



Notes from Mayor's Taskforce on Homelessness – February 9th, 2024, 11:30am – 1:00pm

Attendees:

John Gates	Mayor	City of Greeley
Juliana Kitten	Assistant City Manager	City of Greeley – City Manager's Office
Dr. Sam Tsemberis	Founder/CEO	Pathways Housing First Institute
Deb DeBoutez	Councilmember	City of Greeley- City Council
James Mathy (virtual)	Housing Administrator	Milwaukee County
Mark Gonzalez	Presiding Judge	Municipal Court of Greeley
Aurora Storey	Administrative Assistant	City of Greeley – Housing and Homeless Solutions
Ashley Weesner	Affordable Housing Manager	City of Greeley – Housing Solutions
B.J. Spamer	Grant Specialist	City of Greeley – Housing Solutions
Deb Callies	Housing Director	City of Greeley – Housing Solutions
Paul Trombino	Director of Public Works	City of Greeley – Public Works
Manuel Rojas (virtual)	Peer Specialist	City of Greeley – Homeless Solutions
Ken Moore	Sr. Government Customer Advisor	Amazon Business for Government
Ernest Cienfuegos-Baca	Vice President of Community Impact	United Way of Weld County
Cheri Witt-Brown	Chief Executive Officer	Greeley-Weld Habitat for Humanity
Kim Collins	Chief Executive Officer	North Range Behavioral Health
Bianca Fisher	Executive Director	Greeley Downtown Development Authority



Dawn Paepke	Community Relations Consultant	Kaiser Permanente
Tom Roche	President and Chief Executive Officer	Roche Constructors, Inc
Valorie Martensen (virtual)	Vice President	Roche Constructors, Inc
Rachel Kirkland	HMIS System Administrator	Homeward Alliance
Sandra Wright	Loveland Homeless System Project Manager	Homeward Alliance
Blaine Nickeson	Associate Vice President for Administration	University of Northern Colorado
Matthew Hottt (virtual)	Executive Director	High Plains Library District
David Carlton	Homeless Data System Specialist	United Way of Weld County
Enita Kearns-Hout	Director of Donor Engagement and Grant Development	Catholic Charities
Michael Mathews	Pastor	Saint Patrick Presbyterian Church
Mary Roberts	Downtown Business Owner	Lincoln Park Emporium
Mike Heck	Police Commander	Greeley Police Department
Kim Priddy (virtual)	Performance and Data Analytics Director	City of Greeley – City Manager’s Office
Tom Norton	Former Mayor	City of Greeley
Matthew Howard	Housing First Program Participant/Advisory Board Member	City of Greeley/Frontier House
Tami Grant	Deputy Director, Department of Human Services	Weld County Government
Neal Jandreau	Owner	TRI Property Management
Katy Miller (virtual)	Senior Regional Advisor	United States Interagency Council on Homelessness



Welcome from Mayor Gates:

- There was a Community Update meeting on 1.25.24
 - o The turnout was great, and it provided a lot of resources to our community
- Mayor Gates and Councilmember Butler went on a ride along on February 7th with the Foundations Team
 - o Mayor Gates remarked that it is great to see people in housing and saw that the City's efforts are working in reducing homelessness

Clarifying Goals of the Taskforce:

- Kitten introduced the idea of the steering committee, which meets in between the Mayor's Taskforce on Homelessness meetings
- There is still a lot of work to do to have a unified data system
- We narrowed our focus from broad homelessness being reduced by 70% to reducing chronic homelessness

Data Discussion (April '23 – November '23):

- Dr. Sam Tsemberis and Rachel Kirkland from Homeward Alliance showcased the drastic change in the number of active enrollments of individuals in April 2023 (213) to November 2023 (118)
- There is a severe increase in enrollments in November when the cold weather shelter opens and many people exiting programs in April when the cold weather shelter closes
- This information led to a discussion about the funding it would take to keep the shelter open year-round
 - o The cost would be \$2M, which is an additional \$1M from what is being spent right now
- This also led to a conversation about how prevention services are needed to keep the rate of homelessness down in Greeley

Discussion and Questions:

- Jim Mathy
 - o Recommended ensuring that the shelters are beginning the housing process as soon as individuals are within the shelter. If given these resources, it should reduce the amount of time people are utilizing the shelter



- Suggested the idea of master leasing units as transitional housing until the individuals can get into more permanent housing – a pilot program that is currently in the works at the City of Greeley
- Katy Miller
 - Recognized that at a national level, there needs to be more effective data system to help prevent homelessness (using upstream prevention) and connect people with the correct resources
 - Discussed the need for low barrier services to help with prevention of homelessness
- *From a landlord's perspective (discussed by Neal Jandreau)*
 - We are going to see eviction rates going up due to state legislation, and to prevent homelessness, there needs to be prevention services and assistance
- *Are we able to track how many people are working? (Asked by Tom Roche)*
 - Answer (by Juliana Kitten, Dr. Sam Tsemberis, and Rachel Kirkland) Most of our chronic homeless population will be unable to work due to disability
- *How many people are marked as homeless in Greeley?*
 - Answer (by Dr. Sam Tsemberis and Rachel Kirkland): According to HMIS, there are 113 chronic homeless individuals in Greeley, but the number is closer to 2,000 total individuals homeless
- *Where are our partners, such as Evans? (Asked by Blain Nickeson)*
 - Answer (by Mayor John Gates): The City of Evans supports our efforts and program, but is unable to provide financial support now