**Action Team – Interview and Data Collection Form**

**Action Team Member:**       Nancy Locke

**How Might We:**  Better understand and measure homelessness in Chaffee County

**Data Source:**

            Name:  Barb McCallister, Dyla Sanks, Jan Wondra

            Contact: (719) 239-1662

Add Contact to Envision Contacts?    N

**Insights:**

The homeless population of Chaffee County varies at different times of the year. During the summer months the numbers increase exponentially. It is very hard to obtain accurate data. Barb McCallister at the Ark Valley Mission in Buena Vista counted 18 homeless individuals that they served for the months of January and February 2018 out of a total of 445 people they provided food for. Come summertime those numbers can easily double. These 18 individuals are the ones that consider themselves homeless, i.e., living in their cars, couch surfing, or temporarily on the streets. Personally I know five or six adults living in campers that are on BLM ground or in the national forest who do not solicit the Mission.

Jan Wondra in January 2017 reported in the Mountain Mail that Caring & Sharing Resource Center in Salida had “29 families walk into the Resource Center looking for housing. They had a total of 61 children, so 90 people – living in cars, living in makeshift shelters.”

There are a number of individuals and families that share homes or rent a room in someone else’s home that would technically be considered homeless. The number of couch surfers or temporarily “roommates” makes it impossible to obtain an accurate number of the homeless population.

Chaffee County High School has about 45 students and out these 45 there are at least four students that are homeless. The have ranged in the past from 14- to 20-year-olds. In the summer they have lived in tents, cars, or wherever they could. These students go to school, work, and some are taking college classes.

**Any reports or maps or web links the team should read/review?**

“Salida Struggles with Homelessness” – article in the Mountain Mail by Jan Wondra; dated January 18, 2017