

## **Colorado Springs / El Paso County Continuum of Care (CoC)**

**Presentation to:**

**Colorado Springs City Council**

**8 June 2015**

**Shawna Kemppainen, Chair  
Mike DeGrant, Vice Chair**

### **Contact Information**

The Colorado Springs / El Paso County Continuum of Care governing board chose the Pikes Peak United Way as its administrator. The primary contact for the CoC is PPUW Vice President of Income & Housing Stability, Anne M. Beer:  
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## **HUD Directives**

- Form a Continuum of Care (CoC) structure which represents all relevant stakeholders
- Create and execute a strategic plan which aligns with the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) plan: "Opening Doors Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness"
- Meet program and funding regulatory requirements

## **Local Directives**

- Identify local needs, and develop, execute and continuously maintain a plan to meet the needs
- Coordinate and leverage local, State, and Federal resources
- Ensure system of care meets local needs and Federal/State requirements, including accountability and cost effectiveness
- Provide advocacy, public education, and awareness of issues concerning homelessness and the people impacted

### *Notes:*

- *HUD does not generally specify how to meet requirements; does provide specific data to be collected, indicators to be measured and outcomes reported, and areas to be addressed*

## **Continuum of Care Structure**

General membership comprised of interested stakeholders / community members

Governing Board elected by general membership (13-21 people by Charter)

- 13 Governing Board members
- 4 City and County ex-officio members
- 1 CoC administrator

Representing:

- Public, private, and nonprofit
- Faith-based, civic, business, youth, families, individuals, mental health, domestic violence, health care, veterans, aging, housing, and services
- Broad range of skills and points of view

Committees, councils, ad hoc committees

*Notes:*

- *Reference Charter and structure diagram with stakeholder categories*

## **Timeline of Structure Development**

2012-2013:

- Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act
- CoC Strategic Planning Committee formed to review requirements

2013-2014:

- Interim Governing Board formed (volunteers and recruits)
- Charter developed
- Board composition/representation/skills identified; members recruited

2014-2015:

- General membership approved charter and inaugural Governing Board
- Committees formed or affirmed
- RFP issued for development of strategic plan

*Notes:*

- *Initial formal work from 2003 – 2012 under old requirements & structure*

## Our Long-Term Community Goals

- We are dedicated to ensuring our community is healthy and vibrant so that **all families and individuals have access to housing and services** that allow them to optimize their self-sufficiency.
- To achieve this broad goal, we are committed to **strengthening our CoC** so that we **sustain a durable system of care that prevents and ends homelessness and helps individuals achieve long-term stability**.
- This collaborative system of care depends on healthy **partnerships within and among nonprofit and faith-based organizations, private businesses, governmental entities, philanthropic individuals and organizations, the investment community, and citizens**.
- We are committed to **identifying and meeting our community's needs** and satisfying the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s definition of the Continuum of Care (CoC), and **meeting those requirements**.
- In meeting HUD's requirements, the Colorado Springs/El Paso County Continuum of Care Program provides funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and State and local governments to **quickly re-house homeless individuals and families to minimize trauma and dislocation; promotes access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs; and optimizes self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness**.

### *Notes:*

- *Refer to Charter, page 1*

## Guiding Principles

1. **We believe that the issues that may contribute to a household's homelessness can best be addressed once people are housed.** People who are homeless or are on the verge of homelessness should be returned to or stabilized in permanent housing as quickly as possible and connected to the resources they need to sustain housing. As a community, we share HUD's commitment to prevent homelessness, reduce length of stays in emergency shelters, and reduce recidivism as part of our approach to ensuring our community is responsive to the housing needs which our citizens face.
2. **We believe in a Systematic Local Strategy.** HUD expects our CoC to take a systematic approach to both reaching out to connect with those in need and providing housing and services. This is not simply a requirement, but a best practice we intend to pursue vigorously.
3. **We believe that a Collaborative Umbrella is the best approach.** Homeless initiatives organized under a collaborative system bring together service providers, consumers, businesses, public officials, and citizens to work together to identify, work toward, and achieve common goals that will facilitate the prevention of and recovery from homelessness.
4. **We are committed to meeting and respecting people where they are** as we engage and support them in moving toward a permanent housing solution.
5. The Colorado Springs/El Paso County Continuum of Care **Governance Board (GB) exists to plan and support implementation of strategies** that will support our collaborative community-based system of housing and services for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness within the City of Colorado Springs and El Paso County.
6. **Our GB uses the Continuum of Care (CoC) model mandated** by the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act of 2009 (HEARTH Act) amendment to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as further described and disseminated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CoC Program interim rule (24 CFR Part 578) (the Interim Rule).

*Notes:*

- *Refer to Charter, page 2*

## CoC Accomplishments

Annual Homeless Assessment Report (1 Oct – 30 Sep)

Covers: Emergency Shelters; Transitional Housing; Permanent Housing

	<b><u>2013-14</u></b>	<b><u>2012-13</u></b>
People served (all)	4,241	4,032
People in families	1,355	1,176
Individuals	2,886	2,856
Veterans served	504	430
Veterans in families	56	32
Veteran individuals	448	398

Additional Individuals and Families Assisted in 2013-14

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Rapid Rehousing & Prevention	440
Veterans Administration Supportive Housing (VASH)	470
Supportive Services for Veteran Families	875

2014-15 Winter Shelters

- Capacity expanded from 65 to 210
  - Springs Rescue Mission from 35 to 57; full most nights
  - Salvation Army from 30 (cold weather only) to 153 (low barrier & every night); averaged ~130
- >25,000 nights of shelter
- ~1,400 unduplicated individuals served
- Resource Advocate Program day services at Springs Rescue Mission
- Improvements for 2015-16 identified: security; in-reach; case management



## **Funds Managed by / Coordinated with CoC (2013-14)**

Managed by the CoC:

- HUD CoC Homeless Assistance Program \$2,144,573

Coordinated with the CoC:

- City Entitlement Emergency Solutions Grants \$ 203,084
- State Allotment Emergency Solutions Grants \$ 124,200
- City HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance \$ 206,000
- City Community Development Block Grant \$ 217,600
- City General Funds \$ 357,770
- County Community Development Block Grant \$ 281,500
- HUD Veterans Administration Supportive Housing \$1,391,808
- Veterans Administration Supportive Services \$ 704,000
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families \$1,300,000

Subtotal: \$4,785,962

**Total funds managed by / coordinated with CoC: \$6,930,535**

*Notes:*

- *County CDBG must be used outside city limits, and is aimed at preventing rather than ending homelessness; 2013-14 funds included in this list focused on housing stability through mobile food pantry and housing repair/maintenance/rehabilitation*
- *VASH figures estimated: 176 vouchers at 1BR FMR (\$7908/yr); supportive services dollars based on average Medicaid use of \$2,833/voucher plus mental health services of \$1,167 for total of \$4,000/voucher*
  - *30 more vouchers approved will bring total to 206 vouchers*
    - *Voucher value = \$1,629,048*
    - *Services value = \$824,000*

## Priorities for 2015

- Complete a 5-year strategic plan and 1-year action plan
- End veteran homelessness (achieve functional zero)
  - Housing and services for all veterans who request them
  - Outreach to identify and connect with those who are not yet ready
  - System of care which ensures that episodes of homelessness are rare, brief, and non-recurring
- Coordinated entry for veterans (pilot); expand to additional populations
- Pathways Home Permanent Supportive Housing Toolkit
  - Methods and capacity-building to create a pipeline of permanent supportive housing projects
- Use lessons learned to improve winter/year-round emergency shelter
- Continue development of CoC structure & processes
- Meet all HUD application and reporting requirements

### *Notes:*

- *We aim for transparency, communication, and the "it takes a village" approach to making progress*