

Peak-to-Peak Human Service Task Force

Minutes of March 16, 2016, meeting.

Amy called the meeting to order at 9:05.

Present: Teresa Robertson, Jenifer Fischer, Kristi Venditti, Ressa Lively-Smith, Chris Current, Margie Patterson, Amy Hardy, Lonnie Howell, Serene Karplus, Lise Hildebrandt, Bob DeAllesandro, Angel Bond, Hansen Wendlandt, Julie VanDomeli, Susan Gerhart.

At Amy's request, the committee members and guests introduced themselves. Teresa is an R.N. and CNM who will make a presentation on sex and human trafficking at the next meeting.

Updates:

Amy and Julie announced that Kristi Venditti is the new mountain liaison person. Julie explained that the new position will support multiple agencies. After training, Kristi will work ten hours per week. In addition to working with people, Kristi will collect data that can be used for funding. She will be supplied with a work only cell phone. Julie said that Emergency Family Assistance Agency (EFAA) will supervise the position. To announce this new service to the community, Kristi will contact the local schools, and there will be an article in the Mountain-Ear.

In reporting on the housing situation, Hansen noted that all the Nederland mayoral candidates mentioned affordable housing as a priority. He wants to create a web page for Nederland Interagency Council on Homeless Encamping (NICHE).

Hansen met with Boulder County Housing Authority to discuss purchasing land in the Nederland area. They have identified several properties that would have to be annexed to the Town. He is working with the property owners. Hansen said he is still working with students from CU Denver who will build a house for free if the required funds are available and the land has been acquired.

Hansen reported that local school principals support the plan to build affordable housing. They suggested that the Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) might fund such a project if it supplied housing for local teachers.

Hansen reported on the latest NICHE meeting which included business leaders. According to Hansen, the local homeless population sued the City of Durango. The lawyers for the City said that it would be cheaper to build houses for the homeless than to fight the lawsuit.

Hansen said that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is resistant to doing anything to help people camped on USFS land. They do not have the funds to take care of people. The USFS has five ideas for managing behavior on public lands: no campfires on West Magnolia and Gordon Gulch; fee changes; dusk to dawn closures; prohibition of drugs and alcohol.

Hansen addressed the issue of local groups that claim the Food Pantry and the Sox and Sammies programs enable the transients and encourage to come to the Nederland area. He

explained the procedures used by both groups. Hansen also discussed a local, secret Facebook group that is also meeting with local agencies to address the problem.

Julie said the policy at Bridge House in Boulder for young children is to partner with the YWCA and offer three full days of daycare per week.

Another solution suggested was distinguishing between recreational campers and residential campers but Hansen says this would probably lead to lawsuits.

Angel said that RTD has changed the system to allow for more day passes to increase mobility. These passes are more expensive but non-profits can resell them for half price.

Serene asked for a clarification of the committee's position on homeless campers. Amy asked that this be tabled for a full discussion at a future meeting.

Lonnie reported on the Data Walk. Few parents attended. The data shows that alcohol, marijuana, and tobacco use by young people is greater in the Nederland area than other areas included in the survey. There are fewer extra-curricular activities for the youth of the area as compared with other areas. Amy said that depression is also more common among the area's young people.

There was discussion about getting the Peak-to-Peak area designated as rural.

Amy and Margie want to present the Peak-to-Peak data to at a public meeting which would include the Boulder County Commissioners and the new Nederland Board of Trustees.

Jenifer explained the Senior Reach program through which people aged 60 or older can receive short term counseling from a licensed counselor. Each person can get twenty sessions at no cost regardless of income. The program has received a grant which they intend to use in expanding the program to the mountain area. She distributed a brochure which describes the program and how to access it. Amy said that this committee can help spread the word.

Lise said that the Volunteer Connection through Foothills United Way has a new database platform which allows agencies to post volunteer opportunities. This information also appears in the Sunday Boulder Daily Camera and the Longmont Times Call.

Lise said that there is a Day of Caring in September when businesses work on community projects. She wants to connect the various groups to make this work better. Amy, Lise, and Chris will hold a meeting about volunteer needs in the area.

Amy said that this committee named transportation as focus area one year ago, but had not done much about it. She suggested that an hour and a half be set aside during the April meeting to discuss the topic.

Bob and Angel discussed rural transportation. Bob said a needs assessment discussion is needed: what are the needs; services available, gaps.

Amy H. adjourned the meeting at 10:55.

The next meeting will be April 20, at 9:00.