

Boulder Transition Advisory Committee (BTAC)
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 1, 2015

BTAC was held at the Boulder City Hall on 10/1/15 at 8:00 am. Commissioner Cory Kirsch opened the meeting by welcoming the attendee's and going around the room for introductions. There were 27 people in attendance. An email directory is being developed and participants were encouraged to check their addresses. September meeting minutes were reviewed and motion made and seconded to approve the September minutes. Motion passed.

1. Open discussion to identify and refine the BTAC purpose and goals occurred. The following items were addressed as considerations:
 - a. Don't assume the Montana Developmental Center (MDC) will close. There are many unknowns at this point and it appears the MDC Transition Committee is looking at the need to have some ability to house individuals with special needs.
 - b. There are workforce issues that will need to be addressed for the programmed force reductions.
 - c. Look at past community surveys and programs such as Horizons, the medical information survey and other Boulder studies that contained community visioning and ideas that may contain items BTAC can move forward.
 - d. Look toward the 2017 legislature and develop a Boulder plan of action that could be presented for support. Discussion followed that community impacts are a result of the legislative action to close MDC and there should be some obligation to assist with the community transition impacts.
 - e. Identify and seek resources needed to assist with the community transition.
 - f. Department of Labor needs to be directly involved with the force reduction process.
 - g. Have active involvement with the MDC Transition Committee as a resource and to provide MDC facility reutilization input. The MDC facilities are current state owned, operated and controlled with an existing workforce that could provide a fiscal advantage for other state operations such as the state veteran home, law enforcement training facility or other state operations.

2. Formalizing the BTAC committee membership was discussed with some positions being filled.
 - a. Boulder City Representative - [Mayor Craft, Sally Buckles](#)
 - b. Boulder Chamber of Commerce – [Sarah Layng](#)
 - c. MDC Leadership Representative – [Tammy Ross](#) (*pending confirmation*)
 - d. Boulder School Leadership Representative – [Tim Norbeck/Maria Pace](#)
 - e. Boulder Business Owner Representative – [Luke Vossler](#)
 - f. Retired MDC Representative
 - g. Senior Center Representative – [Kathy Dyer](#)
 - h. Jefferson County Commission Representative – [Commissioner Kirsch](#)
 - i. MSU Madison-Jefferson Extension Office Representative – [Tom Harrington/Gena Nellis](#)
 - j. Jefferson Local Development Corporation Representative – [Erika Morris](#)
 - k. Elkhorn Community Foundation Representative – [Erika Morris](#)
 - l. Volunteer Board Member Representative – [Terry Kunz](#)
 - m. Health Board Representative
 - n. Agriculture Representative – [Anita McCauley](#)
 - o. 1st Boulder Valley Bank representative – [Rhonda Craft](#)
 - p. Natural Resource Representative
 - q. MDC Transition Committee Representative – [Commissioner Mullen](#)
 - r. MDC Transition Committee Liaison – [Tim Norbeck](#)

It was discussed the BTAC positions provide some structure to the process and identify positions that have the opportunity to come in contact with many other area residents to enhance the communications flow. Anyone interested in being involved is encouraged to attend and be active as an at large member.

3. Discussed the committee administration would be handled by the Jefferson Local Development Corporation (JLDC). They will handle the minutes, publishing agendas and other meeting coordination as necessary. The minutes will be posted on the JLDC website at <http://www.jldcmt.com>
4. Discussed the community impacts Boulder will have due to the MDC closure.
 - a. Schools will be impacted as MDC employees with children leave the area resulting in reduced ANB funding. This will have a ripple effect as funding reductions will result in staffing and program changes that could lead to further enrollment decreases as parents of remaining students potentially look for other educational options. There will be more near term staffing issues as employed spouses of current MDC employees relocate out of the area.
 - b. The direct employment wage loss to the area with the estimated 250 employee reduction will have a major impact to the local economy.
 - c. Contract labor currently being used by the MDC will cease and further reduce employment opportunities. If the contract positions currently travel to Boulder their loss will result in a purchase reduction of goods and services from local businesses.
 - d. The force reduction and MDC closure will result in the loss of local business revenues that will have a negative impact on their bottom line. This closure action will also have a ripple effect as MDC residents currently spending money are relocated, contract labor spending in the local economy disappears, loss of family member visitation and staff/management support travel to Boulder ends.
 - e. Boulder City utility fees for water, waste water and sanitation will see a serious reduction in revenue. The timing of recent infrastructure bonding may require passing on rate increases to the remaining residents to meet debt obligations. The MDC funding to the city current supports one FTE position in law enforcement.
 - f. The large MDC force reduction will reduce real estate values in the area and there is a noticeable increase in area listings. The decreasing real estate values will impact personal equity of area residents.
 - g. The MDC community recycling program has been a success and will be eliminated and impact recycling efforts and the local landfill.
5. MDC update was next on the agenda and Tammy Ross, Acting MDC Administrator was unable to attend today due to other commitments. Discussed the importance of an MDC leadership representative being part of the BTAC process to be the information conduit between the MDC and community during this dynamic period of change. A personal meeting with her is being coordinated for next week to discuss BTAC.
6. Commissioner Mullen discussed the current MDC Transition Committee process and key areas of discussion. He addressed the committee recognized the continued needed to be able to house residents and that a total MDC closure may not be possible. It appears a need to house up to twenty individuals may be required and may not be in Boulder. The process is very dynamic and may take longer than anticipated. He discussed the next meeting they will be addressing the MDC facilities and that a BTAC liaison would be invited to speak. Tim Norbeck was selected to be the liaison and Leonard W. suggested another BTAC meeting prior to next MDC Transition Committee meeting on October 22nd to provide a position on the facility reutilization. Committee ideas for facility reutilization will be passed through email prior to the next meeting to help generate discussion.
7. The meeting was very informative with a lot of good input from the participants. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2015 at 8:00 am at the Boulder City Hall.