



Administration Building
West Hearing Room
5334 S. Prince St.
Littleton, CO 80120
303-795-4630
Relay Colorado 711

Kathleen Conti, District 1
Nancy Sharpe, Chair, District 2
Jeff Baker, District 3
Nancy Jackson, District 4
Bill Holen, Chair Pro Tem, District 5

Study Session September 21, 2020

The members of the Board of County Commissioners may attend study sessions virtually or in person, but due to social distancing requirements, presenters and the public may only attend virtually. The public may attend the study sessions (listening only) by calling 1-855-436-3656. The Board of County Commissioners may go into executive session during or at the conclusion of the study session as necessary to receive legal advice or discuss other confidential matters.

The Arapahoe County Board of County Commissioners typically holds weekly Study Sessions on Monday and Tuesday. Study Sessions (except for Executive Sessions) are open to the public and items for discussion are included on this agenda. Agendas (except for Executive Sessions agendas) are available through the Commissioners' Office or through the County's web site at www.arapahoegov.com. Please note that the Board may discuss any topic relevant to County business, whether or not the topic has been specifically noticed on this agenda. In particular, the Board typically schedules time each Monday under "Committee Updates" to discuss a wide range of topics. In addition, the Board may alter the times of the meetings throughout the day, or cancel or reschedule noticed meetings. Questions about this agenda? Contact the Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630 or by e-mail at commissioners@arapahoegov.com

Study Session Topics

9:00 A.M. Calendar And Board Updates

Michelle Halstead, Director, Communication and Administrative Services

10:00 A.M. *Initiative To Address Justice-Involved Homelessness

Discussion of a request for direction regarding the dedication of Arapahoe County resources related to an initiative to address justice-involved homelessness that has evolved over the course of several years, and seeking feedback from the Board of County Commissioners in order to assess what level, if any, of on-going participation there should be by Arapahoe County Government

Request: Information/Direction

Michelle Halstead, Director, Communication and Administrative Services

Don Klemme, Director, Community Resources

Cheryl Ternes, Director, Human Services

Shannon Carter, Director, Open Spaces

Keith Ashby, Purchasing Manager, Finance

Tiffanie Bleau, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Documents:

[BSR_INIATIVE_TO_ADDRESS_JUSTICE_INVOLVED_HOMELESSNESS_STUDY_SESSION_20200921.DOC](#)

11:00 A.M. E-Team Update

David Bessen,

Chair, E-Team

Director, Information Technologies

Break

1:00 P.M. *Executive Session

Executive Study Session and County Attorney Administrative Meeting [Section 24-6-402(4)(b)C.R.S.](As required by law, specific agenda topics will be announced in open meeting prior to the commencement of the closed and confidential portion of this session) (WHR)

Ron Carl, County Attorney

2:00 P.M. *East Colorado Small Business Development Center Annual Update

Update from the East Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Request: Information/Direction

Lisa Hudson, Director, East Colorado Small Business Development Center

Documents:

[ARAPAHOE COUNTY REQUEST 2021.PDF](#)

3:00 P.M. Administrative Meeting - The Equity Project Training

Board of County Commissioners

***To Be Recorded As Required By Law**

Arapahoe County is committed to making its public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities.

Assisted listening devices are available. Ask any staff member and we will provide one for you.

If you need special accommodations, contact the Commissioners' Office at 303-795-4630 or Relay Colorado 711.

Please contact our office at least 3 days in advance to make arrangements.



Board Summary Report

Date: September 10, 2020
To: Board of County Commissioners
From: Don Klemme, Director, Community Resources
Subject: Initiative to Address Justice-Involved Homelessness

Request and Recommendation

This Board Summary Report has been prepared to provide the BOCC with information regarding an initiative to address justice-involved homelessness that has evolved over the course of several years. Staff will provide information on the initiative and will seek BOCC feedback in order to assess what level, if any, of on-going participation there should be by Arapahoe County Government. Staff will request specific BOCC direction regarding the dedication of county resources (i.e., staff) to the initiative.

Background

Since 2015, one of the stated goals of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the Arapahoe County Justice Coordinating Committee has been to increase housing opportunities for the justice-involved with behavioral health disorders. Individuals in these two categories face exceptional challenges in securing affordable housing. In criminological research, lack of housing has been found to exacerbate a justice-involved person's rehabilitation, and it is particularly bad for those who have a behavioral health disorder.

In another arena, the Open Spaces Department has been addressing the impact of the homeless in parks and open spaces that are owned and maintained by the county. In fact, in October, 2018, the Open Spaces Department hosted, "Homelessness in Parks Workshop" in an effort to bring together state and local open spaces and parks professionals to discuss the problem and to seek out practices that will enable the county to address the issue. Many of the people who attended that workshop also participate on the JCC, so there was a synergy between those two arenas for the genesis of addressing the homeless issue.

The concomitant occupation of the Behavioral Health Subcommittee with homelessness, and the efforts of the Open Spaces Department with regard to homelessness identified the need for a broader effort in the county to address homelessness. To address this need, representatives from agencies that provide services to the homeless, such as Metro Denver Homelessness Initiative, Aurora Mental Health, AllHealth, Colorado Division of Housing, STRIDE, Ready to Work, Aurora Housing Authority, and Tri-County Health, began to meet to discuss options.

Over the course of approximately two years, with Commissioner Jackson coordinating efforts to address the problem, a number of meetings were held with this group of interested parties. As the meetings

progressed it became clear that funding would be necessary in order for there to be progress in addressing the homeless problem. Understanding that the county does not have funding specifically allocated to addressing this need, an initial focus was to explore funding mechanisms, such as the use of Social Impact Bonds (SIBs), to raise funding to address the problem. The City and County of Denver has realized success in addressing a similar problem using SIBs. However, the success of the Denver SIB, to a large extent, was attributable to the work of a number of City and County of Denver staff who worked extensively in conjunction with agency partners on that project. Arapahoe County staff have limited bandwidth to dedicate significant time to such a project.

Pursuit of a SIB remains a viable option to address the problem and this group continues to meet under the name, Arapahoe County Committee on Impacting Homelessness. This group is distinct from the Behavioral Health Subcommittee of the ACJCC. The “toolkit” group is a subset of the “Impacting Homelessness” group.

It is noteworthy that in March, 2020 at the ACJCC Visioning Summit, one of the three top priorities identified on which the ACJCC should focus was, “creation of a behavioral health-based alternative to jail.” The supportive housing initiative discussed in this Board Summary Report would, in fact, move the justice system in that direction.

In June 2020, participation in a permanent supportive housing toolkit process began for Commissioner Jackson and for the Criminal Justice Planning Coordinators. A description of that process is presented in the Discussion section of this Board Summary Report.

Links to Align Arapahoe

‘Service First’ may be advanced because it will make the local justice system more responsive to evolving community needs. ‘Fiscal Responsibility’ may be advanced because completion of a project such as this will result in lower recidivism as offenders released from jail will receive services to help them integrate into the community. Lower recidivism = lower costs to the criminal justice system. ‘Quality of Life’ may be advanced because having a well-coordinated criminal justice system is inextricable from public safety, community tranquility, and economic prosperity.

Discussion

In 2019, the ACJCC Behavioral Health Subcommittee Chair, Commissioner Jackson, became aware of a training opportunity to learn how to plan and fund a permanent supportive housing development in Colorado. The subcommittee received a presentation from the BeauXSimone Consulting firm about the training on October 4, 2019. The presentation discussed the available training and some of the successful developments they have fostered, including Providence at the Heights, a development serving ex-convicts and homeless persons organized by the Second Chance Center in Aurora.

The training, better known as a “toolkit,” is sponsored by the Colorado Department of Local Affairs’ Housing Division and the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority. BeauXSimone Consulting has been conducting annual toolkit sessions since 2014.

Beginning in June, 2020, Commissioner Jackson as well as Criminal Justice Planning Coordinators Kally Enright and Todd Spanier, have participated in these sessions. The toolkit takes a team (the Arapahoe County team also includes representatives of the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority, Aurora Mental

Health Center, and AllHealth Network), through a process to facilitate the development of permanent supportive housing, from project inception to various stages of planning to include target population, location and building design, funding opportunities (mostly state and federal housing vouchers and tax credits), onboarding developer and property manager partners, resident regulations, trauma-informed design, and harm-reduction principles. The toolkit training consists of nine, day-long training sessions which are spread out over several months.

In a recent meeting of the representatives of agencies who serve the homeless in Arapahoe County there was a report-out on developments associated with the county's toolkit participation. Per the report-out, the plan that has evolved from the toolkit is to serve, to the maximum extent possible, clients being supervised by justice programs in Arapahoe County, namely, problem solving courts, probation, pretrial mental health program (Navigator), and "releases" who completed the Jail Based Behavioral Services program in the jail through a supportive housing facility. This addresses a clear need, as identified by the experts who serve this population.

The referenced report-out discussed negotiations with the South Metro Fire District for the right to develop, on land owned by the fire district, a facility with roughly 100 single-occupancy units to serve the identified homeless population. The property is a five-acre parcel located in Centennial adjacent to the north side of the Arapahoe County Lima Plaza campus. It also was reported that the likely project sponsor will be All-Health or the South Metro Fire District, and that a search for a developer to work with the group to develop the property will begin soon.

Given that the project has progressed to the point where there are discussions regarding a site for the project, the size of a facility, a program sponsor, and that a search for a developer is imminent, it became apparent that the full Board of County Commissioners should be briefed on the project so that the BOCC ultimately can provide:

1. direction regarding the willingness of the BOCC to have Arapahoe County Government (ACG) participate in such a project, irrespective of a location;
2. direction regarding the process (e.g., does the BOCC support participation of ACG in the toolkit process);
3. direction regarding location possibilities; and
4. direction regarding continued deployment of county resources (i.e., staff) on the project and other matters.

Alternatives

In the event the BOCC decides to not dedicate resources to the toolkit effort, the supportive housing project may be able to proceed without official participation of ACG. For example, someone from another agency can take the lead and if the community wants a supportive housing project for the justice-involved to move forward, it can. Another alternative is that the BOCC could support the exploration and creation of a behavioral health alternative to the jail without a supportive housing component.

Fiscal Impact

On-going participation by Arapahoe County Government on this project will involve staff resources, including time dedicated to the project by the Criminal Justice Planning Coordinators (research and data collection for the toolkit) and by the Administrative Specialist of the Board of County Commissioners (schedule and attend meetings and take minutes). It is conceivable that should the project proceed at some point in the future there could be a request for CDBG or HOME funding.

Attorney Comments

Reviewed By:

Cheryl Ternes, Human Services Department Director
Shannon Carter, Open Spaces and Intergovernmental Services Department Director
Michelle Halstead, Director of Communications and Administrative Services



East Colorado Small Business Development Center Network

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Arapahoe County Commissioners
Arapahoe County

Dear Arapahoe County Commissioners,

First, I want to express my appreciation to Arapahoe County for the past support and commitment to the East Colorado Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Arapahoe County has been very supportive and a great partner. Your sponsorship along with others has allowed us to provide a substantial impact to businesses in your community.

Over the last 4½ years, East CO SBDC has worked in our region with 2,384 distinct existing and startup businesses to support 1,616 jobs, and had economic impact including loans obtained and sales increases of \$109 M. During this period, we have conducted 13,790 sessions with clients for a total of 22,376 hours of consulting and 96 new businesses have started.

Without our sponsors, these numbers would be substantially lower. We depend upon our communities and private sector to allow us to provide local consulting. As has been mentioned in the past your investment in us is an investment in your community.

Thank you for your past sponsorship, I very much appreciate it. For the upcoming year 2021, we would ask that you consider increasing your annual contribution to \$15,000. During this year, 2020, we have had drastic increase in demand to support our small businesses with COVID-19 pivot strategies and survival. Financial contributions and professional business assistance provided to the East Colorado SBDC have generated significant results in the communities it serves, and with your help, we will see more profitable small businesses, fewer bankruptcies or failures, new economic growth and a more dynamic community.

The East Colorado SBDC is dedicated to assisting small business owners and entrepreneurs in establishing and growing small businesses. The Monfort College of Business hosts the East CO SBDC at the University of Northern Colorado. The University of Northern Colorado Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization and is entrusted to provide support and steward donations for the University of Northern Colorado including the East CO SBDC. Again, thank you for your past support and we look forward to the ongoing relationship in the future. If you have any questions, please contact me via email.

Best Regards,

Lisa Hudson

Director of the East Colorado SBDC