



Town of Lyons  
Human Services and Aging Commission  
June 14, 2016  
Working Session Minutes

Attendees:

Commissioners: Emily Dusel (Co-Chair), Amy Reinholds (Co-Chair), Ellen Keane, Meg Waters  
Liaison: Wendy Miller (Board of Trustees)

Agenda

- Prepare for presentation to Board of Trustees on HSAC goals.

General Business

- a. Golden Gang/Meals on Wheels (Emily Dusel, Amy Reinholds, and Wendy Miller)
  - LEAF board met to discuss Golden Gang and has declined to take over the program, or Meals on Wheels; LEAF needs to focus on the programs it's already providing. Grant inflow has slowed down, so budget is getting tighter.
  - Lyons Longevity has declined to take over Meals on Wheels due to lack of resources.
  - Longmont Meals on Wheels has also declined to take over Meals on Wheels.
  - Boulder County Area Agency on Aging may take on Meals on Wheels. AAA is more restrictive than Golden Gang in service provision (no one under 65 can participate, no sliding scale, dietary restrictions, lots of reporting), but if Golden Gang goes away, BoCo AAA might step up.
  - If Lyons Meals on Wheels goes away, there are three people who require home-delivered meals. Where could meals be cooked if Golden Gang went away? Some towns provide free rents to nonprofits... Might LVV commercial kitchen be used for a small fee? (But they don't have a grease trap.)
- b. LEAF is competing with EFAA and OUR Center and similar organizations and has started getting lots of "no"s on grant requests. Money's no longer flowing as freely, now that the flood is further in the past. LEAF is going to have to cut back programs if they don't get more financial support locally.



- c. Lori LeGault is coordinating between Via and Lyons Volunteers, which is a great idea. Maybe Lyons Volunteers could provide transportation within Lyons and get reimbursed by Via and/or CareConnect (if passenger is over 55)?

### Board Presentation

- HSAC will present to the Board of Trustees on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Presentation will last 5-10 minutes. This is an important presentation because this commission is the newest and probably one of the least understood of all Town of Lyons boards or commissions (Wendy).
- Presentation will start by sharing the mission of HSAC:  
Identifying [and bridging] gaps in human services provided in our community.
- Presenters can briefly discuss history of the commission.
- We will hand out the “Get Help Guide” and a one-page document. One side will list the accomplishments of HSAC since formation, as well as the organizations HSAC has partnered with. The other side will show HSAC’s current understanding of community needs, and our goals moving forward.
- Human services needs we’re aware of in Lyons and surrounding area:
  - 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 self-sufficiency in our county requires nearly 75% higher income than the free/reduced lunch cutoff, then presumably a large proportion of our community is not currently self-sufficient.
  - 40 families from Lyons are getting help from the LEAF Food Pantry every week.
  - LEAF estimates that between 25% and 30% of Lyons-area residents rely on food assistance.
  - HSAC would like to conduct a formal needs assessment survey to determine which human services are needed most in town.
- HSAC believes Town of Lyons should have a budget for human services. Many towns of similar size support programs such as food assistance, senior services, at-risk youth services, local nonprofits. We propose that the town set aside either a specific dollar amount or a portion of its annual budget



for human services grants. This could perhaps be called something like the Town of Lyons Goodwill Fund. Local nonprofits would apply to receive grants from this pot of money. Town Board of Trustees would make decisions about distribution of grants. HSAC commissioners would coordinate RFPs/grant requests, do due diligence, and make recommendations (recusing themselves in the event of a conflict of interest). HSAC research has uncovered examples of other towns funding human services in this way, including Grand Lake.

We envision portions of the Goodwill Fund going to:

- Golden Gang/Meals on Wheels (whatever becomes of Golden Gang). Used to be funded by town at \$4,000/year.
- Lyons Volunteers to support local transportation needs. \$5,000 to Lyons Volunteers would pay for 10,000 miles, which is about 300 round trips to Boulder or Longmont—less than one trip per day.
- LEAF. It costs \$130,000 for LEAF to operate programs; 15% of that is overhead. LEAF gets \$10,000 from county and hopes to receive \$20,000 from LCF. Perhaps town could fund at around that same level—maybe \$18,000? It's worth noting that car repairs are one of the things LEAF funds most frequently because without a working car, Lyons residents have very limited transportation options. Also town might support LEAF's food pantry and case management services provided by Janaki Jane.
- Scholarships for prevention/intervention programs offered through the Lyons Parks & Rec department.
- Early learning fund.
- Summertime hot meals for kids in free/reduced lunch program during school year (Longmont offers this).
- Overall fund amount of \$30,000 seems reasonable to HSAC commissioners.
- HSAC goals for the near future:
  - Resolve Meals on Wheels issues; keep program running.
  - Continue to coordinate between a multitude of agencies and nonprofits to make sure people have their basic needs met. Discussion around whether the town, or perhaps LEAF, should hire someone to coordinate this.
  - Should HSAC continue to advise on Lori LeGault's extra 10 hours/week and \$15,000 budget? Lori has been doing great work, but recreational programming isn't in our wheelhouse—unless it extends into prevention/intervention.



Ideas for prevention/intervention type programming from Lori/Town of Lyons:

- Annual programming around drug prevention, suicide prevention, bullying.
- Dating, respectful relationships. Domestic violence shelters will provide speakers on healthy dating.
- Feather Berkower's parenting safe children program.
- Could Lori use part of the \$15,000 programming budget for scholarships for things like mindfulness training?
- It would be nice to have some of Lori's summer youth programming involve volunteer projects, coordinated with Lyons Volunteers. Maybe also get more local kids (local kids who aren't in Leo, aren't in band, honor society, etc.) involved in volunteering at the festivals.

Next Meeting:

June 27, 12:45-2:00 p.m., Lyons Town Hall