



Town of Lyons Human Services & Aging Commission (HSAC)
Work Session — May 10, 2016

In attendance: Commissioners Emily Dusel, Amy Reinholds, Ellen Keane, and Meg Waters;
Board Liaison Wendy Miller; Staff Liaison Lori LeGault

The purpose of this work session is to prepare for the HSAC presentation to the Lyons Board of Trustees meeting on June 20.

HSAC mission: Identifying gaps in human services provided in our community.

The group's emphasis initially was triaging those who needed the most help after the flood, led by Julie Van Domelen and Joycelyn Fankhouser. People needed help negotiating recovery processes. HSAC helped with volunteer coordination, setting up case management. We worked with the United Way on promoting the Mental Health Voucher program. We launched Lyons Prepared, now part of the Fire Protection District. For the first year, we were very focused on flood recovery and on implementing the human services plan created by the human services Recovery Working Group.

After about a year, HSAC started to focus on other aspects of the recovery action plan. We've accomplished: Creation of a medical equipment loan closet, continuation of case management via LEAF, creation of a local resource guide, communication about available human services in local newspapers. We coordinated with Mental Health Partners to bring to town a mental health provider (who now has a wait list). Items from the recovery action plan that HSAC has not accomplished: Creation of a community resource center to house services; the problem is there is no physical space available. LEAF has been stepping into that position because the town doesn't have an available location.

The board presentation will include a short background of HSAC, but will focus primarily on the needs we see in our community. The BoT presentation will also talk about the barriers to accessing services available in nearby communities. More than 40 families use the Lyons food pantry every week, even though there are food pantries in Longmont and Boulder.

A lot of families are struggling to the point of needing to come get food. Despite the fact that we've lost economic diversity since the flood, the number of people using the Lyons food pantry has increased 10% to 20% every year. "A lot of people in this community are a paycheck away from disaster."—Emily Dusel

HSAC can also provide the BoT with a list of groups the commission has collaborated with in the past.



Needs assessment: In the near future, HSAC needs to dissect and prioritize human services needs in our community. We should prioritize safety net services, such as mental health services, at-risk youth prevention efforts, and food support.

- We will pull some statistics from the Boulder County Trends Report, from the Boulder County Community Foundation. That should show the basic income it takes in this area to be self-sufficient and not rely on extra services. Ellen will see if they can pull off Lyons by ZIP code.
- Ellen has tried to track down data on at-risk youth behaviors (suicide, drug use, etc.). She contacted Boulder County Public Health. They will include Lyons high school in the fall 2016 Healthy Kids Colorado survey, but we're not sure when data will be available.
- We will also refer to the 2014 Housing Needs Assessment, which would have basic info such as what percentage of people are paying above 30% of their income toward housing.
- We will include the summary report of findings from the Lyons Community Conversation that Laura Mathews from the Boulder County Area Agency on Aging compiled from the Aging Well in Lyons 1/25/2016 event.
- Ellen will look into data on the free and reduced lunch program from the school district.

Pulling together all this data will help give a better idea of needs in Lyons, but HSAC also recommends undertaking an informal needs assessment, which can be performed as efficiently and effectively as possible. Then in the near future, we would like to do a more comprehensive needs assessment. Information that doesn't exist in our community: What needs are being met sufficiently within our community? What services are folks accessing outside our community? What needs are not being met? Individuals might be asked whether they are aware of which services they might be eligible for, and whether they've ever accessed those services. Needs assessment should include needs of people with disabilities. HSAC will be reaching out to grad students for needs assessment work.

Funding from town for 2016:

How do we spend the \$15,000 budget and use Lori's 10 hours a week? Lori and Dave discussed. Dave's understanding is that the \$15,000 is in the Parks & Rec budget, so available to Lori for recreational programming only. In addition, it is Dave's understanding that HSAC doesn't actually direct Lori's time during the 10 hours/week, as she cannot report to volunteers, but we can advise her on what topics her events should be addressing.

We should address this with the board: Is the \$15,000 available for anything other than rec programming? Is it our place to establish specific goals for this programming, and to determine how we assess the results of specific events?



Lori is currently working with Boulder Psychological Services, which will provide articles on parenting to the Recorder. HSAC is very supportive of this effort. Ellen: After the loss in Pinewood Springs last weekend, we should ask them to provide an article in the paper about grief, ASAP. She's also working on putting together a parenting workshop or series of workshops, might sync with the Lyons Elementary PTO, and an addiction prevention speaker. HSAC recommends that free child care be provided at all events planned for parents. Also, discussed having a short survey at the end of each event to gauge effectiveness.

Staff position into the future:

2017 goals for the position... In the board presentation, this should be "What HSAC wants for 2017." Are we going to ask for a position this year? At the last HSAC meeting, Connie liked the recommendation that a certain percentage of the budget go to HHS services—perhaps organizations such as Golden Gang could apply for small grants. It also seems helpful to have a human services-focused staff member, to be the focal point for coordinating human services in town, since there's only so much volunteers can accomplish. The Town Administrator would have to manage the person, so she would have to be capable and willing to take that on.

The commissioners will examine what other towns of similar size are doing in this regard; each agreed to research a couple of specific towns. We will ask:

- How do you manage human services needs for your residents?
- What's the structure for town government to support human services—do you have a dedicated staff member?
- How much money does the town spend on human services, or percentage of budget?
- What's the population of the area served?
- How do you allocate the budget?

HSAC should also include a specific recommendation for 2017 regarding the Meals on Wheels and Golden Gang, if issues with both are not resolved before the BoT presentation.

Other notes:

- The LEAF board is considering the degree to which LEAF can support the Meals on Wheels program. The mission of the Golden Gang is to provide nutritional support. Future of Golden Gang seems uncertain.



- Jeana Johnson has announced that she is starting a shuttle service. Perhaps they could help with transportation challenges some residents face?

Action items:

- Homework for Commissioners to prepare for 15-min presentation to Board of Trustees on June 20: research other communities for how they fund, manage, and coordinate health & human services, including budget and staff.

Next Meeting: May 24, 6-7:30 p.m., Lyons Town Hall