



## **MMC FULL CAUCUS**

**Wednesday, February 5**

**Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce**

**7:30 am – 10:00 am**

*Breakfast Sponsored by City of Wheat Ridge*

### **AGENDA**

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

#### **MMC Retreat Priorities Debrief**

- MMC Vice Chair Jackie Millet

#### **Boulder & Aurora Bridge House Ready to Work Programs**

- Isabel McDevitt, CEO, Bridge House & Jason Bachelor, Aurora Deputy City Manager
  - Focus - 40% of adult homeless population that doesn't qualify for housing and cannot self-resolve
  - Sobriety-based and focused on exiting homelessness through stable employment
    - 80% of people coming to them were unemployed
  - 3 out of 4 people graduate with an 87% retention rate (housed and employed) a year later
  - Congregate living in repurposed commercial space (net gain in housing units)
    - Safe, stable, community-based housing that is not a shelter
    - 44 persons in Boulder Bridge House
    - 50 persons in Aurora Bridge House
    - Counseling for debt relief, addiction recovery, and to clean up criminal backgrounds
  - Two social enterprises provide employment and job skills
    - Landscaping and catering
    - Build a resume, work history, and savings

- Funding
  - Aurora marijuana funds
  - Boulder Permanent Inclusionary Zoning funds
  - New market tax credits (which were traditionally used for economic development) means they don't have to compete for scarce housing resources and it's a net gain for the community
- The Aurora Parks Department was convinced after seeing workers in Boulder
  - Reliable and dependable
  - Manpower for special events e.g., hanging holiday lights
  - Do not compete with other services for dollars
  - Work on Colfax doing cleanup in business districts
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### **Flex Fund Impact Report**

- Matt Meyer, Executive Director, Metro Denver Homeless Initiative
  - Presenting \$6,000 from MMC Reception Platinum Sponsors Xcel Energy and Cigna to MDHI Flex Fund
  - Currently 1-1.5 months' worth of operating budget remaining in fund
  - 81 providers throughout the region can access fund
  - Regional perspective and approach to homelessness
    - 239 formal requests to network from across the region
      - Fulfill about 58% of the requests – very thorough review to ensure that all other resources have been tapped before funds allocated “last dollar in” to exit homelessness
  - \$15-40k in expenditures per month
    - 2/3 of funds for move in assistance
    - 1/3 for landlord mitigation
  - Flex Fund provides hard to find flexible funding
    - HUD funding is highly restrictive and geared towards the most vulnerable (as measured by VI-SPIDAT tool used across providers)
  - 331 individuals have moved into housing from homelessness

- Exploring expansion into eviction prevention which would roughly double the funding need
  - It is much easier and less costly and traumatic to keep people housed than to re-house
- MMC commitment to the Flex Fund brought outside donations (Denver Fund, CHFA etc.) and also because it goes directly to housing people (no administrative costs)
- Would like to match 3,000 households with housing per year from OneHome as prevention and diversion funding
  - Could be used with Ready to Work

### **Update on Initiative 122**

- Bill Ray, Campaign Director – No Campaign
- Working with nationally acclaimed CO based pollster and researcher
  - 256 ballot initiatives filed for 2020 ballot
  - 122 - No Growth ballot initiative
    - Professional signature collectors hired
    - Rumored pledge of \$500k to collect signatures
      - Gray Wolf Reintroduction campaign spent closer to \$900k to collect signatures
    - Signatures due June 5th
  - Similar measure passed in Lakewood in 2019 (200)
  - Focus groups and research starting this month which should conclude end of Feb-early March
    - Hold off on conversations until extensive research is completed
  - Will use professional fundraisers, press secretaries, and go into full campaign mode if 122 succeeds in getting signatures

### **Update on Empowering Transportation Planning Organizations [HB20-1151](#)**

- Helps the metro area to have a statewide solution as goods and services have to be moved around the state and connections to recreational activities
- Importance of education and outreach

- Gas tax is declining and weights miles over people in terms of funding
  - Denser areas are not receiving fair share of investment
- Fees won't fill the local gap
  - \$16b over 20y to sustain local infrastructure and transit in 2035 plan
- 89% of recent funding from legislature is for CDOT
  - CDOT maintains just 17% of metro area miles and less just 25% paved miles statewide
  - Denver "serious" non-attainment for ozone
- 1151 will cut red tape and maximize flexibility
  - Local governments can choose how they use these dollars
  - TPOs choose IF they use authority
  - TPOs identify priorities & local share
  - TPOs decide funding type and amount
  - Voters still get the final say
- DRCOG has been successful in distributing funds
- Pass HB20-1151 and then we can negotiate the details
  - Something along the lines of an executive committee for oversight
- Minor change in statute and gives the state a necessary tool to address transportation needs
- Democrats will not pass fees without bipartisan compromise
  - Fee proposals for EVs and ridesharing
- Prop 110 sought a more equitable division of resources
  - Any new revenue source should not go through the HUTF
  - A conversation needs to occur about a more equitable split
- Language shows local flexibility and control but also the amount of collaboration we would need to utilize
- Isn't just about roads – it's about what regional and local mobility
- Allow the legislature to put this tool into the toolbox
  - May never be used
  - Would take time to work out how it would be used
- Boulder county wants to know how this money would be split before agreeing

- Concerns about ensuring opt out and some using funding to maintain local infrastructure
  - Need reasonable assurance for equity and intent on working with RTD
- Regional organization – opportunities for changes that could make this workable
  - Reasonable assurance of equity
  - Other problem is RTD – how do we help RTD

## Legislative Update

- Kevin Bommer, Executive Director, CML
  - CO Concern – specific ownership tax on heavy trucks will be scaled over time which is hit to local government revenue, not just statewide
    - Already get a preferential rate on specific ownership tax
    - 1151 has best shot of any significant transportation bill in the session and there is still work to do
  - Mayor Russell Stewart is a CML board member
  - [HB20-1044](#)
    - Fire and police pension association bill
    - Advocated by professional firefighters
    - Death & disability plan
    - Not a labor issue despite statehouse suggesting that it is
    - Board rather than legislature will propose future contribution increases
    - Asked for an amendment for increases to go to plan election
  - HB20-1282 - Oppose
    - Not broadcasting safety communications
  - SB 10 – not using single use plastic lost
  - SB 93
    - Construction defects
    - Opposed unless amended
  - SB 147
    - Annexation bill
    - Local dispute in El Paso county
    - Opposed

- HB20-1287 – CO Rights Act
  - Bipartisan
  - Will increase legal expenses, liability, etc
  - Opens up to all constitutional violations, not just civil rights violations
  - Would make it more lucrative for plaintiffs to go to State court instead of federal courts
  - Impacts state courts more than federal courts
- Legal counsel and advocacy team working at CML

### **SB20-93 - Update and Impacts on Arbitration of Defects Claims**

- Scott Wilkinson, Partner, Davis and Ceriani, PC
  - Works with CO Association of Homebuilders
  - How SB 93 affects affordable housing stock
  - Cost of insurance and possible litigation drive builders back out of market
  - Requires arbiters to have experience on both builder and consumer side
    - typically have one or the other – which is why 3 arbiter panels are common
    - Arbitration removes outlier verdicts and relies upon verdicts that are more proportional to issues they are attempting to address in making awards
    - Want to prevent years of litigation before getting to arbitration process
    - Market has seen significant increase in affordable, multi-family housing since 2017 reforms and insurance prices are declining
  - SB93 avenue to attack arbitration through standard form contract clauses and reintroduces uncertainty
  - This form of bill has been around for 3 years
  - Arbitration must follow federal law
    - If the effect of a state law is to disfavor contracts that look like arbitration agreements, it is preempted
  - Components of this bill problematic

- Standard form contracts
- Limitations
  - Puts a dispute off 60 days
  - Over 100 miles
- Retroactivity application
- One sided appellate right
- SB138 seeks to extend current 6-year period of repose to full decade
- Already have disclosure requirements but want to specify additional categories that would not conflict with Federal Arbitration Act

### **The Public Option Pros and Cons**

- Mike Kopp, PATH Board Member
  - Bill last year DOI and HCPF bring us recommendations
  - REMI partnership modeled economic impacts of public option in response to DOI and HCPF report and stakeholder recommendations
  - Stakeholder recommendation and report – REMI response is to the
  - Harsh on hospital profits
    - Free enterprise and job creation are critical
    - Need to be able to pay people more
    - Profit motive is not intrinsically bad
    - How much profit is too much and who decides?
      - Concerning to the business community
    - No bill yet
    - 12% of consumption dollars went to health insurance – now 15%
      - Know that it isn't sustainable
      - Argue that higher costs are symptom not cause
      - Public Option would be used to move 5,700 uninsured onto public health option
        - Hospitals have to treat these people and provide services at lower cost
      - Cap on what you can charge is really a profit cap
      - Targeted cost reduction of 10%-15%

- Shift costs to other insurers or reduce cost by reducing overhead
  - Thinks where we could align is in identifying other drivers of cost and reducing those
- Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera
  - Number one concern for people who live in CO is the cost of healthcare
  - 1 in 5 people forgo needed healthcare and 1 in 3 can't afford their prescriptions
  - Insurance, pharma, and hospital companies and organizations are acting as "toll booths"
  - Public option would increase competition and lower hospital prices
  - No bill in the legislature
    - Hospital reimbursement formula to bring rationality to pricing
      - CO hospital prices have gone up 71% and profit is up 280% since 2009
        - Colorado hospitals have 2nd highest profit margins in the US
  - Hospital provider fee gave additional funding to offset costs of accepting Medicaid and Medicare – hospitals kept prices high instead of lowering them
  - Require insurance companies to return profits from selling name brand drugs to Coloradans
  - Save people 9-18% on premiums
  - Does not create a new state-owned insurance company
    - Uses current infrastructure of private market
  - Would not require anyone to change coverage to public option
  - Will not force lay-offs, price increases, or reductions in care
  - Premium savings tied to increased job growth
  - Profits are enough to offset minimal costs of program
  - Anticipate that healthier people will increase workforce
    - ACA increased healthcare workforce – more than 30 % increase
  - 58% of Colorado voters support the public option

**Adjourn**