



# Department of Housing

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

## Homeless Solutions for Boulder County Executive Board December 13, 2024, 8:00 - 10:00am Teams Meeting Virtual

### Administrative Matters

8am-8:20am

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

### Discussion Items

8:20am-9:15am

- Debrief Homeless Summit Convenings of Elected Officials/United States Interagency Council on Homelessness Federal Delegation Visit and Tour
- By-Laws and Governance of Homeless Solutions for Boulder County 2025

9:15am-10am

### General Updates

- Timeline and Progress of Evaluation (Public Policy Associates)
- Regional Homeless Summit
- Partner Updates
  - Boulder County (Human Services, Housing Department/Housing Authority, Community Services, Public Health)
  - Boulder Housing Partners
  - City of Boulder
  - City of Longmont
  - Longmont Housing Authority
  - Metro Denver Homeless Initiative

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**HSBC Executive Board  
November 2024 Minutes**

Attendees: Heidi Grove, Robin Bohannon, Sinara Hinton, Vicki Ebner, Megan Newton, Kurt Firnhaber, Susan Caskey, Rebecca Mayer, Gwendolyn Mossman, Susana Lopez-Baker, Alice Kim, Devon Kissick-Kelly, Alexandra (Lexi) Nolen, Eliberto Mendoza, Jim Adams-Berger, Frank (Bill) Cole, Trevor Baringer

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Approval of Minutes

Before proceeding with the motion for approval, Kurt Firnhaber requested clarification regarding the discussion from the previous meeting on the potential transition of the board from a commissioner-appointed structure to one primarily managed by staff. It was clarified that progress is being made toward this transition, though no formal announcement has been made. The HSBC bylaws and other relevant documents will be distributed to the Board for review. Robin Bohannon requested that these documents be reviewed and prepared for discussion at the next Executive Board meeting.

Devon Kissick-Kelly made a motion to approve the minutes from the September meeting, which was seconded by Rebecca Mayer. The motion was approved.

Executive Board Brief Review

Coordinated Entry and Housing Exits by Homeless Solutions for Boulder County

There has been a continuous increase in the number of individuals seeking CE (Coordinated Entry) services, with a noticeable influx from Aurora and among undocumented individuals. This increase may be attributed to Aurora's "Work First" model, the closure of migrant shelters in both Aurora and Denver, as well as the transition of Comitis from an individual shelter to a family shelter.

Given the current political climate, there is a request to closely monitor issues related to immigration. Boulder County Community Services is in the process of preparing informational packets for families who may be impacted by changes in immigration policy.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Public Policy Associates Evaluation

There was acknowledgment of the disappointment regarding the current presentation of data, particularly with issues surrounding the quantitative data. The subcontractor hired for this project had been merging data sets from different systems, despite being instructed not to do so. The methodology presented could not be replicated by other parties, and the analyst was unable to provide a clear explanation of the approach.

Heidi Grove will be having a follow-up call after the Executive Board meeting with Meg Chamberlin from PPA to address these concerns and discuss the possibility of transitioning the work to an in-house analyst. There was discussion about the difficulties in understanding the nuances of the systems, and it was noted that more support and guidance would be needed to assist in this process.

The Policy Implementation Team met with the group last Friday. Christina Pacheco, who was unable to attend today's Board meeting, suggested rejecting the quantitative data and retaining the qualitative data, as the latter has provided useful insights.

The City of Boulder inquired about the schedule for the completion of the evaluation and whether changes could be made by the mid-December deadline. At this time, the timeline has not changed; however, due to concerns about re-running the data, meeting the deadline may not be realistically feasible. County attorneys have already been contacted to review potential contract violations and clarify ownership of the data. If the timeline is extended, there will be a re-evaluation of the payment to Public Policy Associates.

The City of Boulder has expressed support for ensuring data integrity before it is presented, but they are firmly committed to holding Public Policy Associates to the established deadline. Heidi Grove has offered to send a summary of her meeting with Public Policy Associates to the Board after her discussion with them, which will take place following this meeting.

#### 2025 Budget Impacts

The discussion revisited the budget shortfall and its impact on programming, as addressed in previous Board meetings. Cuts were made across the board, with All Roads proposing the elimination of the Rapid Rehousing program. Heidi Grove is exploring alternative resources to sustain Rapid Rehousing, including partnering with other organizations that may be interested in continuing the program.

Additionally, All Roads proposed cuts to Coordinated Entry and a reduction in shelter bed capacity. There remains some confusion regarding the impact of discontinuing Coordinated Entry, as it is necessary for individuals to access shelter. The current plan is to maintain 180 shelter beds during the winter, with a reduction in bed capacity afterward. The financial impact is largely attributed to personnel costs, as Coordinated Entry positions are paid but may be reassigned to other roles.

Spencer Downing and Heidi Grove discussed the possibility of managing Coordinated Entry through Day Services by having individuals check in and register for shelter there. Questions were raised about how these changes will affect other community partners. Robin Bohannon noted that Clinica is restructuring its outreach program and mentioned the potential for state funding, though it will not be confirmed until later in the month. Clinica is also planning to engage with clients at Day Services and coordinate transportation to the clinic.

Susan Caskey explained the reasons behind the proposed cuts, noting that Boulder County Human Services had leveraged additional services with funding about 10-12 years ago, but that ability has since

diminished. There was a question about the potential for funding in 2025. Susan Caskey indicated that this will not be clear until the Commissioners finalize their budget. Heidi Grove noted that once the budgets are finalized then beginning of next year, she will compile a crosswalk of the differing budgets into a report for the Board.

Robin Bohannon emphasized the need to diversify revenue streams and proposed the formation of a task force from the Board to focus on funding, as well as strategies to present financial information to elected officials and possibly the public. Lexi Nolen suggested opening space for discussions on priority-based budgeting across agencies.

The County Commissioners have requested that funding align with the four pillars of the All-In Federal Strategic Plan. Given the urgency surrounding the end of AARP funding and the ongoing budget cuts, there is a request for a short-term data system analysis. The next steps include forming a financial task force, and financial updates will be included in the agenda for future Executive Board meetings.

## **General Updates**

### Emergency Solutions Grant Funding

Heidi Grove submitted grants on behalf of HOPE to secure funding. All Roads and Focus Re-Entry also applied for funding. It was reported that the grants have been approved; however, the exact funding amount is still unknown. The funding will not take effect until April 1st.

### Updates regarding Boulder County Housing Department

The team is continuing to finalize budgets and working to be responsive to the Commissioners to support their decision-making process. Willoughby corner is preparing to open its first building, with move-ins scheduled for November 25th. Additionally, there are plans to purchase a mobile community in Lyons. The team is also awaiting approval from the Commissioners for a Federal representative from the All Inside program to join the next elected meeting.

### Annexation of Permanent Houses in City of Boulder

The team has been working on an annexation project for the past five years, with the goal of bringing 30-40 permanent housing units into the city.

## **Partner Updates**

### City of Longmont

HOPE is opening emergency sheltering for the night due to adverse weather conditions.

### Metro Denver Homeless Initiative

The Executive Director has been hired and is scheduled to begin in mid-December. They will aim to meet with the group in January. The NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) process has been completed for this year and will not be revisited until next year. Housing and Urban Development has changed the criteria to a biennial cycle, meaning it will no longer be a heavy lift on an annual basis. Additionally, there are plans to conduct another Point-in-Time Count.

City of Boulder

It was reported that operations are proceeding as usual. The medical provider is start working in respite. The process has started for the matching process for Day Center State vouchers. High Utilizers Group has contracted independent agency to assess funding options to guide their work, with potential sources including fundraisers or grants.

The emergency shelter is currently not meeting the criteria for the present weather conditions and cannot add additional beds due to capacity limitations.

There continues to be a challenge in gaining traction for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) in the community, despite the evident need. The team's homework includes assessing the community's commitment to PSH.

**Adjourned at 9:38 AM**

DRAFT

## Homeless Solutions for Boulder County (HSBC)

Data report for Coordinated Entry (CE) is from January 2020 to November 2024; data report for Housing Exits is from January 2020 to October 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. It is expected for CE numbers to increase throughout 2024 into 2025.

### Housing Exits

- The City of Boulder exited 208 individuals in 2024 (January – October)
  - There has been a 112% increase in housing exits compared to the same time last year
- The City of Longmont exited 63 individuals in 2024 (January – October)
  - There has been a 45% increase in housing exits compared to the same time last year

**Note:** Due to the new PSH units and placement of clients in January, October, and November of 2024, the amount of housing exits is higher than usual. Numbers should return to normalcy after December 2024 until Fall 2025.

### Homelessness in Boulder County Update

- 1,582 individuals have exited homelessness since 2020
- 653 (30% average exit outflow) individuals have exited homelessness since January 1, 2023.
- City of Boulder
  - October 2024
    - Housed – 172 individuals since January 2024
    - Reunification – 25 individuals since January 2024
- City of Longmont
  - October 2024
    - Housed – 55 individuals since January 2024
    - Reunification – 7 individuals since January 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 30 individuals per month have exited homelessness from January to October 2024.
  - 32 were reunified
  - 12 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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