

# St. Vrain Community Council

## Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2011, 8:30-10am

Location: Safety & Justice Center, Community Room,  
225 Kimbark Ave. Longmont, CO

*SVCC Mission: "Non-profit organizations collaborating and advocating to enrich the St. Vrain Community."*

Attendance: Jill Babcock (The Inn Between), Gerry Bistrow (Community Food Share), Marsha Caplan (Voices for Children – CASA), Pat Carson (A Woman’s Work), Kitty deKieffer (Mental Health Partners), Tonia Elliott (Boulder County Adult Protection Services), Debbie Goldman (Intercambio), Diane Groff (Center for People With Disabilities), Laura Hochman (Boulder County Public Health GENESIS), Will Kropp (Parenting Place), Amy LaRue (Planned Parenthood), Jackie List-Warrilow (Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley), Chris Lovato (Mental Health Partners), Michele McCracken (H.O.P.E.), Sue McCullough (Volunteer Connection of Boulder County), Robin Menschenfreund (St. Vrain Family Center), Grant Nelson (Intercambio), Carla O’Boyle (Community Member), Laura Page (Special Transit), Karen Roney (City of Longmont), Maggie Shearon (Care Connect), Danielle Watters (Boulder Valley Women’s Health Center), Kathy Webb (Longmont Housing Authority), Barb Wilder (Mental Health Partners), Deb Witzel (LCJP/Teaching Peace), Marc Cowell (Tiny Tim Center),

Panelists: Frank Alexander (BCDHHS), Kit Thompson (BCDHHS), Terri Ryan-Thomas (BCDHHS)

Facilitation: Carla O’Boyle

Minutes: Maggie Shearon

### SVCC Business:

1) Welcome

2) Approved March 2011 Minutes

Motion to approve: Marsha Caplan

Second: Chris Lovato

3) Treasurer’s Report

3/31/2011 Balance: 10, 132.81

4) Shupe Homestead Approval: Deb explained that supporting SVCC members sent a letter of support for the Shupe Homestead Approval and that the County Commissioners have since approved the use of the Shupe Homestead for nonprofit and cultural events. Deb points out that the Shupe Homestead offers much needed space for a wide variety of events.

5) SVCC Email Policy: Sue reminded members that all intended email correspondence or announcements that we would like to share with the SVCC should be sent to her directly for distribution to the group. Individual members should not send out email blasts to the membership list. Sue would also like the Council to work on creative ways to streamline the email/communication process to help alleviate duplicate mailings and email overload.

6) Joint SVCC, HAS & AAE Meeting scheduled for 9/1/2011. Carla informed the group that there will be a joint meeting of these groups to discuss how we can better collaborate in the future. The presentation in September will also focus on human resource issues. Time and location of the meeting TBA.

**Special Guest presentation: Frank Alexander and Kit Thompson, Boulder County Department of Housing and Human Services.**

Frank and Kit presented information about changes to the HHS program in Boulder County. They presented a detailed power point presentation outlining how department mergers and changes to their process will allow the County to better integrate services and better meet community needs.

The HHS program has shifted to a Prevention Model and reorganized four Major Divisions. They have worked closely with the Casey Family Program, a Seattle Based Foundation to develop this approach. The top priority of DHHS is to keep families and children safe and together. Frank pointed out that 65% of child abuse cases were categorized as neglect cases and that a Family Engagement model could best address child and family needs. He pointed out that outcomes for children who receive services “in place” are much greater than for children removed from the home.

Kit highlighted changes to the Intake and Triage process and stated that although offices have been centralized in Boulder, families in Longmont and the rest of the county still had the same access to programs and services. Both Frank and Kit reported a tremendous increase in requests for all of the HHS programs. 45% of referrals for services were based in Longmont. Successful outcomes were also shared.

More information about HHS services and the current Prevention Model can be found at [www.bouldercountyhhs.org](http://www.bouldercountyhhs.org). Kit may be reached directly at 303-441-1509 or [kthompson@bouldercounty.org](mailto:kthompson@bouldercounty.org). Terri Ryan-Thomas, Intake Division Manager, also contributed to the presentation and his happy to answer additional questions. Terri may be reached directly at 303-441-1303 or [tryan-thomas@bouldercounty.org](mailto:tryan-thomas@bouldercounty.org).

A brief question and answer period followed the presentation. Additional questions may also be sent to Sue and she will share any questions or follow up information with the group via email.

**Agency Presentation: Longmont Housing Authority.**

Kathy Webb updated the meeting with information about recent Longmont Housing Authority activities. The Lodge at Hover Crossing which offers affordable housing to older adults opened in 2009 and is now at full occupancy with a waiting list of 175 individuals. A new facility is planned at the site and will break ground in 2012. This facility will house an additional 50 residents.

Aspen Meadows has opened and launched a new housing project of 28 affordable housing units for families. The building features many “green” innovations and will also offer family support services. Agatha Moya has been hired as the program coordinator.

Longmont Housing Authority also recently purchased the Suites on Sunset and will offer 70 units of affordable housing, primarily for individuals.

Kathy also reported that the Section 8 voucher program is full and has experienced an 8% budget cut. In response to a question from the group she confirmed that there is no Emergency Housing through the LHA and that emergency cases were referred to the Boulder Homeless Shelter or other programs.

Karen Rooney added that the new RISE program is a City of Longmont and Longmont Housing Authority Program whose goal is to move people out of subsidized housing through intensive support and case management.

**Agency Presentation: Mental Health Partners (formerly Mental Health Center serving Boulder and Broomfield Counties).**

After many years of dedicated service, Chris Lovato is retiring from Mental Health Partners. SVCC thanked her for her many years of service in support of our communities. Barb Wilder has recently joined the staff and will fill Chris’ position. The organization’s name has changed to Mental Health Partners.

Chris gave a brief overview of the agency which started in 1972. The program served over 18,000 people in 2010 alone. Based on national research Mental Health Partners has developed a new model of treatment that is more client and family focused. The agency is now focused on Wellness, Case Management, Peer Support and Community Involvement. Tours of the new Longmont Wellness Education Center are available. For more information about the programs please contact 720-406-3676.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting: May 24, 2011- 8:30-10:00 – This is an Off-Site Agency Visit at Voices for Children CASA, 2305 Canyon Boulder, #101, Boulder, Colorado.**