

**Subject:** Commerce City/Adams County Emergency Services for Women & Children  
**Date:** August 16, 2017

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**Attendees:** Councilwoman Crystal Elliott, Katy Boyd MD, Physician, Executive Director YHC Clinic, Judy Lopez, Program Manager Mile High Behavioral Healthcare Comitis Crisis Center, Hannah Mullen, Constituent Services Representative for Congressman Ed Perlmutter, Chaz Tedesco, Adams County Commissioner

This is the third meeting held with the intent to help facilitate discussion on collaborating with partners to consolidate solid resources to provide needed services to the citizens of Adams County and Commerce City.

Because the group believes working to bring the city government and non-profits together to make a partnership happen is important, Councilwoman Elliott wishes to meet with City Manager Brian McBroom to discuss the feasibility of locating building availability in the city that could be utilized as an accessible location to provide various types of assistance and resources to the community. The availability of CDBG Funding and other funding resources will also be a topic of discussion.

Councilwoman Elliott also wishes to discuss program needs in further detail with Victim Services Coordinator Kim Messina prior to the September Task Force Meeting.

Commissioner Tedesco advised that he will research and follow up on the future plans for the current building location of the ADCO Human Services.

The group agreed that the name of the meeting should be changed to reflect that it is a Task Force for Emergency Services for Commerce City/Adams County Residents (not only women and children) but all those in need.

Agenda Items for next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 20 at 10 a.m. at the Adams County Human Services Building, 7190 Colorado Boulevard:

- ADCO Itemized Map/Services Available & Locations
- Service Location(s)
- Target Group to Serve
- Name for the Task Force - Suggestions
- Mission – Suggestions





**Subject:** Task Force for Emergency Services for Commerce City/Adams County

Residents Meeting

**Date:** September 20, 2017

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**Attendees:** Councilwoman Crystal Elliott, City Manager Brian McBroom, Councilman Steve Douglas, Kristi Douglas, CCBPA, Kent Gregory, Adams County (Colorado Works Program), Judy Lopez, Program Manager Mile High Behavioral Healthcare Comitis Crisis Center, Kim Messina, Victim Services Coordinator, Sandy Schmoller, Volunteer, Herb Covey, Deputy Director Adams County Human Services.

This is the fourth meeting held with the intent to help facilitate discussion on collaborating with partners to consolidate solid resources to provide needed services to the citizens of Adams County and Commerce City.

Herb Covey discussed the Human Services Mapping Project which provided an overview of the various services offered through Adams County Human Services and what percentage of the services were utilized by various cities in Adams County, including Commerce City. The statistics included data from 2015. Food Assistance 14%, Medicaid 13%, Adult Financial 15%, LEAP 16%, TANF 14%, Child Care Assistance 11%, Child Support 13%, Child Welfare (Open Cases) 10%, Adult Protective Services 6%, Workforce Center 8%, Head Start Households 16%.

City Manager McBroom inquired as to when new updated statistics will be available. Herb Covey advised once they are settled into the new Adams County Human Services Building the interactive maps will be updated and new reports will be created.

Kent Gregory advised that Adams County recently hired a liaison to address homeless issues. They will be hiring a Poverty Reduction Administrator and they are looking into the concept of a mobile unit to provide needed resources and services to the community.

Agenda Items for next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 25 at 10:00 a.m. at Civic Center Conference Room 3109

- ADCO Commissioner Updates
- Name for the Task Force - Suggestions
- Mission – Suggestions
- Monthly Meeting Schedule





**Subject:** Task Force for Emergency Services for Commerce City/Adams County

Residents Meeting

**Date:** October 25, 2017

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**Attendees:** Councilwoman Crystal Elliott, City Manager Brian McBroom, Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco, Constituent Services Representative for Congressman Ed Perlmutter Hannah Mullen, CCPD Victim Advocate Shasta Baca.

This is the fifth meeting held with the intent to help facilitate discussion on collaborating with partners to consolidate solid resources to provide needed services to the citizens of Adams County and Commerce City.

Commissioner Tedesco announced that the move has been completed and the Pete Mirelez Human Services Center is now open in Westminster.

Commissioner Tedesco advised that there is a Human Services Satellite Office located in the Town of Bennett and it would be a great benefit to the community if a Human Services Satellite Office could be implemented in the Aurora or Commerce City area.

The Task Force acknowledges the importance of addressing the struggles of distance, transportation, financial, and safety issues encountered by those seeking assistance.

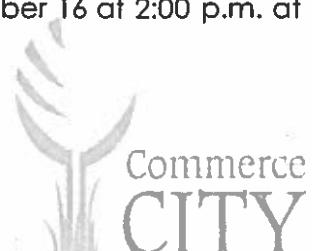
Discovering what types of city, county, federal, and non-profit resources and grants are available and reaching a broader scope of people is important to the group.

Commissioner Tedesco advised that he will invite Dennis Swain, Diversity and Inclusivity Administrator to the November Task Force Meeting.

City Manager McBroom suggested that city staff may have some ideas for refining the Mission Statement.

Commissioner Tedesco suggested a new name for the Task Force – **LOBO, Leaders Organizing Beneficial Opportunities.** Feedback on the suggestion will be discussed during the November meeting.

Agenda Items for next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 16 at 2:00 p.m. at Civic Center Conference Room 3109



## **MINUTES CONTINUED**

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- ADCO Commissioner – Updates
- Locations for Services
- Name for the Task Force – Suggestions
- Mission – Suggestions
- Monthly Meeting Schedule





**Subject:** Task Force for Emergency Services for Commerce City/Adams County

Residents Meeting

**Date:** November 16, 2017

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**Attendees:** Councilwoman Crystal Elliott, City Manager Brian McBroon, CCPD Victim Advocate Shasta Baca, Volunteer for "Purses to Go", Sandy Schmoller.

This is the sixth meeting held with the intent to help facilitate discussion on collaborating with partners to consolidate solid resources to provide needed services to the citizens of Adams County and Commerce City.

Councilwoman Elliott knows that there has been interest in the goal of the Task Force from several outside agencies. She is looking forward to building a connection and establishing a partnership. She encourages the group to invite others to participate that would be assets with helping to facilitate providing needed services to the community and progressing on the to the next phase.

City Manager McBroon said it would be beneficial to have a better idea of the requirements for locations for services while taking into consideration the amount of space needed, if private rooms would be required for client confidentiality and if there could be a shared reception area plus what additional amenities would be required.

Sandy Schmoller advised that she will be providing an overview of the "Purses to Go" project at the Eagle Pointe Recreation Center on December 8 at 11:00 a.m.

Shasta Baca advised that the biggest obstacle they see, as Victim Advocates, on a daily basis is the lack of domestic violence shelters and emergency shelters in the area to provide assistance plus a safe and secure location for those in need. The majority of those seeking shelter are women and children impacted by domestic violence situations.

Any updates and the meeting invite for the January 2018 Task Force Meeting will be sent out at a later date.

Topics to be addressed at the January meeting:

- ADCO Commissioner – Updates
- Locations for Services
- Name for the Task Force – Suggestions
- Mission – Suggestions
- Monthly Meeting Schedule



**Subject:** Emergency Services Task Force for Commerce City/Adams County Residents

**Date:** March 21, 2018

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**Attendees:** Councilwoman Crystal Elliott, Mayor Pro Tem Rick Teter, City Manager Brian McBroom, CCPD Victim Advocate Shasta Baca, Catholic Charities Deacon Geoff Bennett, Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco, Community Reach Center Rick Doucet, Community Reach Center Clay Cunningham, Adams 14 School District Mary Ann Mosquera, Yahweh Health Care Clinic Physician Kathryn Boyd, Cultivando Rocio Franco, Kids First Health Care Maria Zubia, Volunteer for "Purses to Go", Sandy Schmoller. (On the Conference Line – CDBG Coordinator Cheryl Steinberg.)

This is the seventh meeting held with the intent to collaborate with partners to consolidate solid resources that will provide needed services to the citizens of Adams County and Commerce City.

Councilwoman Crystal Elliott led an introduction of new attendees and opened a round table introduction.

Councilwoman Crystal Elliott advised that she has received wonderful response from the City Council concerning her work with the Emergency Services Task Force and the goal to grow with other organizations.

Mayor Pro Tem Rick Teter stated he is looking forward to hearing updates from the Task Force attendees and was present to offer his support for services and concepts to help the community.

City Manager Brian McBroom suggested re-setting the discussion to determine the exact services the community was missing and to solve the problem of finding a site that would be optimally geographically located to make resources and services available. Having a clear idea of what services to focus on and what kind of facility is needed are very important to setting the next steps of action in place. Honing in on services would be necessary and providing solutions utilizing the right type of building.

Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco shared information about an affordable housing project in the works that will benefit children, families and senior citizens by building a community where they can all work together and support each other. He advised that a logical, purposeful approach to finding a building to use is crucial. He recommends exploring funding options by starting a conversation with the Commerce City Housing Authority, reaching out to faith based groups and determining future funding sources may also be helpful.

Yahweh Health Care Clinic Physician Kathryn Boyd is involved in providing free medical services for the homeless and adopting families to try to prevent homelessness, and was present to offer her support.

Catholic Charities Deacon Geoff Bennett advised that they have built a partnership with many communities throughout Colorado and are looking forward to working with the city and county. Deacon Bennett said that Catholic Charities would be willing to share ideas on their expertise on management of shelters, assistance programs, and health care services. He also offered to coordinate tours of the various facilities to provide ideas for the Task Force. He advised that a long term operating plan and determining the operating money source are imperative.

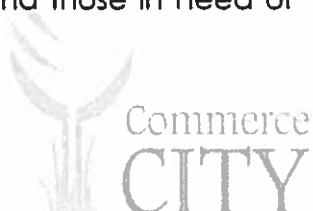
Community Reach Center representatives Rick Doucet and Clay Cunningham advised there are some significant pending changes to Medicare, scheduled to take place on July 1. How to partner with the community is key. There were approximately 25,000 people served last year. Community Reach Center is committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of the communities they serve.

Adams 14 School District Mary Ann Mosquera advised that there are only a handful of resources currently available in Commerce City and Adams County. Lack of affordable housing is a big challenge. The motels in the area are full and can cost up to \$1,000 a month. Several people in need do not have money for transportation. She would like to have Point of Contact information available that citizens can use to get results. Providing a day center and a safe place for unaccompanied youth, computer access and a quiet place to offer a break from stress would be significant.

Kids First Health Care Maria Zubia advised that it is frustrating to have to refer people to resources outside of Commerce City, especially when transportation is an issue. There are limited services and many barriers for families in need. She said having Community Navigators in place to help families through the maze when seeking services would be helpful and having an actual centralized location would be beneficial. She said the youth in the area have many great ideas on how to tackle current issues, including safety, transportation and immigration.

Rocio Franco advised that Cultivando is looking forward to the partnership through the Task Force to discover other resources available and is currently involved in many projects, and training opportunities within the Latino community.

Victim Advocate Shasta Baca is on board for the need for a Central Resource Center, but reminded the group that shelters must address the safety of individuals and it is imperative that they are in a confidential location. There is a whole population of crime victims, homeless and people facing immigration challenges that all require specific services and those in need of assistance should not have to navigate additional obstacles.



Volunteer for "Purses to Go", Sandy Schmoller advised that she has worked with Victim Services, Catholic Charities and Comitis House to provide purses filled with hygiene items and a five-dollar bill. She said it is very rewarding and heartwarming to be part of this project and many businesses have donated items to fill the purses.

People may reach out to the Legislators to find out everything they can about the Regional Accountable Entities potential and how it impacts local communities. Many individuals choose to reach out to elected officials and express their concerns about addressing a broader population and reaffirming the urgent need for services in their communities.

**Next Meeting:**

Commissioner Chaz Tedesco suggested scheduling the April meeting at the Adams County Government Center. He will create the Agenda and will provide maps, brochures, and information on the role of the Homeless Liaison representative, the Poverty Reduction staff, and further discuss veteran's benefits, and foster care programs. He will also provide information on the Adams County Resource Guide and Eye on Adams that are both available online.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 (9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.) at Adams County Government Center, 4430 South Adams County Parkway, Brighton, CO 80601



**Subject:** Emergency Services Task Force for Commerce City/Adams County Residents

**Date:** April 11, 2018

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**Meeting Hosted by Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco at the Adams County Government Center**

**Attendees:** Councilwoman Crystal Elliott, City Manager Brian McBroom, Commerce City Director of External Affairs Michelle Halstead, Commerce City Police/Brighton Victim Advocate Shasta Baca, Adams County Commissioner Chaz Tedesco, Community Reach Center Rick Doucet, Community Reach Center Clay Cunningham, Adams 14 School District Mary Ann Mosquera, Adams County Human Services Director Chris Kline, Adams County Human Services Deputy Director Herb Covey, Adams County Manager's Office Dylan Monke, Deputy County Manager Bryan Ostler, Volunteer for "Purses to Go", Sandy Schmoller.

This is the eighth meeting held with the intent to collaborate with partners to consolidate solid resources that will provide needed services to the citizens of Adams County and Commerce City.

Attendees introduced themselves prior to the meeting starting.

Commissioner Tedesco distributed a packet of maps to the group and advised that Adams County is a GIS Map-Centric County. The maps reflected various services provided by Adams County Human Services for Calendar Year 2017. Services included Medicaid Assistance, Food Assistance and TANF Assistance. Heat maps revealed a concentration of clients per square mile.

The Adams County Resource Guide is available online on the Adams County website. Colorado PEAK is available for people to apply for various benefits online. The Community Resources Guide and Interactive Resource Map contain current information. A video instructing how to navigate the map will be posted on the website soon. Availability of services in neighborhoods can be researched within a 1 to 20-mile range. Adams County will be coordinating and offering a Free Navigation Training Program and is in the process of creating a resource card to handout to citizens as a reference tool for them to explore resources.

Commissioner Tedesco advised that Adams County is working on a program called Homes for Hope. Two homes will be rehabilitated and an outside certified group will be selected to run the homes. The homes will provide a safe and welcoming environment and accommodations for emergency foster care/foster care children. The location of the homes will provide an opportunity to minimize the trauma the children are experiencing by keeping them in the school they regularly attend.

Commissioner Tedesco also advised that Adams County Housing is partnering with Unison on several projects to bring affordable housing options to families in need, senior citizen housing and housing for children who age out of foster care. Aside from the housing units, the plan is to utilize space in one of the buildings to offer financial counseling and provide pop-up medical and dental services to those in need.

Please direct questions concerning additional information on Adams County Human Services programs/services to Human Services Director Chris Kline (720) 523-2000.

Adams County Veterans Services Office contact is Veterans Service Officer Robert Sheetz (720) 523-2770.

Councilwoman Elliott spoke on behalf of Mary Ann Mosquera from Adams 14 School District. There are 600 students categorized as homeless and there is a need for a tutoring center and food and shelter services for their families. Chris Kline advised that Adams County Workforce Center representatives consistently work with youth and homeless youth.

**Upcoming Events:**

- There will be more information distributed at a later date concerning an event scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup> for Elected Officials to discuss homelessness.
- There will be a 2 ½ day Design Charrette scheduled in June that will include several municipalities, service providers and, homeless to discuss an action plan for homelessness concerns.

City Manager Brian McBroom said the next step for the Emergency Services Task Force will be to dial in on exactly what the Taskforce wants to resolve. Hone in on emergency services and refine key partnerships.

**Next Meeting:**

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 (9:00 a.m.)

