

Peak-to-Peak Human Service Task Force

Minutes of June 15, 2016, meeting

Amy Hardy called the meeting to order at 9:15.

Present: Amy Hardy, Elizabeth Freedman, Chris Current, Kristi Vendetti, Dennis Whalen, Madeleine Case, Bob D'Alessandro, Miche Kurz, Cathy Benjamin, Julie Phillips, Dale Porter, Jenifer Fischer, Dawn Baumhover, Hansen Wendlandt, Janet Prell, Susan Gerhart.

Amy announced that Boulder County (BoCo) is not represented at today's meeting.

At Amy's request, the committee introduced themselves to newcomers Elizabeth Freedman, Directors of Programs at EFAA, and Madeleine Case, Director of Parent and Family Relations for Boulder Valley School District (BVSD).

Updates:

Kristi reported that she has been on the job for a couple of months. Initially, she made a lot of calls, but now not so many. She said that there needs to be more outreach to the targeted community. Her initial observation is that people need housing, especially single parents. She has not yet made calls in Ward, Jamestown and Gold Hill. Her challenge is to balance calls and outreach.

Kristi noted that Allenspark is served out of Longmont, but that Longmont is very different from the mountain communities. Mountain communities are not homogenous, but all are becoming gentrified. Mountain residents are invested in their communities.

Cathy said that her husband has asked Longmont to include Allenspark in their long-range planning with affordable housing as an ongoing priority.

Dawn said she believes that, within two to five years, there will be affordable housing in Nederland. She added that the Nederland Board of Trustees (BOT) is revising its housing code to allow for infill. The Nederland Planning Board (NPB) has to allow wiggle room on the codes.

Amy said that BoCo is needed partly because each town has its own code and partly because BoCo's codes are so restrictive. The current building cost in BoCo is \$250/sq. ft. According to Amy, there is a lot BoCo could do to alleviate some of the housing problems such as removing the restriction on renting parts of a house.

Elizabeth said that BoCo is working on a ten-year plan to end homelessness. They are looking at such things as zoning and incentives for developers. Amy replied that mountain issues are not considered in this planning.

Amy reiterated that the committee needs to supply data. Kristi said that only 31 children are enrolled in Nederland kindergarten, but at least 50 are needed to sustain the school. Families are not moving into the area.

Madeleine suggested presenting data from Nederland schools covering the last five years.

Serene said that it is not just new building that is needed but housing that could be AirBnB-like. She suggested that people could apply to be landlords and thus be able to rent out portions of their homes.

Dawn said that some homeowners are already doing this so that they can meet their mortgage or rent payments, although it is illegal.

Amy said that the committee should not get hung up on this issue but ask for a BoCo commissioner to sit down with them to discuss it.

Miche asked if this committee is the only one working on this to which Amy replied that this committee is the only one that is data-driven.

Angela asked if the committee should continue to seek non-profit status so that it can secure funding. She said that this could possibly be done under the umbrella of another non-profit.

Amy announced that she has left her position with BoCo United Way.

Elizabeth discussed working with IMA which is less formally structured than this group and mainly deals with disaster preparedness.

There was a discussion about qualifying for 501(3)c nonprofit status.

Miche said that it appears that BoCo is not responsible to its mountain citizens. He further said that we need a foot in the door starting with funding for the committee's chair position. Initially, that should be the only demand. The approach should be one of helping the County rather than being a gadfly.

Amy said that she cannot keep chairing the committee without a salary.

Dale said that the committee needs to define the position prior to approaching BoCo. Bob added that the committee needs to show how this position would help to achieve stated goals.

Kristi said that the committee needs to ask BoCo to purchase land on which to build housing units.

Dawn said that Hansen is working the system successfully.

Amy said the BoCo doesn't understand that members of the mountain community are underserved. Kristi said that they understand, but don't care.

Amy said that the committee can discuss its primary concerns such as housing, transportation, and health care, but still needs a leader who can organize for results.

A discussion followed on the role and importance of a dedicated committee chair.

Dale said he would look at the Colorado Grants that are available to 501 (3) c organizations.

Kristi emphasized that need to coordination among service-providers to the mountain communities.

Jenifer said she had talked with Dr. Mike Camarata about providing services through his office. She said that it is not only seniors who need counseling.

Elizabeth said that EFAA is looking into becoming a family resource center. If that were to occur, EFAA could possibly be the funding umbrella for this committee.

Amy reminded the group that this committee started as a response to the 2013 flood. She further said that the group needs to have money it can disburse to people in times of disaster.

Bob suggested putting a face on the story with examples of real people and the problems they are facing.

Amy said she needs help with the 6/28 BoCo meeting and asked for the names of people who might attend.

In response to Elizabeth's question about the format of the presentation, Amy responded that she will do the introduction and Jane will present her data.

Kristi said we need a call to action, but Serene replied that we still have not defined that action.

Dale warned that all the commissioners might not attend the meeting.

Julie announced that UA is again supporting a day of giving in September. She asked that anyone with a four-hour project contact her.

Amy again said that she cannot continue to chair the committee full-time. She asked for a volunteer to be co-chair.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

The next meeting is July 20, 9:00.

Amy adjourned the meeting at 11:00.