



**Longmont Housing and Human Services Advisory Board
Minutes of May 14, 2020 Virtual Meeting**

- Members Present: Ann Baldwin, Jake Marsing, Madelyn Woodley (left the meeting at 8:00 pm), Graham Steers, Polly Christensen (Council Liaison), Brian Coppom, Kaitlin Abbitt, Shaquita Yarbrough, Deanna Blair, and Karen Phillips
- Members Absent: None
- Staff Present: Karen Roney, Kathy Fedler, Eliberto Mendoza, Nicole Blair, Susan Wolak, Dawn Quintana
- Guests Present: Eric Hozempa via audio connection.
- Agenda Item 1: ***Call to Order:*** LHHSAB Chair Brian Coppom called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.
- Agenda Item 2: ***Public invited to be heard:*** Eric Hozempa via audio connection, Mr. Hozempa didn't have any comments.
- Agenda Item 3: ***Approve minutes from the March 12, 2020 meeting:*** Jake Marsing called for a motion to approve the minutes; Kaitlin Abbitt seconded the motion. Deanna Blair and Ann Baldwin abstained as they were absent from the March 12, 2020 meeting. Motion passed 7-0-2.
- Agenda Item 4: ***Select HHSAB member to serve as Technical Review Group (TRG) liaison and recommend TRG members:*** Kathy Fedler reviewed the memo to the Housing and Human Service Advisory Board dated April 4, 2020. She pointed out that we need the TRG to function as the reviewing body for Affordable Housing applications for one more year, while staff works with City Council later this year to determine the future of the TRG going forward. Five positions have terms that are expiring and the annual appointment of the HHSAB liaison needs to occur. All five of the TRG members whose terms are expiring would like to continue to serve and staff is recommending reappointment of all five members. Advisory Board Member Deanna Blair stated that one TRG member was her realtor years ago; the advisory board determined there is no conflict. A motion to reappointment the five TRG members was made by Jake Marsing and seconded by Deanna Blair. Passed unanimously.

Jake Marsing served as the TRG liaison in 2019, and stated he would be happy to serve in this role again. Brian Coppom recommended that Jake Marsing to serve as the liaison for the TRG Group. Graham Steers made that motion and Ann Baldwin seconded the motion to appoint Jake Marsing as the HHSAB representative to the TRG. The motion passed, with Madelyn Woodley abstaining.

Agenda Item 5: Updates and feedback on the below.

- a. 2020 – 2024 Consolidated Plan and Housing Needs Assessment - Kathy Fedler reviewed the Consolidated Plan summary and Housing Needs Assessment with the advisory board.
At this point building is moving forward and planning reported no big decline in applications. Projects that the city has funded are moving forward, staff hasn't heard of anything in jeopardy or at risk of not moving forward at this time. Affordable housing is not in danger of having any allocated monies being removed for 2020 but 2021 could be different based on COVID-19. The advisory board had some questions and discussion was had around the information that was shared. Questions and comments were as follows: Can we use CDBG to replace lost government revenue? No we cannot. Trend that no attached housing is being built and staff felt that, that trend would continue. Are any units that the city subsidize being used for Air BNB? Staff explained that there are procedures in place to avoid this and staff feels comfortable that this is not happening with units that the city invests in. Question whether the need for assistance for rent/mortgage has increased and staff noted that yes this has increased. The OUR Center reported a huge increase at the beginning of the pandemic but now that the UIB (Unemployment Insurance Benefits) has kicked in, it has slowed down. What happens to people who rent but aren't eligible for services, what are we doing to retain the residents in the middle income who are barely making it? Staff shared that the funding that the city has control over is small in the grand scheme of things, and efforts are made to have a full range of services and housing offered within the plan. Federal funding limits assistance to those with income below 80% AMI but the Regional Housing Plan goes up to 120% AMI, but that would be dependent on getting non-federal funding available in a sufficient amount to allow for assistance at those levels – such as the ballot measure we were hoping to move on this fall that now will not happen. The Partners are cognizant of this and working on including more options for households who fall in this level.

b. 2020 Action Plan in light of COVID and additional funding - Kathy Fedler took the advisory board through the Proposed 2020 CDBG and CDBG-CV Funding. Repurposing 2020 funding to COVID-19 needs - a total amount of \$328,388.67 is being repurposed as follows \$258,388.67 is being repurposed to Individual Assistance in the form of a grant, likely to The OUR Center to use for individuals, \$70,000 is Longmont's portion of the COVID Recovery/Relief Center. New CDBG-Covid funds would provide \$87,509 for Individual Needs and \$200,000 for small businesses (primarily micro-enterprises). Question was raised as to why/how The OUR Center was selected and how are we ensuring the monies are being utilized. The OUR Center is most prepared and well known in the community as the provider for this type of assistance. All other Boulder County jurisdictions who are receiving this money are following the same plan to grant money to existing agencies who are already staffed and doing the work. There would be an agreement with The OUR Center since CDBG funding has requirements that have to be met. There would be a meeting beforehand followed by a contract and detailed oversight. Question around repurposing the rehab monies towards small business assistance. Rehab funding was chosen as people didn't want workers in their homes due to COVID-19, and it will be quite a while before the rehab programs is able to return due to COVID-19 restrictions. The rehab program will finish up what is in process and will continue to serve emergencies such as water heaters, furnaces etc. Small business assistance was chosen because for every job that you bring back you help a family survive. By saving a small business it enables that business to bring back employees which affects their families' ability to survive and live. It is hoped that at least some of these monies are grants that will be awarded through the Strongmont Fund and the small businesses would not have to pay them back. The Strongmont Fund which is comprised of funds from the City of Longmont, the Longmont Downtown Development Authority, the Longmont Economic Development Partnership, and donations from the broader community, will provide grant funding to local small businesses as they navigate the re-opening process and adapt to the 'new normal'. The Longmont Community Foundation is managing the fund and overseeing the grant application process. The city along with Longmont City Council are both repurposing monies into this fund. Advisory board is in approval of staff's recommendations to repurpose 2020 money and the use of the newly awarded CDBG-CV funding.

Agenda Item 6: Update on human services needs assessment and review 2021 human service funding options.

Eliberto Mendoza stated that our 2020 human services needed assessment process is delayed until August 2020, due to impact of COVID-19. Based on this delay, Eliberto presented the various human service agency funding scenarios to the advisory board for their input: . There is a lot of uncertainty as to the amount of funding that will be available in 2021, but it is safe to assume 2021 funding will be reduced. City of Boulder is already planning on suspending their annual RFP process and Boulder County is waiting on what Longmont plans to do before they make a decision about their 2021 funding process.

There was discussion and questions around the different options. The advisory board definitely wanted accountability and to simplify the application process as stress on the agencies right now is huge. A simplified process would be beneficial as agencies are probably applying for numerous other grants due to not being able to hold their annual fundraisers because of the COVID-19 restrictions. The advisory board was clear that they did not want to do anything that could possibly hurt the agencies by postponing the application process, but they did want to consider the updated needs assessment information for the 2021 process, if at all possible. The advisory board was interested in releasing some kind of application process that gives everyone the opportunity to ask for money. Staff shared that it is plausible to release an application in mid-late September.

Jake Marsing motioned for delaying the release of the application until the completion of the Human Services Needs Assessment (HSNA) and with the assumption that COVID-19 impacts will be reflected in the HSNA (will surface during the June focus group sessions). Staff will bring back a specific timeline for the application process, as well as a simplified version of the process, at the June meeting. The motion was seconded by Deanna Blair. Passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Update on Longmont Housing Authority (LHA) - Karen Roney provided an overview of the proposed changes to the operational relationship between the LHA and the City. This relationship will be formalized through an Intergovernmental Agreement adopted by both the LHA Board and the City Council; target date for approval is May 26, 2020. The goal of this relationship is to create a sustainable operational model for the LHA; the timeframe to accomplish this could take up to three years.

Agenda Item 8: *Site Visit Updates*: Tabled for June agenda.

a. Longmont Meals on Wheels

- b. Center for People with Disabilities
- c. Boulder County Legal Services

Agenda Item 9: **Other business:** Strongmont Fund – Chair invited Eric Hozempa to answer some questions that were raised about the Strongmont Fund and process. Strongmont Fund is for small businesses with 25 or fewer employees. Application will be available on May 18, 2020 and decisions made May 26, 2020 with the granting of dollars shortly thereafter. Both public and private monies are being raised to support this fund.

Polly Christensen shared that Jim Golden, CFO for the city is anticipating an \$18 million shortfall in the City’s General Fund due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. Staff is continually tracking data and updating its projections; it’s a very fluid scenario and constantly changing.

Agenda Item 10: **Adjournment:** There being no other business to conduct the meeting adjourned by consent at 9:30 p.m.