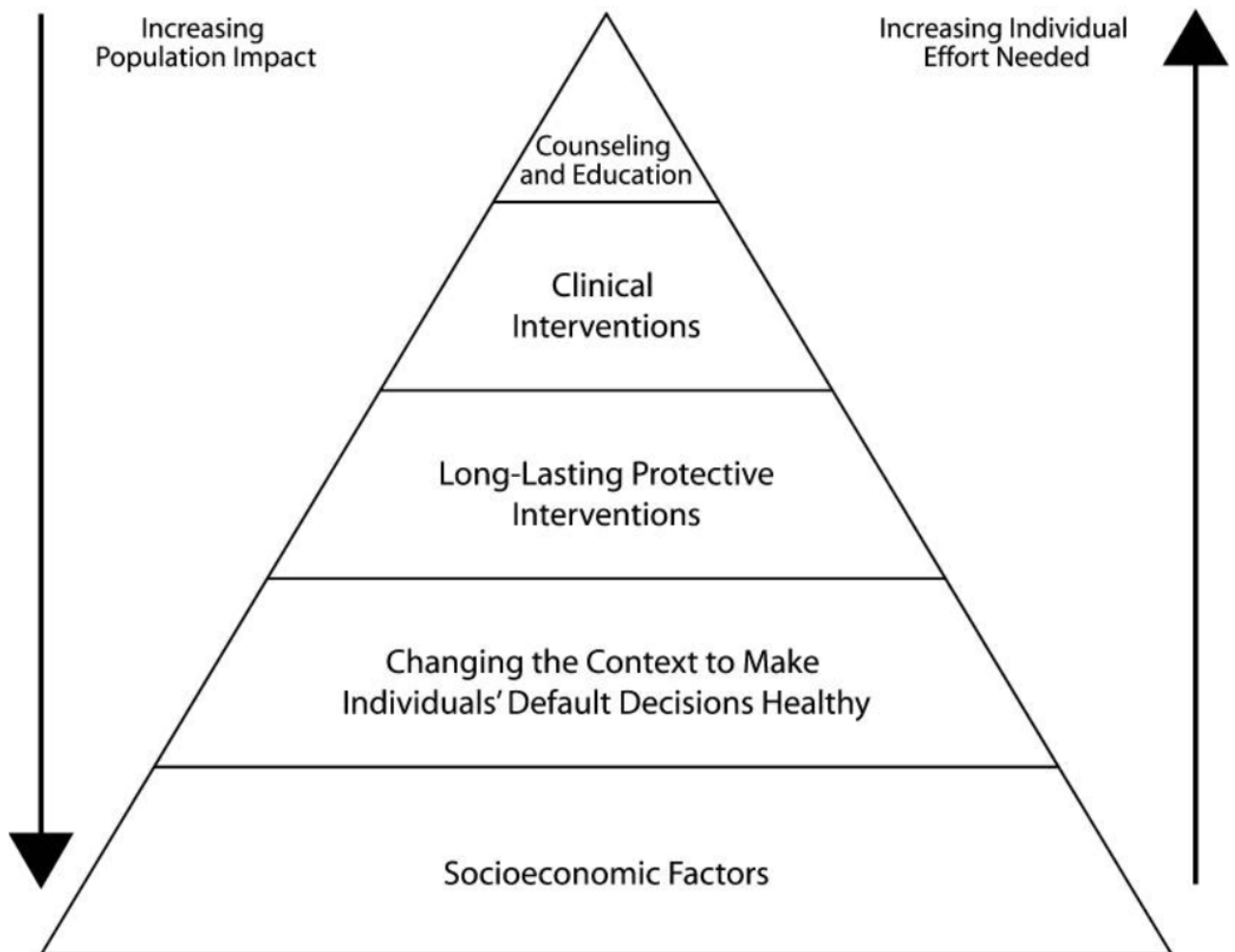


Figure 2. The Health Impact Pyramid



#### b) Public Health Definitions and Guiding Principles

**Health Disparity:** A type of difference in health that is closely linked with social or economic disadvantage. Health disparities negatively affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater social or economic obstacles to health. These obstacles stem from characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion such as race or ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, mental health, sexual orientation, or geographic location. Other characteristics include cognitive, sensory, or physical disability.<sup>1</sup>

**Health Equity:** The realization by all people of the highest attainable level of health. Achieving health equity requires valuing all individuals and populations equally. It entails focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities by ensuring the conditions for optimal health for all

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Healthy People 2020 Draft. 2009, U.S. Government Printing Office.

groups, particularly those who have experienced historical or contemporary injustices or socioeconomic disadvantage.<sup>2</sup>

**Health Inequity:** A difference or disparity in health outcomes that is systematic, avoidable, and unjust.<sup>3</sup>

**Population Health:** The distribution of health outcomes within a population, the range of personal, social, economic, and environmental factors that influence the distribution of health outcomes, and the policies and interventions that affect those factors.

**Social Determinants of Health:** The complex, integrated, and overlapping social structures and economic systems that are responsible for most health inequities. These social structures and economic systems include the social environment, physical environment, health services, and structural and societal factors. Social determinants of health are shaped by the distribution of money, power, and resources throughout local communities, nations, and the world.<sup>4</sup>

#### Boulder County Public Health Guiding Principles<sup>5</sup>

The following key principles describe the actions we will take to conduct our public health work in order to make significant and sustainable improvements to health in Boulder County.

1. Use data and community input to identify factors that significantly impact equity, health, and quality of life. Employ evidence-based strategies and evaluation to inform decisions, assure quality, and demonstrate outcomes in policies and programs.
2. Initiate, enhance, and promote efforts to address the social determinants of health to ensure health equity for all people in Boulder County. Support community capacity in leadership and organizing that demonstrates collective power to affect change and influence public health programming, policy, and systems change efforts.
3. Promote primary prevention and population-based approaches to maximize health impact at the broadest possible level, while intentionally targeting prevention resources toward populations that are experiencing inequities.
4. Collaborate across sectors to initiate and strengthen partnerships toward making a collective impact to ensure common goals, shared measurement, coordination of activities, and reduced duplication.
5. Clarify appropriate roles of BCPH and our partners in the public health system.

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<sup>2</sup> Adewale Troutman, Health Equity, Human Rights and Social Justice: Social Determinants as the Direction for Global Health

<sup>3</sup> Whitehead, M. and Whitehead, The concepts and principles of equity and health. Health Promotion International, 1991. 6(3): p. 217.

<sup>4</sup> Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH), Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. 2008, World Health Organization: Geneva.

<sup>5</sup> These Guiding Principles are included in BCPH's Five Year Strategy Plan.

6. Ensure that people in Boulder County are empowered and equipped to make informed decisions for adopting healthy behaviors.
7. Educate and influence policy makers so they are able to set policies that protect and enhance the health of individuals, families, communities, and the environment.
8. Implement strategies in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

### c) **Public Health Priorities**

Every five years, each local public health agency in Colorado uses data to examine the health of the community they serve and identifies solutions to address the important health issues found in the assessment. The Community Health Assessment is required every five years for all local public health agencies per the Colorado Public Health Act of 2008 (SB 08-194 CRS 25-1-501 et seq.) and the national Public Health Accreditation Board. The Assessment guides Boulder County Public Health's Public Health Improvement Plan.

#### **Information to Implement in Sidebar**

*In 2017, BCPH conducted a thorough assessment of the health of our county's residents. Along with extensive analysis of demographic and health data, the assessment included conversations with groups of residents to ensure that the community perspective was included, particularly from those experiencing barriers to health (i.e. health inequities). The results of these conversations were utilized to inform the creation of this Public Health element. Residents, stakeholders, and partners voted and identified mental health as the focus for Boulder County Public Health and community partners for the following five years (2018-2023).*

## **II. Goals and Policies**

The goals and policies presented here reflect public health priorities for Boulder County. In addition to providing policy direction for decision making in Boulder County, these provide broad guidance for consideration during specific master plan updates.

**Goal 1. Promote Safe and Healthy Recreation and Open Space Opportunities.** Boulder County collaborates with partners and municipalities to promote safe and healthy recreation spaces and open spaces that support physical and mental health.

#### **Policies**

- PH 1.01 Boulder County recognizes and values the physical and mental health benefits of open space, trails and amenities that allow members of the public to safely enjoy the outdoors and connect with nature.

**Goal 2. Transportation Safety and Accessibility.** Boulder County supports transportation pathways that are safe and accessible for all residents regardless of geography or transportation mode to improve mobility options for all.

#### **Policies**

- PH 2.01 Boulder County shall support injury prevention projects that explicitly aim to ensure safe use of all modes of transportation, like Boulder's Vision Zero objective to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities resulting from collisions, focusing on crash trends and mitigation strategies, and on-going local, regional and statewide safety assessments.
- PH 2.02 Boulder County will work in partnership with community organizations and transportation providers to improve transportation options for residents in rural and mountain communities to ultimately increase access to healthcare, mental healthcare and social services.
- PH 2.03 Boulder County will work with local and regional partners to provide outreach and education that increases awareness of existing transportation resources in rural and mountain communities.
- PH 2.04 Boulder County will support existing services and infrastructure improvements that increase opportunities for community members to access health and human services, such as adjustments to existing transit services and additions in under-resourced communities.

**Goal 3. Preserve Regional Agriculture.** Boulder County supports the local food system, healthy food access, and community farming to preserve regional agriculture and increase community's health and resiliency.

**Policies**

- PH 3.01 Boulder County shall support fruit and vegetable production on County lands, specifically projects that increase healthy food access for low-income populations.
- PH 3.02 Boulder County shall support gleaning efforts that reduce food waste and support healthy food distribution for low-income residents.
- PH 3.03 Boulder County will partner with community organizations to increase access to affordable, healthy foods at existing food distribution locations in rural and mountain communities.
- PH 3.04 Boulder County will monitor and implement opportunities to support (e.g., through information sharing, regulations, and access to program resources) grocers and other healthy food retailers across the community, as well as local farmers, farm stands, farmers markets, and other sources and distribution channels for locally-produced food products.
- PH 3.05 Boulder County will support the viability of local agriculture by considering the needs of farmers to ensure adequate local food production and supply.

**Goal 4. Protection and Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing.** Boulder County recognizes safe, stable and healthy housing as a social determinant of health and prioritizes the protection and conservation of existing affordable housing to align with the County's affordable housing goals.

**Policies**

- PH 4.01 Boulder County shall ensure that all existing Mobile Home Parks are zoned accordingly to facilitate preservation of that housing type in the locations where they currently exist.

- PH 4.02 Boulder County shall consider existing Mobile Home Parks a form of unsubsidized affordable housing and seek the preservation of these sites and support resident-ownership. Boulder County recognizes the importance of manufactured housing as an option for many households, the county will encourage the preservation of existing mobile home parks, including increasing opportunities for resident-owned parks. If an existing mobile home park is found to have health or safety issues, every reasonable effort will be made to reduce or eliminate the issues, when feasible, or to help mitigate for the loss of housing through re-housing of affected households.
- PH 4.03 Boulder County shall seek to implement additional protections for mobile home park residents, specifically those that prohibit retaliation, require mediation of disputes, and provide residents with a right to privacy. Boulder County shall seek to adopt protections uniform to those adopted by the City of Boulder.
- PH 4.04 Boulder County will work with partner agencies to examine state policies and statutes that govern mobile home parks and seek to strengthen these regulations through legislation.
- PH 4.05 The County will evaluate its policies and regulations in order to minimize the negative effects of displacement on low-income persons when housing sites are redeveloped by the private sector. Available relocation assistance options in the community will continue to be offered to displaced, low-income persons.

**Goal 5. Indoor Air Quality.** Boulder County supports housing with healthy indoor environments that reduce health issues from radon gas exposure, asthma and unintentional poisoning and promote a health indoor air environment.

- PH 5.01 Boulder County shall support the installation of Radon Reduction in New Construction (RRNC) techniques for new single-family and multi-family residential, school, and child care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation facilities, in addition to all public building construction.
- PH 5.02 Boulder County recognizes the importance of radon testing for all existing single-family and multi-family residential, school, and child care facilities, hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation facilities, and public building construction.

**Goal 6. Climate Change.** Boulder County works to mitigate the negative effects of climate change and natural disasters on physical, mental, and environmental health.

### **Policies**

- PH 6.01 Boulder County shall reduce emissions of greenhouse gasses to prevent the effects of climate change through effective county-level land use planning, green purchasing by the county organization, as well as regulatory and programmatic strategies to reduce emissions from buildings, agriculture, industry and transportation in the county.

- PH 6.02 Boulder County shall support policies and regulations put forward by other jurisdictions at local, state and national levels that minimize greenhouse gases from all sectors.
- PH 6.03 Boulder County shall support green purchasing that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and natural resource extraction.
- PH 6.04 Boulder County shall mitigate the existing and inevitable effects of climate change in the county by employing land use, transportation, infrastructure and other planning practices that enable the community to adapt to higher temperatures, lower and less predictable rainfall, an increases in wildfire and flooding.
- PH 6.05 Boulder County shall promote policies that reflect best practices in response to changing climate conditions.
- PH 6.06 Boulder County will work to protect residents from the negative impacts of climate change through emergency preparedness planning that, among other things, seeks to reduce the threat of heat emergencies on the most vulnerable residents and provides clear evacuation routes during fire or flood events.
- PH 6.07 Boulder County will track emerging vector borne diseases that impact our region, and work with national and state partners to ensure preventative measures are taken to protect public health.

**Goal 7. Fostering Healthy Families.** Boulder County creates environments that foster healthy families  
**Policies**

- PH 6.08 Boulder County shall support policies and economic development that increases the portion of living wage jobs available, as well as jobs with paid sick leave.
- PH 6.09 Boulder County supports efforts to ensure that adequate childcare facilities are located throughout Boulder County, especially in rural and low-access areas.
- PH 6.010 Boulder County shall promote the creation and adoption of family leave policies and family friendly workplaces.
- PH 6.011 Boulder County shall work to reduce youth and adult substance abuse by limiting residents' exposure to secondhand smoke and vapors, as well as considering the location and proximity of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco facilities to youth-facing buildings.
- PH 6.012 Boulder County supports harm reduction strategies to combat substance use disorders and will work with partners and experts to determine appropriate interventions, including syringe exchanges sites, clinics and recovery residences.
- PH 6.013 Boulder County recognizes gun violence as a public health issue and supports the safe storage of guns within homes and educational facilities, further research into injury prevention strategies, and efforts to minimize risk related to gun violence.

**Goal 8. Engage and Collaborate.** Boulder County actively engages and collaborates with stakeholders and partners to promote public health values.

- PH 8.01 Boulder County shall maintain strong outreach to the community, including public education activities, promoting awareness of the county's health data and community priorities, and providing robust opportunities for members of the public to provide input on future planning and programs.
- PH 8.01 Boulder County shall collaborate and partner with communities and other regional stakeholders in the identifying and addressing public health priorities.