

Peak-to-Peak Human Service Task Force

Minutes of September 21, 2016, meeting.

Chair Dennis Whalen called the meeting to order at 9:06.

Present: Hansen Wendlandt, Julie Phillips, Ressa Lively-Smith, Karin Siefert, Chris Current, Colleen Sinclair, Kristi Venditti, Madeleine Case, Jill Dreves, Miche Kurz, Julie VanDomeli, Dawn Baumhover, Dennis Whalen, Sarah Buss, Susan Gerhart.

At Dennis's request, the committee members introduced themselves.

Chris explained the workings of the 11/12 health fair/emergency food assistance/Channel 9 express health fair. Dawn said she would work on having flu vaccine available at the fair. Dr. Camaratta will give the shots, but funding is necessary for the vaccine itself. Dawn said she has some money available for this. Counting funds volunteered from other organizations, most of the vaccine cost is covered.

Miche asked about flyers announcing and promoting the health fair. Dawn said she has save-the-date flyers available. Jill volunteered to design the banner for the fair.

Dennis reported that Dale Porter has requested \$800 to print 400 copies of the "Where to Get Help" booklet. Contributions from the Nederland Community Library, Ressa, EFAA, and Dawn will cover the cost.

Updates:

- Hansen reported that the Nederland Board of Trustees (BOT) and the Nederland Planning Commission have hired a consultant to put together a package for affordable housing.

Dawn said that there is some concern about conflicts of interest among planning board members.

Ressa said that some communities require developers to set aside a certain percentage of housing for affordable options. She asked if that could be implemented locally.

Hansen replied that these agencies want to tackle easier issues first.

Jill said that old town residents are concerned about housing density in their area. Dawn said that vacation rentals by owner are now taking up available local housing units.

Hansen suggested that a 1.5% tax on vacation rentals might be implemented and designated for affordable housing.

In response to questions about other places experiencing similar problems, Sarah said that there are several focus groups along the Front Range that are working on this problem.

There was a discussion about the effect grow houses are having on the local rental market.

- Reporting on NICHE, Hansen said the data on campers from this summer looks better. A larger police presence in popular camping areas seems to have lowered the rate of violence. However, the rate of violence in the town has remained about the same.

Hitchhiking has become harder, decreasing the number of campers. Those who do make it up here, hike into where ever they can.

Boulder's plan to ticket the homeless isn't working. Few people show up for the diversionary community service. Boulder is discussing a day shelter that would be open all year.

Julie said that Boulder feels that not ticketing the homeless makes the City feel more welcoming. The police chief says that the homeless are becoming more dangerous. City Council members believe that other Boulder County communities should pay more toward this problem.

Golden apparently has no homeless problem. It does not have shelters nor does it have any dispensaries.

Ressa asked why so many homeless are coming to the Nederland area.

Miche said it is a class issue and that it is only going to get worse.

There was a discussion about solutions for homelessness used by other communities.

Miche said that the food bank in Allenspark has no transients asking for aid. He believes this is because there is no easy transportation to the town.

Ressa said that 300 local households come in monthly to the Nederland Food Bank.

Sarah said that there are 500 homeless children in the Boulder Valley School District system.

Hansen suggested the term "home free" to describe people who were formerly referred to as "homeless." He also said that there needs to be a study to learn who these people are.

Julie reported that there are more tools available to help people. Sarah said that most available resources are for families.

Dawn said that there will be on meeting on Thursday, September 22, in Gold Hill to discuss the homeless problem and fire issues. According to Amy Hardy, affluent "weekend warriors" from elsewhere come to the mountains to party and present a significant fire and violence risk.

It was suggested that makers of high-end camping gear such as REI be approached for financial aid to help ameliorate the problem. Sarah suggested going to each retailer's foundations. Hansen said he will call REI.

- Reporting on the Mountain Human Services Collective, Julie said she submitted accreditation information to the United Way for a grant which, if approved, will help fund Kristi's position.

Sarah said that Boulder County wildfire mitigation personnel will be at the next meeting of this committee.

Boulder County Housing and Financial Counseling will also be present at the committee's next meeting.

Hansen expressed concern that the committee has no web presence. He said it would be valuable to have a Facebook page. Hansen volunteered to set this up. Dawn will ask Alisha to put a link to the page from the Town's website.

Kristi said that there are mental health vouchers which are available to anyone living in the burn area.

Julie asked that anyone with recovery needs from the fire contact her.

There was a discussion of a funded position to lead the group. Julie, with input from other group members, will write a job description and look into possible funding sources. When Chris asked about a time frame, Sarah said that it is a small enough amount and would fall under the "random requests" category. She further said it should be submitted by the end of September as the 2017 budget is being discussed now.

Julie said that there needs to be a physical agent. The Nederland Food Bank and the Gallery in Allenspark were suggested as potential physical agents.

Dennis suggested rotating the chair position every three or so months.

The meeting adjourned at

The next meeting is October 19, 9:00.