



# Department of Housing

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 471 • Boulder, Colorado 80306

[www.BoulderCountyHousing.org](http://www.BoulderCountyHousing.org)

## Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board November 8, 2024, 8:00 - 10:00am Teams Meeting Virtual

### Administrative Matters

8am-8:20am

- Public Comment
- Approval of September 2024 Minutes
- Executive Board Brief Summary

### Discussion Items

8:20am-9:15am

- Budget impacts (local, state, and federal)
  - Rapid Rehousing
  - Coordinated Entry
  - Decrease in Shelter Capacity
- Public Policy Associates Evaluation

9:15am-10am

### General Updates

- Emergency Solutions Grant Funding
- Updates regarding Boulder County Housing Department
- Regional Homeless Summit
- Partner Updates

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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**HSBC Executive Board**  
**September 2024 Minutes**

Attendees: Robin Bohannon, Heidi Grove, Rebecca Mayer, Sinara Hinton, Megan Newton, Vicki Ebner, Kurt Firnhaber, Jim Adams-Berger, Devon Kissick-Kelly, Molly O'Donnell, Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen, Eliberto Mendoza, Rene Brodeur, Trevor Baringer

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Robin Bohannon initiated a discussion regarding HSBC's role as a commissioner-appointed board and the implications of transitioning to a staff-run board concerning public disclosure. The Commissioners expressed a preference for maintaining HSBC's involvement as non-public. Support was given, stating this approach would align with practices adopted by other agencies that have implemented similar structures, such as Regional Housing Partners. To ensure transparency about the change, it was decided that initial engagements with members of the public will be conducted, and information about the shift will be communicated via the HSBC website.

Approval of Minutes

Lexi Nolen brought forth the motion to approve August's minutes. Devon Kissick-Kelly seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Executive Board Brief Review

Coordinated Entry and Housing Exits by Homeless Solutions for Boulder County

The Boulder County Coordinated Entry data indicates that housing exits remain flat, primarily due to the freeze on voucher allocations to MHP. This trend is expected to improve in October with the opening of Zinnia. A discussion was held regarding the availability of additional state housing vouchers, but it was noted that only MHP and Imagine are currently equipped to handle the associated administrative duties. Other agencies have shown no interest in taking on these responsibilities, largely due to the state's compensation structure. Compounding the administrative burden is the pending merger between Clinica and MHP.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Debrief Homeless Summit Convening of Elected Officials

In the August meeting, which was recorded, two jurisdictions were absent. Staff assignments were reviewed with a focus on bringing the remaining jurisdictions up to speed. The meeting was productive, setting a baseline for future discussions. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 18th, and will address the topic of "what not to do." The following meeting is set for October 9th. Due to most staff being out of town for a conference, it is proposed that during this meeting, elected officials will work on resolutions and discuss their adoption in various municipalities. Questions arose regarding the assignments related to the "what not to do" discussion and whether additional meetings will be

needed after the resolution is passed. The necessity for further meetings will be determined based on the outcomes of the resolutions and their adoption.

### 2025 Budget Discussion

The City of Boulder initiated a discussion on budget considerations for the upcoming year, highlighting the impending conclusion of ARPA funding and the need for proactive planning. The City of Boulder has already submitted its budget, while the County Commissioners and the City of Longmont remain in the review phase. It was emphasized that HSBC operates with limited financial resources and is constrained in subsidizing the costs of programming for other agencies. Additionally, the state Department of Housing (DOH) is facing budgetary constraints, underscoring the importance of diversifying funding streams, and working collaboratively when applying for RFP grants. A question was raised regarding potential cuts or reductions in programming; the City of Boulder indicated that any reductions would likely be applied uniformly across all programs. This raises the question of whether adjustments to expectations for existing contracts with various agencies will be necessary. A proposal was made to establish a subcommittee within the HSBC executive board to review financials; however, this initiative will be deferred pending the Commissioners' budget vote in December. As programming reductions become necessary, HSBC will prioritize data-driven decisions, focusing on initiatives that fall within its oversight.

### Critical Weather Sheltering Strategies

There was discussion of the implementation of critical weather procedures in response to extreme cold conditions, defined as lasting three or more days, necessitating the opening of overflow shelters. Established criteria for activating these shelters will guide decision-making. To improve the effectiveness of overflow shelters, there will be a concerted effort to identify and recruit individuals with relevant experience for staffing, although the recent weather and holiday season have limited the available pool of potential staff. Ongoing initiatives are in place to identify and train qualified personnel. Additionally, the response plan will include transportation for individuals to overflow shelters. The board also noted that proactive outreach prior to extreme weather events has been an effective strategy in ensuring that individuals are informed about shelter availability.

### **General Updates**

#### Annual Report

Both municipalities have completed their review processes, and the documents are currently with ADA compliance officers for final assessment before public consumption. With the combination of 2022 and 2023 data, the focus has been on examining trends. Once approved, the report will be made available to the public on the website.

#### Timeline and Progress of Evaluation (Public Policy Associates)

The focus groups concluded yesterday, Thursday, September 12th, with PPA engaging participants who are housed, sheltered, and unsheltered. Although there was a minor issue with data collection through HMIS, PPA will utilize the data provided through Connect. The next steps include conducting a literature

review, followed by data analysis that will incorporate both the collected focus group data and existing datasets. PPA is anticipated to present its findings to the Boulder City Council in December.

### Meth Task Force

The team is collaborating with key state partners to advance the pilot proposal, having met with the state last week to discuss strategies for moving the project forward. Discussions with the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) have indicated interest in further collaboration. Public housing authorities are convening regularly and distributing a survey from Fort Collins to public housing entities statewide. Efforts are focused on creating diverse funding sources to support an increase in permanent supportive housing (PSH). There is currently a lack of consistency in testing and remediation practices, but there is a willingness to engage in conversations regarding methamphetamine issues, which are seeing an increase in demand driven by insurance requests. Additionally, the team is exploring options related to Housing Authority Insurance (HAI).

### Emergency Solutions Grant Funding:

The board discussed the urgent need for funding related to housing support initiatives, including the housing hotline, shelter services, and street outreach programs. A request for approximately one million dollars in funding has been submitted, with a deadline for proposals set for midnight. The aim is to bolster these critical services to better address the needs of the community.

### Updates regarding Boulder County Housing Department:

A discussion was held on the progress of reviewing the allocation of funds regarding the 1B tax dollars, which was conducted over the summer. The goal is to present the findings to the Board in October, focusing on budgeting and potential impacts of reductions in program funding.

### **Partner Updates**

#### City of Longmont

City of Longmont discussed the opening of Zinnia. As well as the Longmont Housing Authority (LHA) budget is being reviewed for financial requirements for various programs.

#### BHP

Boulder Housing Partners (BHP) are currently processing applications for the Hilltop project. Last week, they began accepting applications for Golden West, which is set to start operations today, although BHP does not own the building. This initiative is focused on residents aged 62 and older.

#### MHDI

MHDI is amid its interview process. A provider feedback link has been included in the newsletter for the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) due today. The board is currently in the middle of the NOFA application process and is awaiting letters of interest from the Continuum of Care (CoC) for related initiatives. A series of training sessions focused on the Housing First model is also scheduled, with registration for the October training series now open.

### Boulder County

Boulder County noted that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is currently implementing its ALL INSIDE program exclusively for Denver and Denver County. However, there may be waivers available that could extend this initiative to a metro-wide scope.

### City of Boulder

The City of Boulder discussed the Winter Weather Shelter initiative, which will provide 30 vouchers for the Day Services Center. Local providers have been coming to the Day Service Center to meet with clients and provide resources. There has been a notable uptick in overnight shelter usage. A correlation was noted between Day Center access and shelter availability. In August, it was celebrated that 2,000 housing exits were achieved.

### Municipal Court

There were no updates to report from the Municipal Court at this time.

**Adjourned at 9:54 AM**

## Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC)

Data report for Coordinated Entry (CE) is from January 2020 to October 2024; data report for Housing Exits is from January 2020 to September 2024. Due to timing in data collection, there will be a delay in reporting, specifically in Housing Exits.

The number of CE screenings has been rapidly increasing across entities in recent months. The number of CEs in Quarter 1 (Q1) of 2024 surpassed the same time last year. It is expected for numbers to increase throughout the year.

- The City of Boulder exited 134 individuals in 2024 (January – September)
  - There has been some change compared to the same time last year
- The City of Longmont exited 39 individuals in 2024 (January – September)
  - There has been little change compared to the same time last year

**Note:** Due to the new PSH units in January of 2024, numbers are higher than usual for the month of January 2024. Numbers should return to normalcy after January 2024 until Fall 2024. Note, after June 2024, numbers may be higher than usual due to placement of clients into new housing projects.

### Homelessness in Boulder County Update

- 1,484 individuals have exited homelessness since 2020
- 531 (30% average exit outflow) individuals have exited homelessness since January 1, 2023.
- City of Boulder
  - September 2024
    - Housed – 54% decrease from August 2024
    - Reunification – 100% decrease from August 2024
- City of Longmont
  - September 2024
    - Housed – 50% decrease from August 2024
    - Reunification – no change from August 2024
- Housing exits through HMIS data system (as reflected in Boulder County exits) remain at 0 meaning there have been no duplications in exits. All have been accounted for.
- So far, an average of 19 individuals per month have exited homelessness from January to September 2024.
  - 29 were reunified
  - 10 through other program services such as treatment or rental assistance for Diversion services (rental assistance/homeless prevention).

### HSBC Dashboard

- The dashboard is now live. Please visit for detailed information.

[Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Data Dashboard - Boulder County](#)

## Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Data

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The number of CE screenings has been rapidly increasing across entities in recent months. The number of CEs in Quarter 1 (Q1) of 2024 surpassed the same time last year. It is expected for numbers to increase throughout the year.

- The City of Boulder exited 128 individuals in 2024 (January – August)
  - There has been little change compared to the same time last year
- The City of Longmont exited 36 individuals in 2024 (January – August)
  - There has been very little change compared to the same time last year

**Note:** Due to the new PSH units in January of 2024, numbers are higher than usual for the month of January 2024. Numbers should return to normalcy after January 2024 until Fall 2024. Note, after June 2024, number may be higher than usual due to placement of clients into new housing projects.

### Homelessness in Boulder County Update

- 1,475 individuals have exited homelessness since 2020
- 522 (30% average exit outflow) individuals have exited homelessness since January 1, 2023.
- City of Boulder
  - August 2024
    - Housed – 18% increase compared to July 2024
    - Reunification – 100% increase compared to July 2024
- City of Longmont
  - August 2024
    - Housed – 100% increase compared to July 2024
    - Reunification – no change compared to July 2024
- Housing exits through HMIS data system (as reflected in Boulder County exits) remain at 0 meaning there have been no duplications in exits. All have been accounted for.
- So far, an average of 21 individuals per month have exited homelessness from January to July 2024.
  - 29 were reunified
  - 9 through other program services such as treatment or rental assistance for Diversion services (rental assistance/homeless prevention).

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