



## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

970.453.3402 ph | 970.453.3535 f

208 East Lincoln Ave. | PO Box 68

[www.SummitCountyCO.gov](http://www.SummitCountyCO.gov)

Breckenridge, CO 80424

TO: Board of County Commissioners  
Scott Vargo  
Jeff Huntley  
FROM: Sara R. Lopez  
RE: Work Session Meeting of March 9, 2021  
DATE: March 9, 2021

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### **Attendees:**

Elected Officials: Elisabeth Lawrence, Tamara Pogue (via Zoom) and Joshua Blanchard – Commissioners

Staff: Scott Vargo, County Manager; Bentley Henderson, Assistant County Manager and April Paige, Executive Administrative Manager.

Staff (via Zoom): Jeff Huntley, County Attorney; Sarah Vaine, Assistant County Manager; Marty Ferris, Finance Director; Nicole Valentine, Communications Director and Sara R Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Guests (via Zoom): Jeane Bistranin, Sawyer DArgonne, Christine Duplan, Jeannette Kintz, Jen McAtamney, Rachel Miller, Helen Royal, Hillary Sunderland, Nancy VanDeMark and others who did not sign in.

### **I. ATU Recovery Hub Update**

Sarah Vaine, Nancy VanDeMark and Jen McAtamney gave an update and overview on the following topics including but not limited to:

#### Mental Health Services and Gaps

Over the past few years, Summit County has made significant progress filling in critical gaps in the mental health service system. This has included

1. Expanding and supporting the network of private providers
2. Standing up the SMART team, a law enforcement-behavioral health partnership that responds to mental health crisis through the Sheriff's department
3. Increasing access to school-based behavioral health services
4. Partnering with Eagle Valley Behavioral Health to share intensive outpatient resources across the region
5. Expanding access to Medication Assisted Treatment, and
6. Increasing the availability of clinical detoxification

As the community has filled gaps in early intervention services, the needs for acute crisis services has changed. For example, of the first 234 calls the SMART team has managed, the majority have been stabilized in place. This experience along with that of other communities across the country suggest that providing early, accessible community support for mental health and substance use problems can reduce the reliance on expensive, restrictive settings.

### The Recovery Hub Concept

The Summit County Recovery Hub would be a multi-service site that offers

1. peer-staffed or peer-run crisis respite for adults where individuals could stay for a few hours or a few days
2. peer-run drop-in center or hub serving adults and youth that provides activities and resources to build life skills and social support, and
3. navigation and resource center to connect people with existing community resources

Peer crisis respite offers a safe, calming environment where individuals in crisis can process stress, implement symptom management and develop short-term plans to stabilize their crisis with the support of trained peers.

The next steps in developing the Recovery Hub concept are to release an RFP in order to identify the entities that might be interested in operating this type of program. Mental health services for teens and the Spanish speaking community are considered most urgent.

## **II. Substance Abuse**

Sarah Vaine, Nancy VanDeMark and Jen McAtamney continued their update and overview on the following topics including but not limited to:

### National trends in substance use

- Prior to COVID-19 rates of substance misuse, binge drinking and overdoses were high in Colorado compared to the nation and Coloradans reported significant barriers to access to treatment
- Nationally, COVID-19 and the associated isolation and stress has increased problematic substance use
- In 2020, overdose deaths involving opioids, cocaine, and stimulants nationally were at the highest rate ever recorded

Commissioners asked questions and provided feedback. They noted the tremendous work done so far, especially when compared to 15 years ago when there were few services available, and thanked the team.

## **III. CSU Board Candidate Interviews**

Commissioners interviewed Sally DeLong, Stan Katz and Terry Startzel for positions with the CSU Extension Advisory Committee.

## **IV. Managers' & Commissioners' Issues**

Senior Management and Commissioners discussed several topics including but not limited to:

Nicole Valentine met with the Town of Frisco's Public Information Officer (PIO) regarding concern over trailhead overuse and parking issues. They are looking for alternatives to offer to visitors. They are also preparing communications for the continuation of CDOT construction at the roundabout in Frisco.

Commissioner Blanchard received a request for support of the Good Samaritan Abandoned or Inactive Mine Waste Remediation Act (S.1787), which would allow potential remediating party – the Good Samaritan – to obtain a permit that allows it to take steps to improve water quality without

being required to comply fully with the water quality standard. Commissioners expressed their support.

Commissioner Lawrence suggested asking High School students who are fluent in Spanish to volunteer at vaccine PODs, as the need for Spanish-Speaking volunteers is high.

Commissioner Pogue received a request regarding Denver Water's Roundup Program. They are asking the county to split the estimated \$30,000 administrative cost, with other counties, which would amount to \$7,500 for Summit County. This program will round up customers' bills, take those remaining cents and put them into an account to fund county projects. Commissioners agreed to split the cost and contribute the \$7,500.

Scott Vargo gave an update on the Silverthorne Child Care Center project with the Town of Silverthorne.

Commissioners also reviewed schedules and upcoming calendar events.

**V. Real Estate Acquisitions, Negotiations and the Legal Advice related thereto. (Attorney)  
(Executive Session Recommended)**

Jeff Huntley and Bentley Henderson requested an Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Acquisitions, Negotiations and the legal advice pertaining thereto.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pogue and seconded by Commissioner Blanchard to go into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Acquisitions, Negotiations and the Legal Advice related thereto. BOCC voted 3 to 0 to go into Executive Session per CRS 24-6-402 (4) (a)(b)(e). The motion was approved.

Respectfully submitted:



Sara R Lopez, Deputy Clerk



Approved by:



Elisabeth Lawrence, Chair