

## 8. Community Well-Being<sup>i</sup>

*Proposed new section title: **Healthy and Socially-Thriving Community***

*Note: Some of the following policies relating to safety will move to a new “Safe and Resilient Community” section. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.*

The Boulder Valley, like all communities, is much more than its physical form. It is composed of people as well as the places where they live and work; it is as much a social environment as it is a physical environment. The Boulder Valley is a center of active living, attracting residents, businesses and visitors who value community and individual health. The city and county are committed to continuing to be a national leader in promoting the physical health and well-being of everyone in the community as well as promoting civil and human rights. Additionally, the city and county will strive to foster mental and social health and well-being and health equity through the cultivation of a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities.

Boulder is a fluid and growing community with changing demographics. The city and county proactively anticipate and plan for emerging demographic trends and social issues and consider challenges faced by different demographic groups including:

- Supporting the ability of a growing **older population** to age well in our community;
- Ensuring **healthy starts for children and youth development** and opportunities to be contributing members of the community;
- Supporting inclusion of **immigrants and other culturally diverse people** into the community;
- Addressing the impacts of a large **university population** on housing and other infrastructure; and
- Addressing the full range of impacts from the community’s **lack of affordable housing** and the **increasing cost of affordable living**.

In providing human services, the city and county partner to comprehensively create and support a safety net of services and opportunities for individual and family economic mobility and self-sufficiency through coordinated regional planning, service delivery and integrated partnerships. Generally, Boulder County provides many of the critical state- and federally-supported programs, entitlement programs and countywide services. The city complements and augments these services and those identified as important to the Boulder community, including a range of services from safety net services to prevention services.

The policies in this section support the city’s and county’s goals related to:

- Human Services
- Social Equity
- Community Health
- Community Infrastructure and Facilities

## ***Human Services***

### **8.01 Providing for a Broad Spectrum of Human Needs**

The city and county will develop and maintain human service programs that provide for the broad spectrum of human needs. An emphasis will be placed on supporting best practices and evidence-based programs that build upon community resilience through increased self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Using a resilience framework will help individuals avoid crisis and recover more quickly in emergency situations, which will in turn reduce the community's long term costs of providing services. Services will balance meeting emergency and short-term needs with long-term solutions and support for critical social issues.

### **8.02 Regional Approach to Human Services<sup>ii</sup>**

The city and county will continue their collaborative roles in human services planning and funding through partnerships with other agencies and local government as well as shared data and reporting that offers easy access for community residents and facilitates data-driven decision-making. The city and county will use a regional approach to policy and program development. The city and county will seek to build partnerships with surrounding communities and the region, which will help address the often disproportionate service burden placed on Boulder as a key regional center.

## ***Social Equity***

### **8.03 Equitable Distribution of Resources**

The city and county will work to ensure that human services are accessible and affordable to those most in need. The city and county will consider the impacts of policies and planning efforts on low- and moderate- income and special needs populations and ensure impacts and costs of sustainable decision making do not unfairly burden any one geographic or socioeconomic group in the city. The city and county will consider ways to reduce the transportation burden for low income, older adult, and disabled populations, enabling equal access to community infrastructure.

### **8.04 Addressing Community Deficiencies**

The city and county will use community feedback in conjunction with robust data resources to identify barriers to development and provision of important basic human services and will work closely with community partners to find solutions to critical deficiencies.

### **8.05 Diversity**

The community values diversity as a source of strength and opportunity. The city and county will support the integration of diverse cultures and socio-economic groups in physical, social, cultural and economic environments and promote opportunities for community engagement and formal and informal representation of diverse community members in civic affairs.

### **New Policy: Youth Engagement<sup>iii</sup>**

The city and county support youth engagement and partner with organizations in the community to offer opportunities to youth for civic engagement and education and fostering innovative thinking and leadership.

## ***Safety and Community Health***

### **8.06 Safety**

The city and county promote safety by fostering good neighborhood and community relations, building a sense of community pride and involvement, and promoting safe and attractive neighborhoods. The city and county will provide police, fire protection and emergency management services and preparedness education to ensure a safe community. The city and county will adjust public safety service delivery to respond to changing community needs including demographic changes and redeveloping and urbanizing areas to support safe, livable neighborhoods and vibrant business districts.

### **8.07 Health and Well-Being**

The city and county strive to ensure that the community continues to be a leader in promoting physical, mental and social well-being of community members and will support recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities. The city and county recognize that healthy diet and physical activity are essential to individual and community well-being. Neighborhood and community design will encourage physical activity and healthy eating by establishing easy access to parks and trails, healthy food retailers, and locating activity centers close to where people live, work and attend school.

#### **New Policy: Resilience in Public Safety and Risk Prevention**

The city and county will provide focused efforts around public safety risk prevention and early intervention. Working with the community, the city and county will strive to prepare all segments of the community for uncertainty and disruptions by encouraging community and individual preparedness and creating a culture of risk awareness.

#### **New Policy: Physical Safety**

The city and county strive to ensure community members are safe from physical violence.<sup>iv</sup>

*Note: This is a new suggested policy in its early stages. Further development to follow.*

#### **New Policy: Community Connectivity and Preparedness<sup>v</sup>**

The city and county will support fostering social and community connectivity and communications which promote well-being, deepen a sense of community and encourage civic participation and empowerment. The city and county recognize that supporting connections in the community furthermore enhances preparedness and improves the ability to respond and recover when emergencies happen.

## ***Community Infrastructure and Facilities***

### **Elementary and Secondary Schools**

#### **8.08 Planning for School Sites and Facilities**

The city and county will assist the Boulder Valley School District in its planning efforts to assure that the number, size and location of school lands and facilities is adequate to serve the population for the foreseeable future. The city and county will consider current and projected school enrollment and available school capacities when approving the type, scale and timing of

residential development. The city and county will work with the school district to consider transportation impacts when planning for school sites and facilities.

## **8.09 Accessibility to Schools**

The city and county will work with the Boulder Valley School District to develop safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle and transit access for students to existing and new schools. New school facilities will be located so that school-age children have the opportunity to arrive safely on their own.

## **Community Facility Needs**

### **8.10 Support for Community Facilities**

The city and county recognize the importance of educational, health, cultural and non-profit community agencies that provide vital services to the residents of the Boulder Valley and will work collaboratively with these agencies to reasonably accommodate their facility needs and consider location based on transportation accessibility or other needs.

## **Parks and Trails**

### **8.11 Parks and Recreation**

The city and county recognize park and recreation facilities provide one of the most effective ways to build people's sense of community and quality of life throughout the city, especially in redeveloping areas and in the revitalization of neighborhoods. Parks and Recreation programs and facilities will continue to provide for a well-balanced and healthy community by providing a range of activities that support mental and physical health through high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of the community. Such facilities and services will be designed in a manner that responds to the needs of the intended users.

### **New Policy: Parks as Gathering Spaces**

The city will strive to ensure Boulder's public green spaces among residential areas are gathering places for neighbors and community members to build relationships and social ties that encourage safety and support within neighborhoods. These spaces will be planned and managed to remain clean, open, safe and accessible to neighbors and build strong social capital which is the backbone of a resilient and engaged community.

### **8.12 Trail Functions and Locations**

Trails serve a variety of functions such as exercise, recreation, transportation, education and/or environmental protection. Trails should be designed and managed to minimize conflicts among trail users. Trailheads should be located so they are convenient and safe for those arriving by alternate modes of transportation as well as automobiles. In order to provide environmental protection, informal trails and the widening of trails by users should be discouraged by ensuring that formal trails are well-designed, monitored and adequately maintained. Trail and trailhead locations and alignments should avoid environmentally sensitive areas and minimize environmental impacts.

### **8.13 Trails Network**

The city and county will coordinate with other trail providers and private landowners in trail system planning, construction, management and maintenance. Where compatible with

environmental protection goals and conservation easement agreements, trail connections will be developed to enhance the overall functioning of the trails network.

## ***Culture***

### **8.14 Libraries**

Library facilities and services of the Boulder Valley will be responsive to the needs of all populations, providing an adequate range of informational, educational and intellectual opportunities for all residents.

### **8.15. Information Resource/Community Center**

The city will provide access to information through a variety of formats providing materials, technology and services to enhance the personal development of the community's residents. In its role as the community's public and civic information center, the library will provide venues for community group meetings and resources and services to meet the needs of the community's multicultural and special populations. Other community gathering spaces and information sources include the city and county websites, municipal buildings and recreation and senior centers.

### **8.16 Education Resource**

The city will seek to provide educational, cultural and literacy resources and opportunities for the community. The city will develop and maintain resources to assist learners and students of all ages, including support for formal education programs, and provide public workspaces and independent learning resources. The city will develop collaborative relationships with community educational institutions and function as a research center for residents.

### **8.17 Arts and Cultural Facilities**

The city and county recognize the ability of cultural facilities and activity to positively contribute to community members' well-being and sense of community. The city and county will encourage the provision of venues and facilities for a wide range of arts and cultural expression that are available and affordable to everyone.

### **8.18 The Arts and Community Culture (reverse order of 8.17 and 8.18)**

The city and county recognize and support the arts and community members' easy access to cultural experiences. Arts and culture advance civic dialogue, awareness and participation, contribute to people' authentic expression of diversity, and promote community inclusion. The city and county will encourage a rich mix of cultural offerings by supporting cultural organizations, artists and creative professionals, the expression of culture and creativity in the public realm and Boulder's cultural destinations.

### **8.19 Public Art**

The city and county recognize the importance of public art and the environmental vibrancy it instills. The city and county will build a high-performing public art program to encourage the installation of art in public buildings and spaces.

---

## **ENDNOTES**

---

<sup>i</sup> The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- Human Services Strategy (in progress)
- Homelessness Strategy (in progress)
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- Community Cultural Plan (2015)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2013)
- Fire-Rescue Master Plan (2011)
- Police Master Plan (2013)

<sup>ii</sup> Revisions based on Boulder County's Building a Community of Support (2016 Report) and Human Service Safety Net (2014 Report) and the City of Boulder's Human Services Strategy.

<sup>iii</sup> New suggested policy by Planning Board. Could incorporate language from the inclusion report that regards public safety practices.

<sup>iv</sup> Revisions based on Human Services Strategy guiding principles for human services delivery

<sup>v</sup> On-going emphasis around youth engagement through YOAB, GUB, and recommendations in Community Cultural Plan Strategies.

DRAFT

## 8. Community Well-Being<sup>i</sup>

*Proposed new section title: **Healthy and Socially-Thriving Community***

*Note: Some of the following policies relating to safety will move to a new “Safe and Resilient Community” section. Also please note that a further round of editing will occur to improve organization, reduce verbosity and redundancies, and renumber policies as necessary.*

The Boulder Valley, like all communities, is much more than its physical form. It is composed of people as well as the places where they live and work; it is as much a social environment as it is a physical environment. The Boulder Valley is a center of active living, attracting residents, businesses and visitors who value community and individual health. The city and county are committed to continuing to be a national leader in promoting the physical health and ~~welfare~~ well-being of everyone in the community as well as promoting civil and human rights. Additionally, the city and county will strive to foster mental and social health and well-being and health equity through the cultivation of a wide range of recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities.

Boulder is a fluid and growing community, with changing demographics. The city and county proactively anticipate and plan for emerging demographic trends and social issues, and consider challenges faced by different demographic groups including:

- ~~Needs of a growing older adult population and their family caregivers; Supporting the ability of a growing- older population to age well in our community;~~
- Ensuring healthy starts for children and youth development and opportunities to be contributing members of the community;
- Supporting ~~and~~ inclusion of immigrants and other culturally diverse people into the community;
- Addressing the impacts of a large university population on housing and other infrastructure; and
- Addressing the full range of impacts from the community’s lack of affordable housing and the increasing cost of affordable living.
- ~~Need for ongoing support of services and facilities for basic needs such as food, health care, shelter, child care, elder care, and education and training;~~
- ~~Support for community non-profits; and~~
- ~~Accessibility and affordability of basic health and human services.~~

In providing human services, the city and county partner vision for Boulder is to comprehensively create and support a ~~comprehensive~~ safety net of services and opportunities for individual and family economic mobility and self-sufficiency for residents, through coordinated regional planning, service delivery, and integrated partnerships. Generally, Boulder County provides many of the critical state- and federally-~~supported~~ mandated programs, entitlement programs and countywide services. The city complements and augments these services and those provides services identified as important to the Boulder community, including a range of services from safety net services to and early intervention and prevention services. ~~to meet critical human service needs.~~

The policies in this section support the city's and county's goals related to:

- Human Services
- Social Equity
- Community Health
- Community Infrastructure and Facilities

## ***Human Services***

### **8.01 Providing for a Broad Spectrum of Human Needs**

The city and county will develop and maintain human service programs that provide for the broad spectrum of human needs. An emphasis will be placed on supporting best practices and evidence-based programs that build upon community resilience through increased self-reliance and self-sufficiency. Using a resilience framework will help individuals avoid crisis and recover more quickly in emergency situations, which will in turn reduce the community's long term costs of providing services, from safety net services to early intervention and prevention programs which mitigate more costly, long-term interventions and forestall worsening social conditions. Services will balance meeting emergency and short-term immediate needs with long-term solutions and supports for ~~to~~ critical social issues.

### **8.02 Regional Approach to Human Services<sup>ii</sup>**

The city and county will continue their~~its~~ collaborative roles in human services planning and funding through partnerships with other agencies and local government as well as shared data and reporting that offers easy access for community residents and facilitates data-driven decision-making. ~~s.~~ The city and county will use a eordinate a regional approach to policy and program development such as that articulated in the Ten Year Plan to Address Homelessness and the Human Services Strategic Plan. The city and county will seek to build partnerships with surrounding communities and the region, which will help address the often disproportionate service burden placed on Boulder as a key regional service center.

## ***Social Equity***

### **8.03 Equitable Distribution of Resources**

The city and county will work to ensure that basic-human services are accessible and affordable to those most in need. The city and county will consider the impacts of policies and planning efforts on low- and moderate- income and special needs populations and ensure impacts and costs of sustainable decision making do not unfairly burden any one geographic or socio-economic group in the city. The city and county will consider ways to reduce the transportation burden for low income, older adult, and disabled populations, enabling equal access to community infrastructure.

### **8.04 Addressing Community Deficiencies**

The city and county will use community feedback in conjunction with robust data resources to identify barriers to development and provision of important basic human services and will work closely with community partners to find solutions to critical deficiencies. ~~and work to find solutions to critical social issues such as lack of housing options for very low income and special~~

~~needs populations, access to and affordability of basic services, and limited availability of affordable retail products.~~

## 8.05 Diversity

The community values diversity as a source of strength and opportunity. The city and county will support the integration of diverse cultures and socio-economic groups in ~~the~~ physical, social, cultural and economic environments and promote opportunities for community engagement ~~of diverse community members;~~ and ~~promote~~ formal and informal representation of diverse community members in civic affairs.

### New Policy: Youth Engagement<sup>iii</sup>

The city and county support youth engagement and partner with organizations in the community to offer opportunities to youth for civic engagement and education and fostering innovative thinking and leadership.

## Safety and Community Health

### 8.06 Safety

The city and county will promote safety by fostering good neighborhood and community relations, building a sense of community pride and involvement, and promoting safe and attractive neighborhoods. The city and county will provide police, fire protection and emergency management services and preparedness education to ensure a safe community. The city and county will adjust public safety service delivery to respond to changing community needs including demographic changes and redeveloping and urbanizing areas to support safe, livable neighborhoods and vibrant business districts.

### 8.07 Physical Health and Well-Being

The city and county strive to ensure that ~~the~~ community continues to be a leader in promoting physical, mental and social well-being health and welfare of community members and will support recreational, cultural, educational and social opportunities. The city and county recognizes that healthy diet and physical activity are essential to individual and health and community well-being. ~~The city will support opportunities for people to exercise.~~ Neighborhood and community design will encourage physical activity and healthy eating by establishing easy access to parks and trails, healthy food retailers, and locating activity centers close to where people live, work and attend school. ~~The city will support community health programs such as: obesity prevention, outdoor education, safe routes to school, and healthy eating.~~

### New Policy: Resilience in Public Safety and Risk Prevention

The city and county will provide focused efforts around public safety risk prevention and early intervention. Working with the community, the city and county will strive to prepare all segments of the community for uncertainty and disruptions by encouraging community and individual preparedness and creating a culture of risk awareness.

### New Policy: Physical Safety

The city and county strive to ensure community members are safe from physical violence.<sup>iv</sup>

Note: This is a new suggested policy in its early stages. Further development to follow.

### New Policy: Community Connectivity and Preparedness<sup>v</sup>

The city and county will support fostering social and community connectivity and communications which promote well-being, deepen a sense of community and encourage civic participation and empowerment. The city and county recognize that supporting connections in the community furthermore enhances preparedness and improves the ability to respond and recover when emergencies happen.

## ***Community Infrastructure and Facilities***

### Elementary and Secondary Schools

#### **8.08 Planning for School Sites and Facilities**

The city and county will assist the Boulder Valley School District in its planning efforts to assure that the number, size and location of school lands and facilities is adequate to serve the population for the foreseeable future. The city and county will consider current and projected school enrollment and available school capacities when approving the type, scale and timing of residential development. The city and county will work with the school district to consider transportation impacts when planning for school sites and facilities.

#### **8.09 Accessibility to Schools**

The city and county will work with the Boulder Valley School District to develop safe and convenient pedestrian, bicycle and transit access for students to existing and new schools. New school facilities will be located so that school-age children have the opportunity to arrive safely on their own.

### Community Facility Needs

#### **8.10 Support for Community Facilities**

The city and county recognize the importance of educational, health, cultural and non-profit community agencies that provide vital services to the residents of the Boulder Valley and will work collaboratively with these agencies to reasonably accommodate their facility needs and consider location based on transportation accessibility or other needs.

### Parks and Trails

#### **8.11 Parks and Recreation**

The city and county recognize park and recreation facilities provide one of the most effective ways to build people's sense of community and quality of life throughout the city, especially in redeveloping areas and in the revitalization of neighborhoods. Parks and Recreation programs and facilities will continue to provide for a well-balanced and healthy community by providing a range of activities that support mental and physical health through high-quality programs and services that meet the needs of the community. Such facilities and services will be designed in a manner that responds to the needs of the intended users.

~~Park and recreation facilities and services of the city or other service entities will provide an adequate range of exercise and recreational opportunities for residents. Such facilities and services will be designed in a manner that responds to the needs of the intended users. City park~~

~~and recreation facilities will provide a variety of landscape types as amenities and recreational resources for urban dwellers, including irrigated green spaces, low water need plantings and natural vegetation areas.~~

### **New Policy: Parks as Gathering Spaces**

The city will strive to ensure Boulder’s public green spaces among residential areas are gathering places for neighbors and community members to build relationships and social ties that encourage safety and support within neighborhoods. These spaces will be planned and managed to remain clean, open, safe and accessible to neighbors and build strong social capital which is the backbone of a resilient and engaged community.

## **8.12 Trail Functions and Locations**

Trails serve a variety of functions such as exercise, recreation, transportation, education and/or environmental protection. Trails should be designed and managed to minimize conflicts among trail users. Trailheads should be located so they are convenient and safe for those arriving by alternate modes of transportation as well as automobiles. In order to provide environmental protection, informal trails and ~~the user~~-widening of trails ~~by users~~ should be discouraged by ensuring that formal trails are ~~well~~-well-designed, monitored and adequately maintained. Trail and trailhead locations and alignments should avoid environmentally sensitive areas and minimize environmental impacts.

## **8.13 Trails Network**

The city and county will coordinate with other trail providers and private landowners in trail system planning, construction, management and maintenance. Where compatible with environmental protection goals and conservation easement agreements, trail connections will be developed to enhance the overall functioning of the trails network.

## ***Culture***

### **8.14 Libraries**

Library facilities and services of the Boulder Valley will be responsive to the needs of all populations, providing an adequate range of informational, educational and intellectual opportunities for all residents.

### **8.15. Information Resource/Community Center**

The city will provide access to information through a variety of formats providing materials, technology and services to enhance the personal development of the community’s residents. In its role as the community’s public and civic information center, the library will provide venues for community group meetings and resources and services to meet the needs of the community’s multicultural and special populations. Other community gathering spaces and information sources include the city and county websites, municipal buildings, and recreation and senior centers.

### **8.16 Education Resource**

The city will seek to provide educational, cultural and literacy resources and ~~opportunities~~services for the community. The city will develop and maintain resources to assist learners and students of all ages, including support for formal education programs, and provide public workspaces and independent learning resources. The city will develop collaborative

relationships with community educational institutions and function as a research center for residents.

### **8.17 ~~Performing and Visual Arts and Cultural Facilities~~**

~~The city and county recognize the ability of cultural facilities and activity to positively contribute to community members' well-being and sense of community. The city and county, recognizing the need to enhance the personal development of the public and to build a sense of community by providing for cultural needs, will encourage the provision of venues and facilities for a wide range of the performing and visual arts and cultural expression that are available and affordable to everyone. and the provision of art in public buildings and spaces.~~

### **8.18 ~~The Arts and Community Culture (reverse order of 8.17 and 8.18)~~**

~~The city and county recognize and support the arts and community members' easy access to cultural experiences. Arts and culture advance civic dialogue, awareness and participation, contribute to people' authentic expression of diversity, and promote community inclusion. They are central to the cultural life for children, youth and adults of the Boulder community and a clean industry that contributes significantly to the Boulder economy. They present significant quality of life advantages to the Boulder community through education, entertainment and the aesthetic environment and The city and county will encourage a rich mix of cultural offerings by supporting cultural organizations, artists and creative professionals, the expression of culture and creativity in the public realm and Boulder's cultural destinations. provide a vehicle to bring together people of all walks of life and diverse ages, genders, religions, abilities, opinions, races, ethnicities, classes, and economic means for better communication and mutual understanding.~~

### **8.19 ~~Public Art~~**

~~The city and county recognize the importance of public art and the environmental vibrancy it instills. The city and county will build a high-performing public art program to encourage the installation of art in public buildings and spaces.~~

~~The city and county will incorporate artistic elements in public projects whenever possible.~~

### **8.20 ~~Canyon Boulevard Cultural Corridor~~**

~~The city will encourage public and private projects within the Canyon Boulevard Cultural Corridor to have an arts focus and to incorporate public art.~~

## **ENDNOTES**

<sup>i</sup> The changes to this chapter reflect work since the 2010 Plan including:

- Human Services Strategy (in progress)
- Homelessness Strategy (in progress)
- HR&A's Recommendations for Resilience Integration (2016)
- Community Cultural Plan (2015)
- Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2013)
- Fire-Rescue Master Plan (2011)
- Police Master Plan (2013)

---

<sup>ii</sup> Revisions based on Boulder County’s Building a Community of Support (2016 Report) and Human Service Safety Net (2014 Report) and the City of Boulder’s Human Services Strategy.

<sup>iii</sup> New suggested policy by Planning Board. Could incorporate language from the inclusion report that regards public safety practices.

<sup>iv</sup> Revisions based on Human Services Strategy guiding principles for human services delivery

<sup>v</sup> On-going emphasis around youth engagement through YOAB, GUB, and recommendations in Community Cultural Plan Strategies.

DRAFT