

APPENDIX G

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC HEARING COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

TOPIC: Homelessness

Tammy Mulligan: Regarding the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing program, there are no administrative funds going to agencies providing services.

RESPONSE: The Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) distributed its HPRP funds to the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and City of Colorado Springs. The State will encourage these organizations to re-evaluate their distribution of administrative dollars.

Carla Severance:

We should have a clearing house for rental properties. What things are out there, how do we find them?

RESPONSE: DOLA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (RD) and Colorado Housing and Finance Authority provide the housing search site, www.coloradohousingsearch.com to assist agencies and households to locate available housing units.

Rabbi Joel Swartzman: We need to reach those who feel that homelessness isn't their problem. There are many creative ideas out there. For example, drawing down federal dollars for forestry fire mitigation and clean-up work – create job training opportunities.

RESPONSE: DOLA will forward this idea to the Colorado Community Interagency Council on Homelessness (CCICH).

Rev. Brad Hopkins: There is a need to create more linkages with nonprofit provider community with a longer-term perspective.

RESPONSE: DOLA will forward this idea to the Colorado Community Interagency Council on Homelessness (CCICH).

Rev. Stan Perea: Federal dollars don't come down to those who need it; look at the administration piece. There is a need for the State to look at Latino issues. There is a need for orphanages. There are a great number of young Latino kids that are homeless, but they're under the radar screen because of the immigration issue.

RESPONSE: Minority populations are often at greater risk than non-minority populations. DOLA will examine the housing issues that you raised and forward information to the Department of Human Services, Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs (SHHP) for their evaluation.

Jim Ryan: We need to get up to date with Hispanic issues. Another need is grant writing assistance. Maybe the Division of Housing could be of help with this.

RESPONSE: Please see above.

Andrew Simpson: One of the most important things is education. Education helps remove the stigma. HUD structuring makes it hard to preserve housing projects for more than 10 to 15 years. Regarding the physical structure – some programs don't work. Pastors and partnering agencies could acquire hotels and draw down dollars to build quality hotels – extended stay hotels that could reach the needs.

RESPONSE: DOLA will forward your comments to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jim Peters: People are coming out of prisons in large numbers and don't usually have many resources. We need to empower the churches to do more

RESPONSE: DOLA will discuss the issue with faith-based organizations, housing organizations, the CCICH and the Colorado Department of Corrections.

Rodney Perry: We're only two blocks from Colfax. We need to create a collaborative effort to build transitional housing for families. Seniors no longer own their homes. Others can't maintain their house. The problem is growing faster. We need a collaborative, young and old, community-based, self-sufficiency effort.

RESPONSE: DOLA will continue to fund transitional housing, and will also participate in homeless collaborations such as Continua of Care and the CCICH.

Topic: Housing for People with HIV/AIDS

HOPWA providers cited the following barriers to service:

- Fair Market rent is too low in many areas so clients don't qualify for TBRA. Is it possible for us to raise the FMR by 10% for 10% of their clients, as one of our local counties did?
- Lack of Section 8 vouchers makes it difficult to move people off of HOPWA and into more stable situations
- Legal prohibitions against serving people with felony convictions or who are undocumented leave a large portion of the PLWHA population unserved.
- Lack of transportation in rural areas
- PLWHA with substance abuse problems require greater level of supportive services the CAPs are not able to provide
- Decline in other funding sources – Ryan White funds have decreased and private funds are down 28%. Also, Ryan White funding can't be used for mortgages.

RESPONSE: This information will be incorporated into the consolidated plan.

Ana Hopperstad: HOPWA service areas are different from Ryan White services areas; This causes situations where PLWHA receive housing assistance from one agency while receiving all other assistance from a different agency. Can HOPWA service areas be changed to conform to Ryan White?

Response: DOLA can pass along this information to HUD, but does not know if such a change is possible.

Jeff Bassinger: All HOPWA sponsors currently have TBRA waiting lists. In addition, the need for HOPWA services could increase by as much as 25% per year over the next five years if the current economic situation doesn't improve. This potential increase should be included in the Consolidated Plan.

RESPONSE: The potential increase in need will be incorporated into the plan. However, it may not be reflected in numeric goals for service because the ability to serve additional clients will depend on the level of funding available and any changes in rental rates.

