**Notes 6/15/21**

Agenda

* Presentation: Miracle Messages (9-9:30)
* HH Updates
* Navigation Center proposal (9:40)
* Workgroup Updates
* Member Updates & Announcements
* Discussion: In person meetings
* Wrap-Up

**Miracle Messages presentation** – Madeline Connolly

* Organization that works to reduce social isolation and relational poverty among PEH.
* **Miracle Reunion Services** – reconnect unhoused persons with estranged family members. See Web site below FMI.
* **Miracle Friends** - Have about 130 matches in Miracle Friends. 18 Mentors – work with volunteers. Not case workers, just friends, reduce social isolation.
* **Miracle Money**- $500/month for 6 month pilot. 15 friends in program. Starting to wind down program. 25% are putting it towards rent.
* **Find Them Program** – family reaching out to MM to find their unhoused neighbors. Not advertised too much. Have a small group of volunteers dedicated just for that. (HMIS?)
* Miraclemessages.org, 1-800-miss-you hotline. <https://www.miraclemessages.org/1800missyou>. Contains miracle friends referral form. Referral forms, volunteer flyers posted here.
* Volunteers – personal cell phone numbers are shielded. Mentor does a screening. Offer weekly trainings.
* YIMBY workgroup is supporting the launch of the Miracle Friends and Reunion programs and will actively promote these programs.
* If you know of unhoused or housed persons who might be interested in participating in these programs, please contact Kelli at kbarker@jeffco.us or Madeline Connolly madeline@miraclemessages.org

**Heading Home Updates**

* Housing Navigation Centers – The development of this idea was conceived of in the Crisis Resolution Workgroup. Gap analysis was requested by County and City leadership and the final product is posted at headinghomejeffco.com. Temporary housing options (shelter, transitional housing) is a piece identified as lacking. The County will receive 3.8 million in funds dedicated to standup projects and activities for those experiencing homelessness. The cities are also receiving Rescue Act dollars that can be used to bolster these efforts. Preliminary approval has been given for the Navigation Center concept from the leadership group. Work is now focused on attorney’s reviewing the legal aspects. The current proposal is to stand up 2 housing Navigation Centers, one centrally located and another in northern Jefferson County. Unknown where the sites will be specifically located, currently looking at different options. This would be a one-stop-physical location where anyone experiencing housing crisis can come to for support. The other component of this resource will be temporary housing for those receiving services. Still vetting all of this through leadership so nothing is set in stone yet.

**Work Group Updates**

* Crisis Resolution – The group has been very busy looking at data and completed Gaps Analysis. Collaborative outreach plan is in development, based on what exists locally and across the US. The group is working on drafting a proposal, to include a lead agency for outreach. Jefferson Center has indicated they are interested in being the lead. The plan outlines a model where partners do outreach as they currently do but add a “supreme team” to include medical and mental health staff to be called upon when needed. Possible funding sources have been identified.
* Increase Access to & Supply of Supportive Housing – The group has focused on data that is currently available and found that 150-250 units of housing is needed to support veterans housing needs. In addition, 20 units of PSH is needed yearly to meet the demands as housing needs increase yearly. The group is planning a Gaps Analysis, similar to the form the Data Collection and Sharing group used.
* Improving Data Collection and Sharing – Increasing HMIS use in Jefferson county has been a focus and is going very well. Meetings set up with multiple organizations to talk about system benefits and work flow. Live data dashboard is a goal and plan would be to have it housed on the Heading Home website. This would help the community see in real time what is happening in Jefferson County regarding housing. The group is drafting a dashboard and vetting data sources to ensure the dashboard has the most accurate information.
* Increasing Community Involvement in Support of Solutions– a.k.a. YIMBY. Developing a framework to house on the website that lists different ways the community can get involved. Where can I donate items and/or funds? What are ways you can volunteer your time? Where are opportunities to speak up in support of housing? The group is looking at a possible educational event series to educate the community and have speakers with real life experience. How do we diversify the membership of Heading Home to ensure all voices are heard?

**RecoveryWorks**

* RecoveryWorks is a new organization and program who is repurposing the Action Center building on 7011 W. Colfax to serve persons experiencing homelessness to provide following 3 components:
	+ Medical respite stays for homeless persons. Lutheran and St. Anthony’s will refer those getting out of the hospital but still medically fragile. Community and congregate spaces with non-congregate sleeping rooms. To start, they will initially take referrals only from the hospitals. The goal is to expand the referral system to homeless navigators and other service providers. Jefferson Center will provide some mental health support. Stride will provide medical support. Persons referred must be mobile with low acuity needs, must be able to perform ADL’s. There will be case managers to work with residents to move into stable housing.
	+ Day drop-in services including shower, laundry, mail service, comprehensive case management. Not a place to hang out but rather purposeful resources/support.
	+ Recovery-focused programming: 12 Step and other support programs will be available to address substance use, harm reduction, and abstinence. The overall culture will be recovery in the broadest sense (e.g., mental health, trauma, homelessness).
* Soft opening July 12 with the resource center and drop in services. They hope to transition into the 24/7 piece within the next 30 days. There will be 5-7 respite beds and they are still discussing the use of the other beds (e.g., bridge housing for those in transition).
* James Ginsburg is Executive Director and can be reached at jginsburg@recoveryworkstoday.org

**Action Center**

* The Action Center Clothing Bank is now located at 1565 Wadsworth Blvd (next to the Romantix store) and is open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, from 9:30-11:30am and from 1-3pm. It is a MUCH larger space and has been very well received by the community. One person per household may shop and come once per month. No appointment required - face masks and temperature checks are still in place.
* Action Center has funding up to $500 for things like car/RV payments in situations where the car/RV is their home.

**Jefferson County Rental/Mortgage Assistance Available**

* This week, the Jeffco Rental Assistance heard from a rep with JCSO to share their experiences with evictions. There are dollars available to help support those needing rental or mortgage assistance. <https://www.jeffco.us/4021/Emergency-Assistance-COVID-19> Moratorium is ending at the end of June and people will be eligible for eviction. There has been an increase in 10-day demand letters already. The more people that can receive assistance in the next 2 weeks, the greater chance of preventing many evictions. In all of 2019, they served 586 evictions. In 2021, they have had 198 evictions filed as of May, which will be carried out in a few weeks. JCSO shared that there are another 30 in progress now. Denials for emergency assistance due to not showing a covid impact are being referred to another funding source. Applications can be completed at the county site if there is difficulty with applying online. There are dollars available, the need is to have individuals complete the application.
* ESG funds will become available for prevention once the moratorium ends this month. Jewish Family Services, Action Center and Salvation Army have ESG funds that will be used at that time.

**Safe Parking**

* On average, they are seeing 15 requests per week to enter a Safe Parking site. 10 lots across the metro area with 4 in Boulder, 3 in Broomfield, 2 in Jeffco, and 3 in the works. One just opened in Aurora in May. Coordinator for the Safe Lots has been hired and can be contacted at (they/them) vreeves@benefitsinaction.org 720-547-9187

**Just Living Recovery**

* Offers sober living services in a mixed gender house, including those in the LBGTQI+ community. Refer to Linda Barringer if there is someone looking for this type of support.

**Severe Weather Shelter Network**

* SWSN utilized hotels for the first time this season. They sheltered 600 individuals throughout the county. There was a positive experience with motel partners and currently debriefing with them to prepare for next season. Many guests are not open to receiving the COVID vaccination at this time, for various personal reasons. Due to that hesitancy, the focus will continue to be on motel vouchers for the upcoming season. Communications and Development Director has been hired.

**Mountain Resource Center**

* Daniela Wohlwend has taken a position as CEO for an organization in Buena Vista.
* Sara shared that a partnership with Stride will bring a popup clinic inside MRC evert Tuesday and Thursday. General practitioner will be the medical provider so all populations can be seen. The practitioner will also make referrals for mental health needs. The hope is this will be a primary source of care for underserved in the mountain region, especially veterans.

**Jeffco Public Libraries**

* Open to in-person services now and 1 hour time limit has been lifted. This means that people needing a cool place to get out of the heat can go to the library. Limited sunscreen, Chapstick, water bottles are available but very limited. 9-5 are hours at most locations.

**Westminster**

* Ashley Rud is the new navigator and will start in early July with training and meeting partners. Ashley Rud City of Westminster Homeless Navigator - arud@cityofwestminster.us.
* Westminster libraries are open with no restrictions.
* Adams County is planning on activating hotels for extreme hot weather but were not able to find hotels yesterday when it hit 100.
* Westminster volunteers are still going into the community to deliver hot weather supplies.

**Wrap-up:**

Future Meetings: Kelli will be sending a poll out to all members to ask about desire for in-person quarterly meetings going forward. Group agreed we want to keep virtual option for all meetings but open to having an in-person option as well. Networking is an important component to HH group, so want to try to figure out how to bring this back safely.

**Next Meeting**: September 21st 9-10:30am. TBD on location