



Human Services and Aging Commission

Mission: To identify and bridge gaps in human services provided in the Lyons community.

Commissioners: Emily Dusel (Co-Chair), Amy Reinholds (Co-Chair), Ellen Keane, Meg Waters, and Amanda Bushek

Liaisons: Wendy Miller (Board of Trustees), Lori LeGault (town staff)

Human services needs in the Lyons community currently identified by the Human Services and Aging Commission:

- The annual income below which a family of four qualifies for the school free/reduced lunch program in Colorado is \$44,000. Between 10%-15% of kids in both Lyons schools qualify for free/reduced lunch.
- The self-sufficiency standard for Boulder County for two adults, a preschooler, and a school-age child is \$75,906. This is the level of family income above which the family doesn't rely on external agencies to have their basic needs met. If 10%-15% of Lyons kids qualify for free/reduced lunches, and if self-sufficiency in our county requires nearly 75% higher income than the free/reduced lunch cutoff, then presumably a significant proportion of our community is not currently self-sufficient.
- 40 families from Lyons are getting help from the LEAF Food Pantry every week.
- LEAF assists around 100 individuals per week. LEAF offers three programs, Nutrition and Healthy Living, Individual and Family Advocacy, and Poverty Awareness and Education.
- HSAC estimates that between 25% and 30% of Lyons-area residents rely on some form of assistance.
- Senior needs can be expected to increase, following the national trend of the 'silver tsunami.'
- Lyons library regularly delivers books to approximately 5 home-bound residents.

HSAC 2016 goals:

- The Human Services and Aging Commission recommends that the town of Lyons have a budget for human services. Many towns of similar size support programs such as food assistance, senior services, at-risk youth services, and local nonprofits that provide other services.
 - HSAC proposes that the town set aside a certain amount (for example, 3% or \$25,000) for a Goodwill Fund. We are basing this concept on how other towns support human service needs.
 - Town of Lyons Board of Trustees would decide how to distribute the Goodwill Fund. Nonprofits would submit requests for small grants. HSAC commissioners would coordinate and do due diligence on requests. Then town Board would decide how to divvy up the funds. If the town budget for 2017 includes this type of fund, HSAC will set up the (volunteer-propelled) infrastructure for grant request and distribution processes.
- Other HSAC goals for the remainder of 2016:
 - Make programming recommendations to the Parks and Recreation department such as



prevention/intervention activities for at-risk youth, senior programming, and for programming that includes people with disabilities. HSAC will not be asking for any paid staff to support programming. Rather, we recommend all programming be run through Parks and Recreation.

- Resolve Meals on Wheels issues; keep the program running.
- HSAC would like to conduct a formal needs assessment survey to get a better handle on which human services are needed most in town.
- Continue to coordinate between a multitude of agencies and nonprofits to make sure individuals and families in the Lyons area have their basic needs met and to be prepared in the event of another natural disaster.
- Research St Vrain Valley Safe Schools Coalition collaborative opportunities
- Provide a resource table at the 9Health Fair in fall 2016.
- Find ways to fill transportation gaps for members of the Lyons community: Link up Lyons Organization of Volunteers (LOV) with transportation opportunities with Via – possibly support a new transportation program with LEAF.
- Support affordable housing, safe accessory dwelling units, and safety for all renters in town. We support tenant/landlord protection and education encouraging safe, healthy, fair rentals.
- Collaborate with the Lyons library to provide volunteer opportunities for youth who might not fit in with other volunteer organizations in town.
- Begin the process of updating “Get Help Guide,” for publication of a new edition in early 2017.

Accomplishments since the Commission was created in 2014:

- Get Help resource guide
- Communication in newspapers
- Medical equipment loan closet
- Mental health vouchers and Mental Health Partners at Milestone Medical Center
- Lyons Prepared

Collaboration with human services organizations:

For a list of organizations the Commission has collaborated with, see <http://www.leaflyons.org/collaborative-partners.html>