



Community Services Department

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Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board

April 14, 2023, 8:00 - 10:00am

Teams Meeting



Administrative Matters

8:00-8:20

- Public Comment
- Approval of March 2023 Minutes
- Board Brief review

Discussion Items

8:20-9:30

- HSBC Communications Plan
 - Plan Overview
 - Example Communications Document: Veterans Homelessness Press Release
- Data Sharing Discussion
- Chamber Update: Thoughts on Moving this Forward
- Tribe Progress Update and Recovery Services Vision

General Updates

9:30-10:00

- Annual Report update
- Update on PSH coming on line
- Built for Zero update
- Grants update
- Partner updates

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 720-400-7859](tel:+17204007859),386064849# United States, Denver

Phone Conference ID: 386 064 849#

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board
March 10, 2023, 8:00 - 10:00am
Teams Meeting

Attendance:

Jim Adams-Berger, Robin Bohannon, Susan Caskey, Vicki Ebner, Kurt Firnhaber, Heidi Grove, Jamie Rife, Susana Lopez-Baker, Devon Kissick-Kelly, Eliberto Mendoza, Gwendolyn Mossman, Megan Newton, Carlene Okiyama, Christina Pacheco

Public Comment – None

Minutes – Approved

Board Brief review

- Boulder County partners successfully submitted their applications for Transformational Homeless Response Notice of Funding Opportunity. 100% of homeless serving partners participated in submitting applications for funding.
- Rate of Change tracking has been reset to compare 2023 data to 2022.
- Next steps: Heidi Grove working on data set on non-housing units as it relates to acuity. Will bring data to April meeting.

Discussion Items

- **Council/Commissioner meeting update/discussion**

Commissioners won't be attending the April 18, 2023, meeting. They did however express their desire to have this municipality dinner the same as in the past with a focus on multiple agenda items and relationship building.

- **Funding/grant opportunities to bring to the table**

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Adult Reentry – intersection of homeless and the justice population
- SAMHSA grant that replaces our current pathways grant that expires at the end of October/November 2023 has come out, but we are technically excluded from applying.
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) and co-occurring focus grant
- Intervening with Sen. DeGrasse to change the eligibility requirements
- MacArthur Foundation – eligible for an addition \$200,000
- MHP applied for a BHA grant to do homeless outreach and add more community aid workers

General Updates

- **Recovery Home update**

City of Boulder will allocate additional resources from their General Fund for the purchase of an additional property. The County is reviewing options to also provide additional funds.

Boulder County, City of Boulder, City of Longmont and Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Updates

Boulder County

Heidi Grove working with the Metro Area County Commissioners group with Commissioner Marta Loachamin is chairing the group. They are working on regional issues and selected homeless as a focus area.

Heidi Grove and Megan Newton (City of Boulder) provided an update on the Boulder Chamber of Commerce tour of the St. Francis Center. Jim will circle back to the Chamber to continue engaging with the business community. He will take this on and then elevate to someone else in this group.

Boulder County Housing & Human Services

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) in the final wind down stages. Out of funding in the next couple of weeks. The State reached out to HHS with an additional pot of ERAP funds that they were able to reassign; should be able to clear out most of the applications in the portal received before it closed

City of Longmont

None

City of Boulder

Adult Day Services – in conversations with community provider who is contemplating doing it, should know that answer. Starting to look at locations. Looking to open by the end of the year.

City council retreat last week, homelessness agenda focused on (1) creating a sanctioned camping area (Kurt Firnhaber reminded them of the things are HSBC is doing) (2) pushed for some sort of outside evaluation of programs/systems and strategy. Coming up on 5 years, could be a good time to bring in someone that is an expert in homeless strategies. Look at how our programs and systems have evolved and what can we look at next.

Next step: Add to the April agenda.

Metro Denver Homeless Initiative

Regional response to homelessness. There is ARPA funding to stand things up however support is needed in looking for provider partners that can run things long-term. Is there any interest from Boulder providers to stand up a response in Denver suburban communities?

Adjourned 9:25

***HOMELESS SOLUTIONS FOR BOULDER COUNTY:
EXECUTIVE BOARD BRIEF
APRIL 2023***

NOTE WORTHY UPDATES FOR APRIL 2023

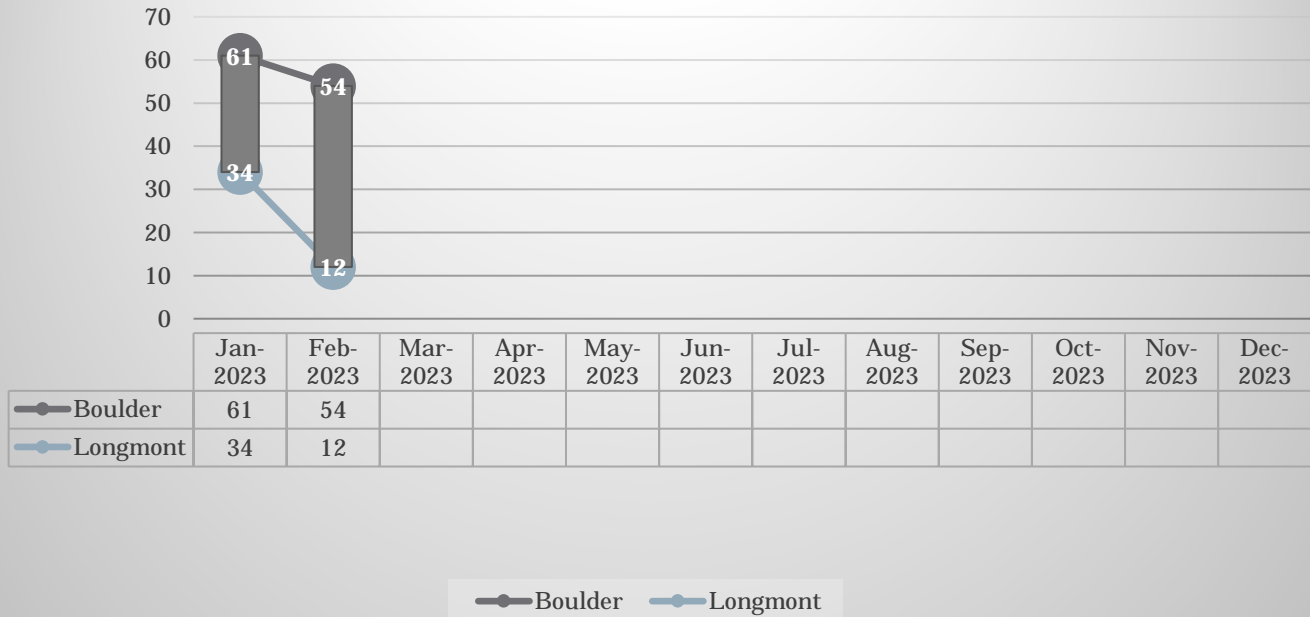
- HSBC continues to work on the Annual Report for 2022.
- Department of Housing should release funding announcements from the Transformative Homeless Response NOFA in mid-April or early May.
- Racial Equity Data will be reviewed at the next Executive Board meeting in May.

OVERVIEW OF DATA IN BRIEFING

- Overall, the number of Coordinated Entry screenings were lower in February which reflected an overall increase compared to the same time frame in the prior year (2022).
 - City of Boulder was down by 2% in both the month of January and down by 1% annually.
 - City of Longmont was down significantly by 67% in both the month of January and down by 30% annually.
- 58 (36% exit outflow) individuals have exited homelessness since January 1, 2023, (an overall increase of 6% compared to the same timeframe as last year).
 - City of Boulder seen an increase of 21% in all exit avenues:
 - § Housed- 35% increase for the calendar year
 - § Reunification-30% decrease for the calendar year
 - § Other- 100% increase for the calendar year
 - City of Longmont exits increased by one additional exit in housing which increased overall exits to 17% in January (2022):
 - § Housed- 38% increase for the calendar year
 - § Reunification- 25% decrease for the calendar year
 - Housing exits through HMIS data system reflected no change across exit avenues compared to the same time frame (2022).
- On average, 58 individuals exit homelessness per month for calendar year 2022:
 - 46 to housing
 - 10 through reunification
 - 2 through other programming such as treatment or rental assistance for Diversion services.

COORDINATED ENTRY ASSESSMENTS COUNTYWIDE

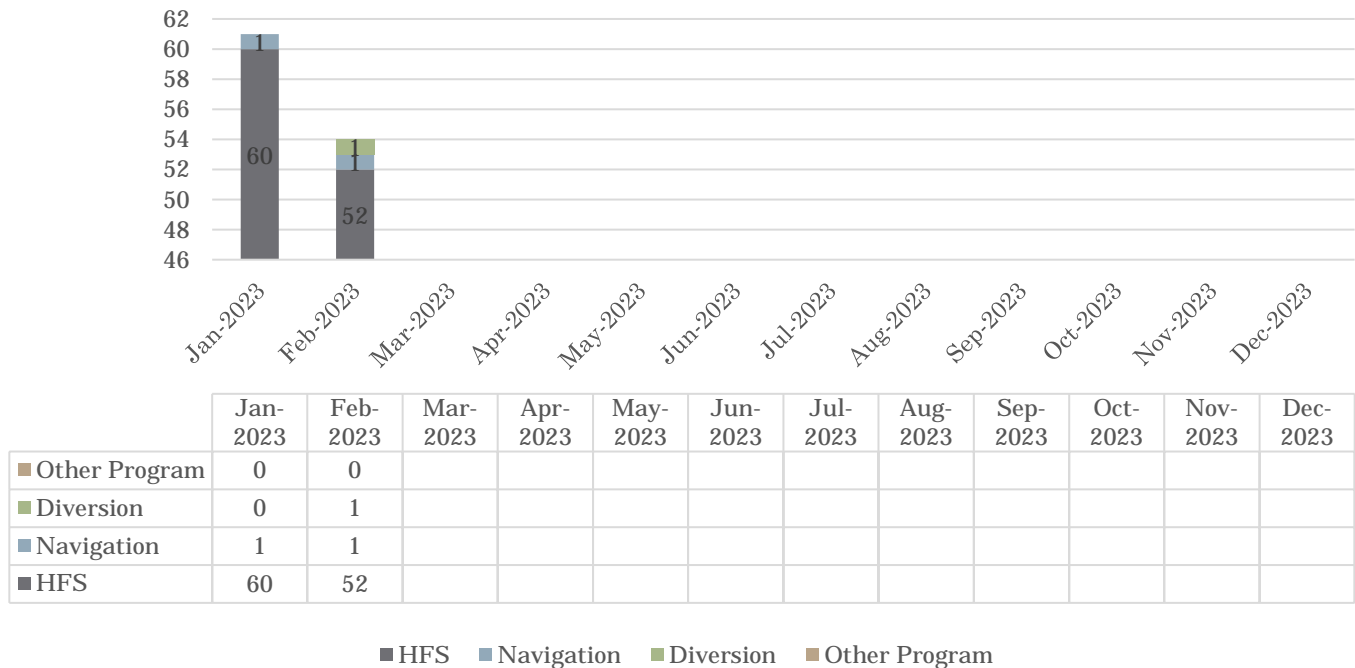
Coordinated Entry Screenings FY 2023



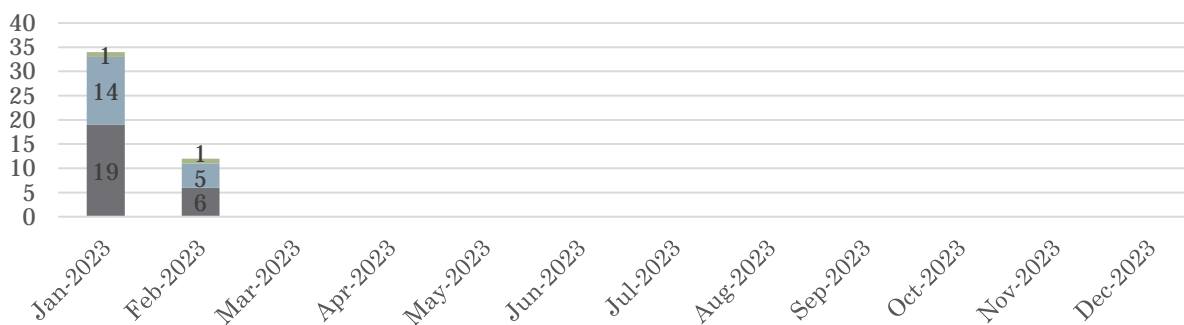
COORDINATED ENTRY ASSESSMENT RESULTS PER LOCATION

CITY OF BOULDER

City of Boulder Coordinated Entry Screening Results



City of Longmont Coordinated Entry Screening Results



	Jan-2023	Feb-2023	Mar-2023	Apr-2023	May-2023	Jun-2023	Jul-2023	Aug-2023	Sep-2023	Oct-2023	Nov-2023	Dec-2023
Other Program	0	0										
Diversion	1	1										
Navigation	14	5										
HFS	19	6										

■ HFS ■ Navigation ■ Diversion ■ Other Program

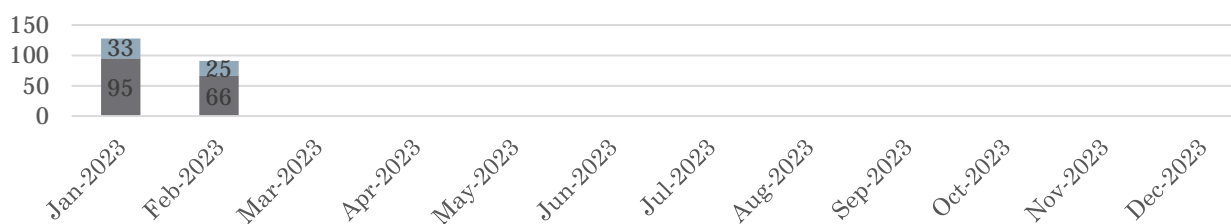
HOUSING OUTCOMES

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 APRIL 2023

Since January 2023, 36% (58¹) exited homelessness into a stable housing situation.

Fiscal Year 2023 Entry/Exit

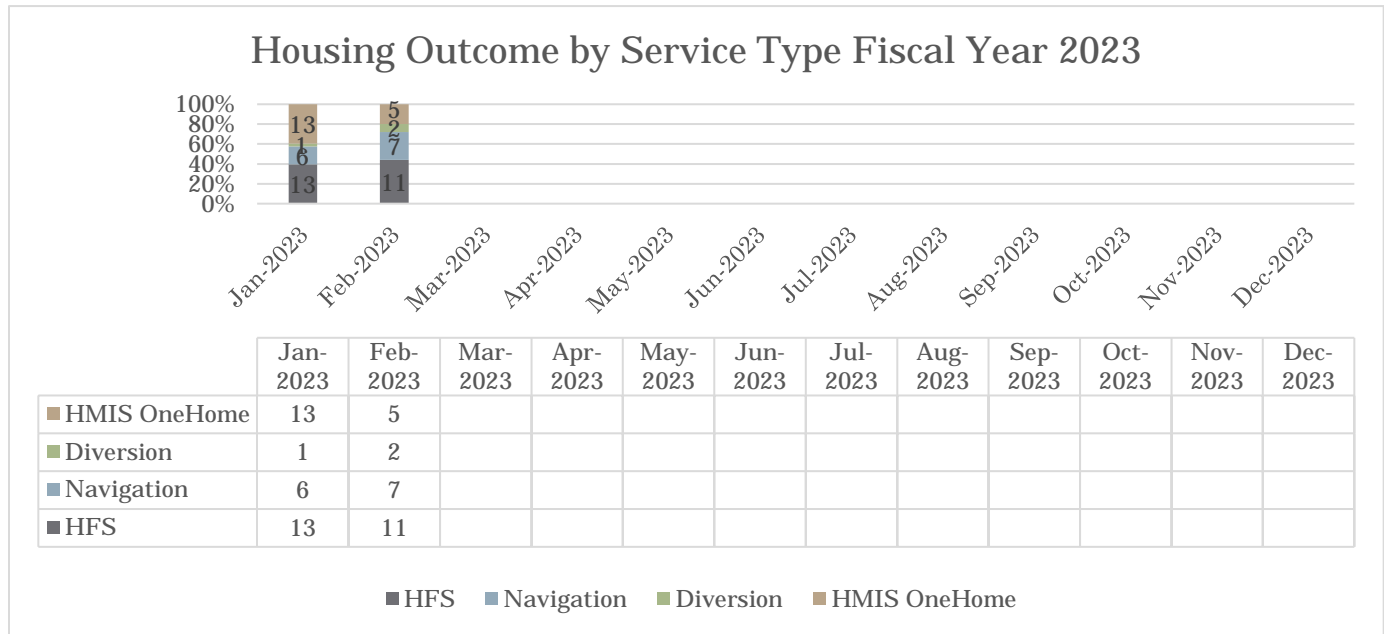


	Jan-2023	Feb-2023	Mar-2023	Apr-2023	May-2023	Jun-2023	Jul-2023	Aug-2023	Sep-2023	Oct-2023	Nov-2023	Dec-2023
System Exit	33	25										
System Entry	95	66										

■ System Entry ■ System Exit

¹ One additional exit is reflected in January 2023 from HOPE Longmont

SYSTEM EXIT PROGRAM TYPE



HOUSING OUTCOMES FISCAL YEAR BY COORDINATED ENTRY INITIATED SITE 2022

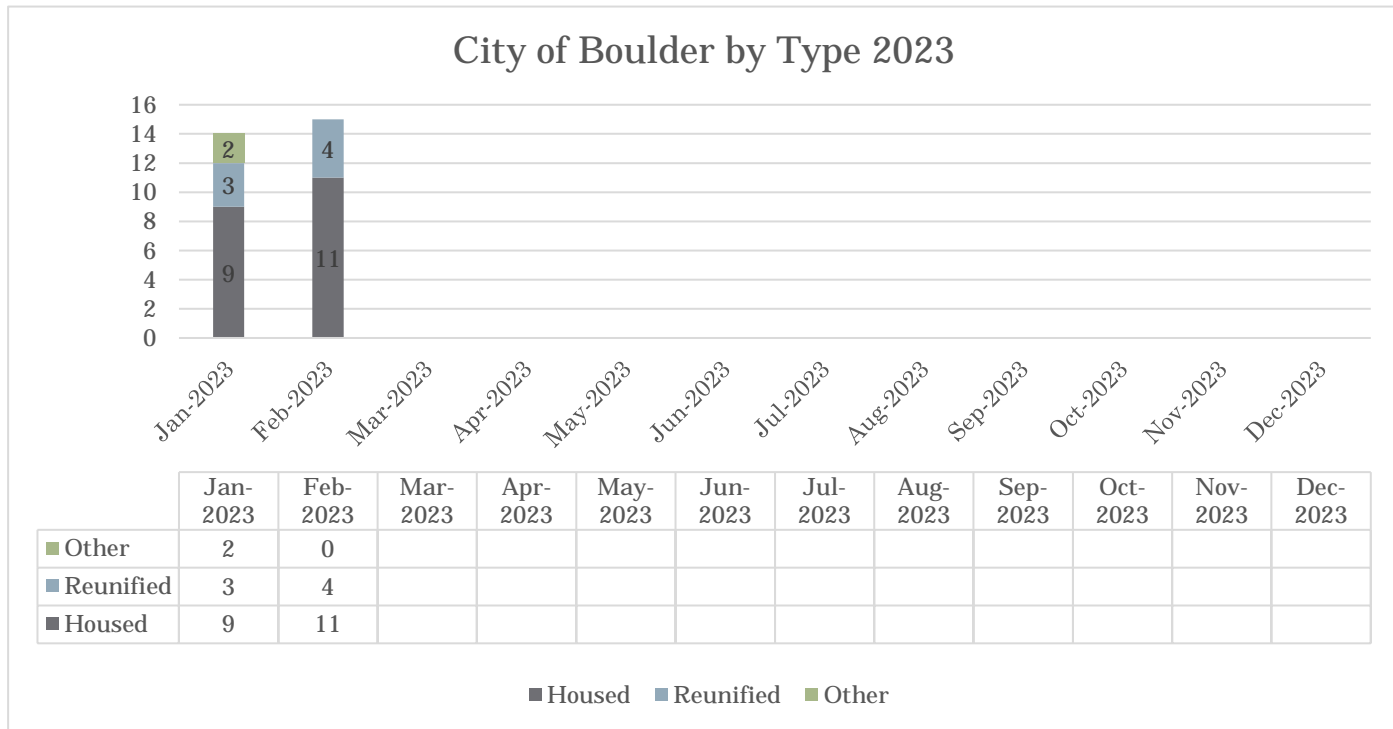
As reflected, a total of 58 individuals experiencing homelessness exited homelessness since January 2023 with 29 (50%) from the City of Boulder, 11 (19%) from the City of Longmont and 18 (31%) Boulder County².



² Boulder County Exits reflect HMIS OneHome extract. Municipality of origin is unavailable.

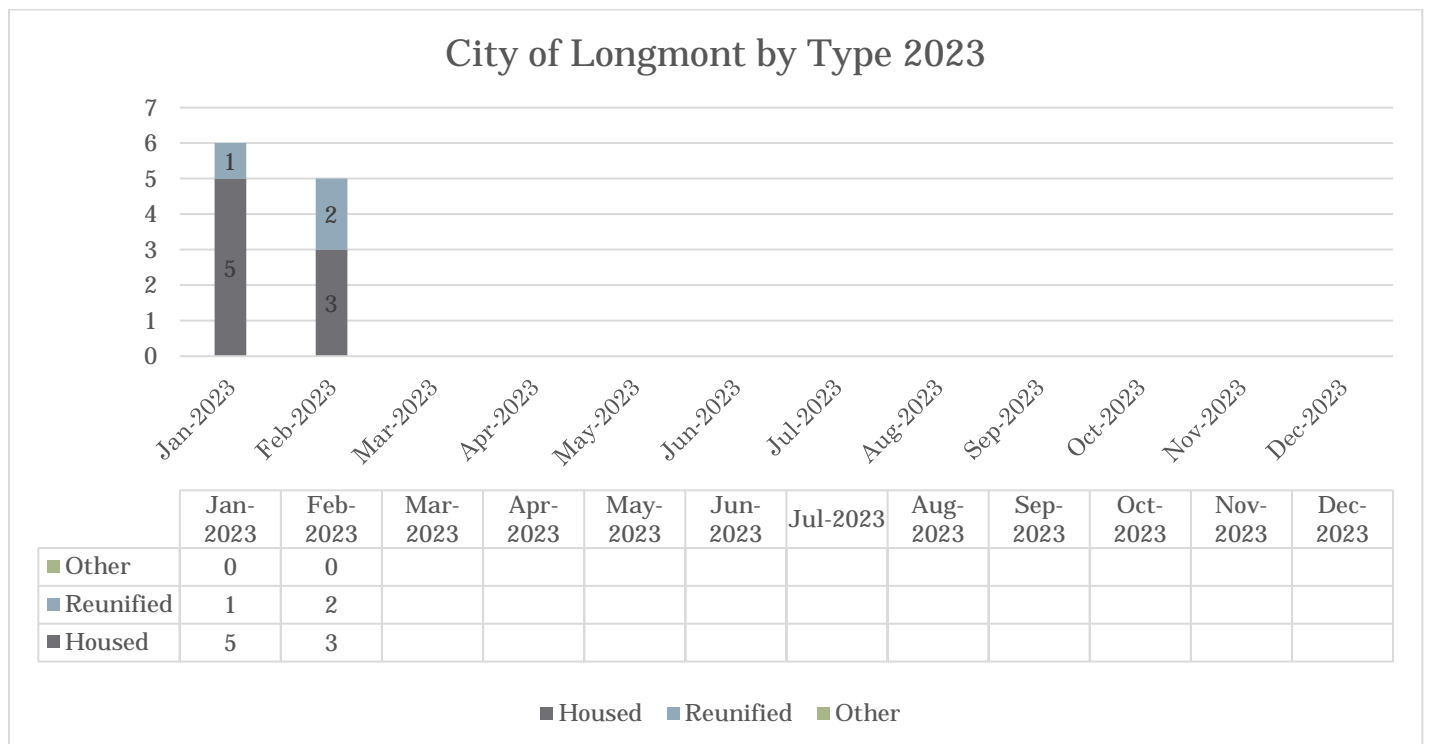
HOUSING OUTCOME BY EXIT TYPE CITY OF BOULDER 2023

Since January 2023, in the City of Boulder, a total 29 individuals have exited homelessness with 20 (69%) individuals exited to housing, 7 (24%) through Reunification, and 2 (7%) through providing rental assistance (reflected in Other) to remain in housing.



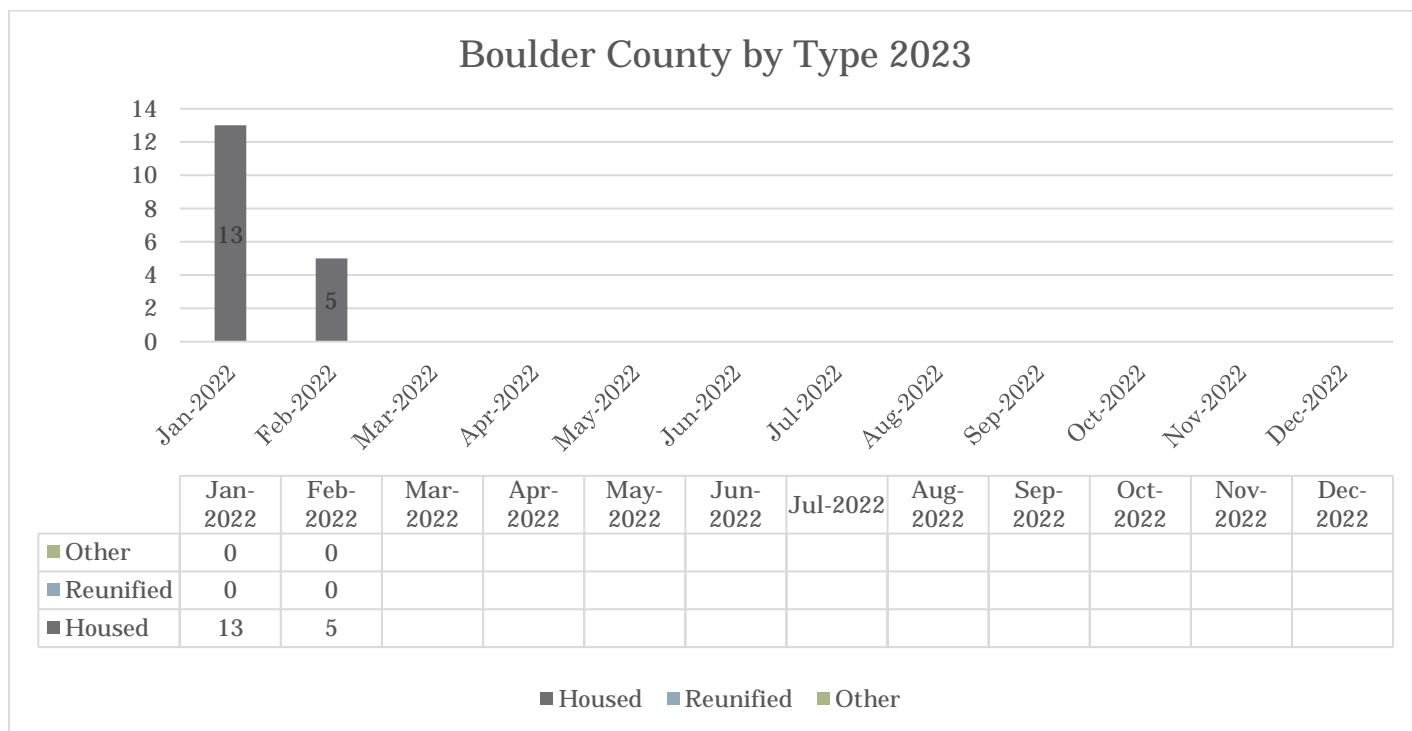
HOUSING OUTCOME BY EXIT TYPE CITY OF LONGMONT 2023

Since January 2023, in the City of Longmont, a total 11 individuals have exited homelessness with 8 (73%) individuals exited to housing, and 3 (27%) through Reunification.



HOUSING OUTCOME BY EXIT TYPE BOULDER COUNTY 2023

Since January 2023, through the OneHome HMIS data system and in Boulder County, a total 18 individuals have exited homelessness with 18 (100%) individuals exited to housing.



RATE OF CHANGE³

Boulder County Coordinated Entry Assessment 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Total
City of Boulder	59	55	58	43	78	56	66	87	62	79	64	61	769
City of Longmont	30	36	25	13	32	21	27	36	26	28	32	39	345

Rate of Change

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
City of Boulder	+3%	-2%											-1%
City of Longmont	+12%	-67%											-30%

City of Boulder Coordinated Entry Assessment Referral Outcomes 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Total
Diversion	4	2	3	1	5	3	0	2	2	1	0	0	23
Navigation	7	6	2	2	7	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	30
HFS	48	46	53	40	66	51	63	84	59	78	64	61	713
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3

Rate of Change

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
Diversion	-100%	-50%											-83%
Navigation	-86%	-83%											-85%
HFS	+20%	+12%											+16%
Other	0	-100%											-100%

³ Rate of Change is compared to month of prior year. Annual is compared to rolling annual totals for same timeframe in the reporting year. Items in red reflect lower than the comparative.

City of Longmont Coordinated Entry Assessment Referral Outcomes 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Total
Diversion	2	0	0	0	5	1	0	2	1	3	3	1	18
Navigation	17	22	15	7	14	10	11	16	8	9	13	19	161
HFS	8	14	9	5	13	10	15	17	17	14	16	19	157
Other	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	9

Rate of Change

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
Diversion	-50%	+100%											0%
Navigation	-18%	-77%											-51%
HFS	+58%	-57%											-12%
Other	-100%	0											-100%

Successful Exit Percentage 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Average
Percent	33%	23%	33%	57%	38%	29%	15%	26%	23%	29%	45%	26%	30%

Successful Exit Percentage 2023

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
Percent	34%	38%											36%
Change	+1%	+15%											+6%

System Exit by Program Type 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Total
Diversion	2	1	2	1	9	6	1	6	4	2	4	1	39
Navigation	4	5	5	5	5	2	1	5	5	5	11	5	58
HFS	10	10	6	9	9	4	7	14	8	14	15	13	119
OneHome HMIS	13	5	14	17	17	10	5	7	3	10	11	7	119
Total Exits	29	21	27	32	42	22	14	32	20	31	43	26	339

Rate of Change

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
Diversion	-50%	+50%											0%
Navigation	+20%	+29%											+31%
HFS	+23%	+9%											+17%
OneHome HMIS	0	0											0
Total Exits	+9%	+16%											+14%

City of Boulder System Exit by Type 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Total
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	5
Reunification	5	5	3	1	6	3	3	9	6	9	11	8	69
Housed	6	7	8	9	8	4	5	6	3	7	9	8	80
Total Exit	11	12	11	10	14	7	8	18	9	16	21	17	154

Rate of Change

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
Other	+100%	0											+100%
Reunification	-40%	-20%											-30%
Housed	+33%	+36%											+35%
Total Exit	+21%	+20%											+21%

City of Longmont System Exit by Type 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Total
Other	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Reunification	3	1	1	0	5	3	0	2	4	3	3	0	25
Housed	2	3	1	4	6	2	1	5	4	2	6	2	38
Total Exit	5	4	2	5	11	5	1	7	8	5	11	2	66

Rate of Change

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
Other	0	0											0
Reunification	-67%	+50%											-25%
Housed	+60%	0											+38%
Total Exit	+17%	+20%											+18%

Boulder County HMIS/OneHome System Exit by Type 2023

	Jan 22	Feb 22	March 22	April 22	May 22	June 22	July 22	Aug 22	Sept 22	Oct 22	Nov 22	Dec 22	Total
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reunification	2	0	1	1	3	3	0	2	0	0	1	1	14
Housed	11	5	13	16	14	7	5	5	3	10	10	6	105
Total Exit	13	5	14	17	17	10	5	7	3	10	11	7	119

Rate of Change

	Jan 23	Feb 23	March 23	April 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	Aug 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23	Average
Other	0	0											0
Reunification	-100%	0											-100%
Housed	+20%	0											+11%
Total Exit	0	0											0

memo

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County

To: HSBC comms partners
From: Alice Kim & Heidi Grove
CC: Jim Adams-Berger, Robin Bohannon
Date: March 13, 2023
Re: HSBC Communications Plan Implementation

Comments: This version is the newest HSBC comms draft that incorporates a previous draft version of HSBC comms plan. This draft includes a processes section and expands on additional topics for comms plan implementation.

To implement communications plans and share messaging across various communications professionals of governments included in Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC), the City of Longmont, City of Boulder, and Boulder County have staff dedicated to furthering and coordinating homeless solutions messaging together. This working group meets monthly to discuss upcoming news or stories, HSBC-related communications, and to coordinate communications response to media inquiries.

Current communications specialists from each jurisdiction in the HSBC Communications Group:

- Alice Kim, Boulder County Community Services: askim@bouldercounty.org
- Lyndsy Morse-Casillas, City of Boulder: Morse-CasillasL@bouldercolorado.gov
- Scott Yoho, City of Longmont: scott.yoho@longmontcolorado.gov

Current HSBC program specialists include:

- Heidi Grove, Boulder County Community Services
- Megan Newton, City of Boulder Housing and Human Services Department
- Eliberto Mendoza, City of Longmont Community Services

The HSBC communications group is managed by Boulder County Community Services staff.

HSBC Communications Plan

3.13.2023

I. COMMUNICATION PROGRAM GOALS

- Develop and convey consistent messages about Homeless Solutions for Boulder County's efforts to focus on stable housing first so adult Boulder County residents experiencing homelessness can work on their other barriers to permanent housing
- Focus on why Housing First an evidence-based 'best practice' strategy for reducing adult homelessness in Boulder County
- Develop proactive communications about HSBC's ongoing work to address homelessness in Boulder County
- Address ongoing topical and systems-related HSBC issues to keep information in front of the public and policy makers
- Develop a strategy for HSBC communications group around HSBC efforts including data, client success stories, partners, and regional + national successes

II. TAGLINE FOR HOMELESS SOLUTIONS FOR BOULDER COUNTY:

Housing People, Building Futures

III. HSBC MESSAGING

Housing First Model

- Every step of the system focuses on stable housing for the person experiencing homelessness
- Housing First is a **national best practice** recognizing that housing stability is the necessary first step to resolving root causes of homelessness
- Once housed, the model focuses on matching the appropriate resources and interventions needed to get adults on the right track to stable, permanent housing
- Housing resources are prioritized for Boulder County residents

Homelessness

- Homelessness is a housing affordability and equity issue
- Lack of affordable housing is the leading cause of homelessness (Source: InvisiblePEOPLE)
- Lack of access to safe, affordable, decent housing is closely related to racial and class inequities built into our system
- Boulder County is working to increase the amount of affordable housing available with goals to increase 12% by 2035
- City of Boulder is working to increase the amount of affordable housing available with goals to increase 15%

Accountability

- HSBC focuses on accountability. When a person experiencing homelessness enters the system to receive services, they are making a commitment to accept responsibility to

work with their housing-focused case manager to navigate the available services to move more quickly into stable housing.

- Accountability can be a new concept to those utilizing HSBC services and many people experiencing homelessness have never had the benefit of working directly with someone who believed that change was possible for them.

Collaboration

- The HSBC program promotes collaboration between private and public entities and the community ensuring that everyone involved in the plan demonstrates alignment with the housing first goal
- Collaboration on activities such as grant writing and public communications leverages a “better together” approach
- HSBC is a multi-jurisdictional entity which includes Boulder County, City of Boulder and City of Longmont to solving homelessness in Boulder County

IV. HSBC PROGRAM & SERVICES MESSAGING

Needs-based

- Each individual experiencing homelessness has unique barriers to achieving stable housing. HSBC aligns resources with those unique challenges in order to meet this goal

Continuous Improvement

- The system places an emphasis on continuous improvement and a dynamic learning environment, utilizing a combination of quantitative data and qualitative results to monitor the success of the program as it relates to the **housing first goal**
- As with any new program, when theory is put into practice, the opportunity for program changes will be evaluated, considered, and implemented as needed to improve outcomes

V. HOMELESSNESS MESSAGING - *Why do people become homeless?*

- People experiencing homelessness are not a distinct and separate population
- The line between being homeless and not being homeless is fluid
- The circumstances are different for everyone. People experiencing homelessness may not have much in common with each other besides being vulnerable and not having housing, income and the support they need to stay housed
- In most situations, homelessness is caused by the impact of several different factors over time, rather than on single incident
- There are three distinct reasons why people become homeless:
 - Structural Factors
 - Many people have no financial savings and are a paycheck away from a financial crisis
 - The availability of affordable housing options in their community
 - System Factors
 - Lack of support for vulnerable populations
 - Difficult transitions from foster care systems

- Inadequate discharge planning for people leaving hospitals, corrections and mental health and addictions facilities
 - Individual Circumstances
 - Traumatic events
 - Sudden Job Loss
 - Lack of support to deal with behavioral health issues
 - Traumatic childhood experiences
 - Domestic Violence
 - Disability
 - Mental Health
- Because the reasons why people become homeless vary widely from person to person, coordinated entry services are necessary to determine the best path forward to obtaining stable housing solutions.

VI. COMMS STRATEGY

- Utilize existing communications channels between Boulder County, City of Boulder, and City of Longmont to update existing information or push out consistent messaging about HSBC, including any newsletters, social media, and Home Wanted (Regional Housing Partnership)
 - Boulder County
 - HSBC Community Services' County webpages: <https://www.bouldercounty.org/departments/community-services/homeless/>
 - Boulder County social media pages à Facebook & Instagram
 - City of Boulder
 - Human Services Department Homelessness Services Dashboard: <https://bouldercolorado.gov/homelessness/homelessness-dashboard>
 - City of Boulder social media pages
 - City of Longmont
 - Community Services Department webpages: <https://www.longmontcolorado.gov/departments/departments-a-d/community-services-department/homeless-services>
 - City of Longmont social media pages
- Coordinate media requests and messaging with HSBC comms partners
- Use existing HSBC template with tagline to communicate information out to the public, including media (press releases)
- Share relevant communications requests, upcoming comms items, or shared media stories during monthly meetings with group
- Prioritize HSBC Executive Board's decisions and focus areas in proactive communications
- Produce a HSBC Annual Report each year in May with updated data and information to share with partners, council, and to market to community at large

VII. COMMS PROCESSES & ROLES

- Boulder County will take the lead on HSBC system communications including producing the Annual Report

- HSBC communications Boulder County Community Services staff produces includes, but is not limited to:
 - Quarterly data highlights infographics
 - Partner agency spotlights
 - Op-Eds/Opinion pieces
 - MDHI and regional efforts
 - New service additions and changes
 - Topical and relevant pieces when appropriate
- Boulder County Community Services staff will work with City of Boulder and City of Longmont communications specialists dedicated to HSBC communications on any finalization of materials (editing) before dissemination to the public

VIII. COMMS IMPLEMENTATION

- Develop success stories and more proactive communications accordingly
 - Generic scenarios to help the community connect (great examples from Boulder County Home Wanted Affordable Housing Initiative):
<https://homewanted.org/overview/>
 - Dissemination of press releases with relevant information
 - Written op-eds and opinion pieces on behalf of HSBC Exec Board?
- Manage HSBC webpages and HSBC-related information and data
 - Continuously update HSBC website content on Boulder County website
 - Implement a Data Dashboard on Boulder County website
 - § Filterable by jurisdiction
 - Have all community partners link to related pages
- Manage HSBC comms group and editing processes with communications specialists

IX. FUTURE MATERIALS FOR PRODUCTION

- Develop a HSBC FAQ's section on the Boulder County HSBC webpages that covers "What is Housing First?" How are resources prioritized for homeless individuals?" and general costs of services, etc... Update pages with most current HSBC info in a new FAQs page
- Create an HSBC newsletter?

X. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN FINALIZATION

- Draft a HSBC communications plan with added details discussed with internal Boulder County Community Services staff à Alice, Heidi
- Present new final HSBC comms plan before HSBC Executive Board à Jim, Robin
- Share copy of updated, most recent HSBC communications plan with HSBC communications group after HSBC exec board approval à Alice, Heidi
- Set up reoccurring meetings between Heidi Grove and Alice Kim for ongoing HSBC communications à Alice, Heidi
- Identify immediate production pieces and platform for dissemination in this ongoing work à Alice, Heidi

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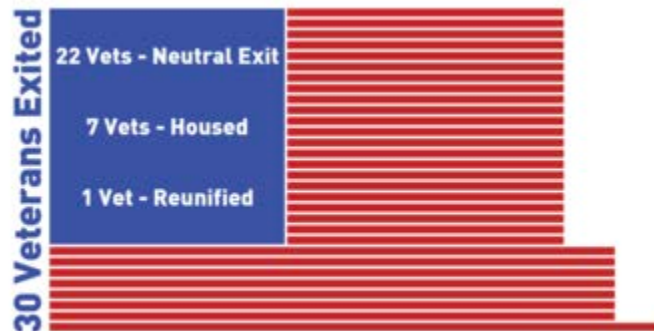
For Immediate Release:
May 8, 2023

Staff Contact:
[Heidi Grove](#)
HSBC Systems Manager
303-441-1417

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Successfully Exits Veterans Out of Homelessness

Community Partners Built for Zero and Veterans Community Project aid in ongoing work housing Veterans and obtaining community supports

Boulder, Colo. – Homeless Solutions for Boulder County has successfully exited 30 Veterans out of homelessness in Boulder County in 2022. Of this number, 7 were housed; 1 was reunified, and 22 moved to inactive status due to no client contact, known as a neutral exit. Homeless Solutions for Boulder County, a multi-jurisdiction partnership between Boulder County and the Cities of Boulder and Longmont, continues to work with nonprofit partners to exit individuals out of homelessness. This regional integrated service system combines a coordinated entry process with provision of timely and appropriate supportive and housing services to assist people out of homelessness.



Veteran homelessness affects 438 individuals in the Metro Denver Area. Metro Denver Homeless Initiative (MDHI)'s released report for 2022 annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count data [shows a significant decrease in Veteran Homelessness across the region](#), though there was an increase in overall homelessness in the same year. Last year, Boulder County obtained nine additional Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers, the only county to be awarded new VASH vouchers in the metro area. In 2022, there were 79 identified homeless

Veterans in Boulder County through Coordinated Entry. As of April 2023, Boulder County has identified 21 individuals experiencing homelessness that are service veterans.

"To achieve quality data for veterans means that we know who's in our community," said Heidi Grove, Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Systems Manager. "We identify our Veterans person by person and strategize the most appropriate exit and resources for them to end homelessness."

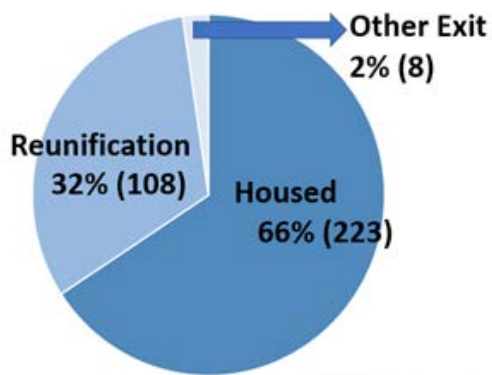
Boulder County joined the sub-regional [Built for Zero](#) effort in Metro Denver in 2020 and recently was recognized as having [achieved quality data for veteran homelessness](#). Built for Zero is a national movement, a methodology, and campaign for regions across the United States committed to ending homelessness. As of April 2023, Boulder County has been deemed eligible for the "final mile." Final mile status is the last stretch before a sub region reaches functional zero, defined as less than 3 Veterans experiencing homelessness in any given region.

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County also works closely with the [Veterans Community Project](#) (VCP), a nonprofit dedicated to helping house Veterans. In 2021 and 2022, Boulder County helped fund VCP of Longmont's outreach center, "a walk-in center to serve as a one-stop-shop for every type of veteran facing every type of problem, including Veterans experiencing homelessness." As part of the [Worthy Cause](#) funded grants, Boulder County awarded VCP \$150,000 in 2022 and \$250,000 in 2023. City of Longmont also supported VCP by waiving development fees for the property in Longmont.

Veterans Community Project's VCP Village initiative is aimed at providing a planned tiny home community designed to get homeless Veterans off the street and into permanent housing. Comprehensive Veteran support services are facilitated through an onsite community center that provides Veterans with mentoring, case management, counseling, and connection to other programs and services. HSBC works in partnership with VCP to match clients to their programs in Case Conferencing, a meeting where partners come together to discuss how best to support individuals experiencing homelessness and connect them with housing resources.

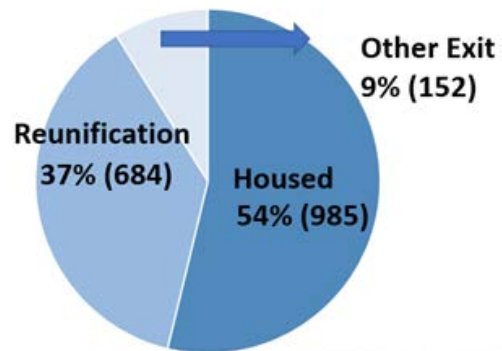
VCP will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony for the VCP Village Community Center in Longmont on Thursday, May 18 from 5-7:30 p.m. at 3095 Mountain Brook Drive, Longmont, CO 80503. Community members are invited to the celebration in completion of the VCP Village Community Center. A tour of the center will be available where participants will have an "early look" opportunity at the first set of tiny houses currently under construction for future veteran housing. [RSVP](#) with Veterans Community Project of Longmont to attend this event.

Since October 2017 to date, Homeless Solutions for Boulder County has exited a total of 1,821 individuals out of homelessness in Boulder County, which includes Veterans in this number. In 2022, 223 individuals experiencing homelessness were housed; 8 exited the HSBC system, and 108 individuals were reunified with family, friends, or other relatives.



Boulder County HSBC Exit Data 2022

Boulder County HSBC Exit Data since Oct.2017



Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC) is an innovative, systems approach to addressing homelessness across the county that was launched in October 2017. This new approach is organized around the Housing First model, an evidence-based approach that prioritizes helping individuals and families experiencing homelessness obtain a stable housing solution as quickly as possible. The goal of HSBC is to provide adults experiencing homelessness with targeted, responsive services to support quick, stable housing solutions.

Guest opinion: Jennifer Livovich: A four-point plan to reduce homelessness in Boulder

By [DAILY CAMERA GUEST OPINION](#) | openforum@dailycamera.com | Boulder Daily Camera

April 8, 2023 at 6:00 a.m.

By Jennifer Livovich

Some people in Boulder are proposing a sanctioned campground, like Denver has created, as the solution to the public camping you see occurring along our paths and public parks. I have had a front-row seat with a real-time pulse on what our community is facing. This unique view tells me that duplicating a sanctioned encampment following any existing model in Denver WILL NOT be an effective solution for the public campers.

I have lived in Boulder for roughly eleven years. Almost five of them were spent sleeping in various parks around Boulder, including a dog park where I lived under a pine tree for about six months. A severe case of frostbite on my left foot prompted my “moment” to change. I’ve since graduated from a sober-supported transitional housing program, earned my undergraduate degree in what I refer to as “boot camp bureaucracy,” and founded the first-ever peer-led nonprofit built on the foundation of lived experience with homelessness called [Feet Forward](#).

I was the very person everyone is so desperately trying to problem-solve for today: a public camper and a high utilizer. At the height of my involvement with the criminal justice system, in a period over 28 months, I picked up 51 citations and was hauled to our local detox 72 times for creating scenes similar to the ones we witness around Boulder daily that make people feel unsafe or concerned for a person’s well-being.

Since I left homelessness, the number of homeless struggling with unmanaged mental health and addiction has increased tremendously, causing this fragile population to become even more unstable. Add to this, an active harm reduction movement that has successfully created policies that reduce the jailing of the homeless — rightfully shifting the focus to treatment instead. With no treatment and larger numbers of homeless left on the streets, you get the problem we have today.

A sanctioned camping area, like those used in Denver, won’t be an effective solution because they don’t address the root causes of homelessness. Sanctioned campgrounds are rarely under the control of their residents, meaning residents are often under the same or similar surveillance and carceral forces as they were on the streets, which can make homeless people reluctant to camp there. Additionally, surrounding community members and businesses will reject it because of the fear it will turn into a skid row-type area. Once open, even as a “temporary” solution, sanctioned campgrounds are very hard to close, especially without plans and dedicated resources to help residents transition away. A sanctioned campground will only move the issue around and detract from resources that

could be hitting at the root of the problem: no addiction and mental health treatment for the poor.

If we want to actually move people from the streets and not just move the problem from one part of town to another, we need solutions that fix the system.

Here's my 4-part proposal:

1. We immediately move to implement four 24-hour, 7-day-a-week mental health first responder teams that work in conjunction with the police as secondary responders. This will decrease response time, so people are no longer waiting 15 or more minutes for help to arrive when a situation escalates, and people find themselves becoming untrained mental health workers.

2. We need to maximize the use of our local detox and increase its capacity. There should be no reason that a mental health first responder or a police officer says, "Sorry, we don't have anywhere for them to go." From personal experience, I understand that the current program could accommodate as many as 24 people. Every bed needs to be used to create more opportunities for recovery. And it is critical to have a place for people to land when they leave detox that eliminates a release back to the parks, which only perpetuates addiction and the problematic behavior we experience. Rather than releasing people back to the park, let's move folks to a new program I am calling the HUB.

3. The HUB serves as a supportive, sober place for individuals experiencing homelessness to land, rather than being released back to the park or Pearl Street. Here, people exiting the detox and local jail, or who seek recovery but lack stable housing, can gain the clean time and person-centered support to move forward to existing sober supported transitional housing programs, our new expected sober home, or to the last part of my proposal:

4. A transitional sober-supported community here in Boulder County. Community is central to individuals experiencing homelessness. A fifty-person capacity program would complement our upcoming recovery homes, offer on-site mental health and addiction support alongside realistic peer support, and offer pathways to stability that don't rely solely on the subsidized housing system.

Boulder needs to focus on treatment and support of our homeless and programs that actually move people off the streets and into housing and long-term support structures. If Boulder continues to merely displace homelessness, rather than address the root causes, our city will continue to struggle to accommodate a worsening situation, making it a less safe, less welcoming place for all — housed or otherwise.

Jennifer Livovich is the founder of Feet Forward. Livovich lives in Boulder.

Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board

April 14, 2023, 8:00 - 10:00am

Teams Meeting

Attendance:

Jim Adams-Berger, Robin Bohannon, Karen Brunnemer, Vicki Ebner, Kurt Firnhaber, Heidi Grove, Susana Lopez-Baker, Devon Kissick-Kelly, Eliberto Mendoza, Gwendolyn Mossman, Megan Newton, Jamie Rife, Carlene Okiyama, Christina Pacheco

Public Comment – None

Minutes – March Approved

Board Brief review

Equity data Q1 in next meeting – Coordinated Entry (CE) screens for February lower than average, Longmont down 67%, only 12, inflow lower and outflow higher.

Discussion Items

- HSBC Communications Plan
 - Plan Overview – Reviewed the plan provided and discussed the need for a robust communications approach.

Approved: HSBC Communications Plan approved as written with the addition of the City of Longmont website address when it's available.

- Example Communications Document: Veterans Homelessness Press Release
Communications staff will approve each work product. This will not preclude any partner or city creating their own work product. Intention is to focus on things representing the system.
- Data Sharing Discussion
At an impasse in discussions. Some things to consider client level data, who should have access, revising client documents, how to use data for case coordination, confidentiality issues, analysis,

Next steps: (1) Jim will circle back with data group. Explore how we would modify our agreements to make some sort of change to allow for compromise around data sharing. In short-term identify users in a short scope that are custodians of the data. Don't know if we can share with other partners (outside of HSBC). Will look at IMPACT and REWiND model. Look at larger system performance.

- Chamber Update: Thoughts on Moving this Forward
The Boulder County Chamber of Commerce has been holding a series of meetings to discuss homelessness. Opportunity for HSBC to think about how we partner with the business community.

Next steps: Jim will continue to engage with John to continue work moving forward.

- **Tribe Progress Update and Recovery Services Vision**

Funds to support property acquisition have been secured from both Boulder County (\$300,000) and City of Boulder (\$300,000). Pending a grant application from the Behavioral Health Administration for property acquisition as well as service delivery.

General Updates

- **Annual Report update**
Will be completed in May.

- **Update on PSH coming online**

A projected 130 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units coming online in next 18 months.

- Zinnia in Longmont
- MHP secured 15 vouchers
- Inn Between 10 additional units
- 50 units with Element Properties that will be connected to the Boulder Day Center

- **Built for Zero update**

Officially in last mile of cohort. Once we hit functional zero with veterans, move to single adults, anticipate getting certified again. Veterans Community Project (VCP) coming on-line next month. VCP set aside tiny homes for bridge housing.

- **Grants update**

HB 22-1377: Transformative. Expected to receive notice in early May. The State will be doing another round of funding.

SAMHSA: Pathways to housing sustainability. Good chances for continued grant funding, competition going to be high, stressed importance of the work, funding isn't sufficient, need to start thinking as a board if there are other funding opportunities. MHP made a commitment to sustain the pathways regardless of the SAMHSA grant.

Boulder County, City of Boulder, City of Longmont and Metro Denver Homeless Initiative Updates

Boulder County

None

Boulder County Housing & Human Services

None

City of Longmont

Study session on encampment went through without much discussion. Should be a second reading soon. HHS update last night. Meet with council members about what they are seeing and what the needs are. Looking at the funding model for the Community Engagement program, specifically sustainability and responding to emerging needs.

City of Boulder

None

Metro Denver Homeless Initiative

Regional convening of the regional homeless coordination team is pushed back to the Fall. The next mayor and new city council members will help springboard those regional conversations. Starting to hear conversations about how we sustain programs that are funded with APRA funds.

Adjourned 9:46