

Immediate Release
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John Parvensky announces plans to retire from the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless after over 36 years where he has pioneered strategies to create housing and provide health care and support for those experiencing homelessness

John Parvensky, who built the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless from a small advocacy group in 1985 into a nationally recognized leader in providing integrated health care and building innovative housing for people experiencing homelessness, announced today, Monday, June 6, 2022, his planned retirement.

Parvensky is nationally recognized as a visionary who has propelled the Coalition's mission to promote lasting solutions to prevent homelessness and support those experiencing homelessness.

Parvensky has built a formidable organization during his 36 years, developing the Coalition from a staff of 6 with a budget of \$100,000 in 1985 to a staff of 750 with a \$100 million operating budget in 2022. He has attracted and developed dedicated and skilled staff to carry out his vision, and to do the hard work of providing health care, housing, and supportive services to our most marginalized neighbors. He has pioneered innovative strategies to leverage nearly \$1 billion of capital investments to build more than 2,500 units of housing and a state-of-the-art health care facility for those experiencing homelessness.

"John has consistently challenged the status quo to advocate for the underserved and forgotten, promoting their health, wellbeing, and stability while inspiring the Coalition's staff members to be equally tenacious," said Joel Neckers, Chair of the Coalition's board of directors. "Thanks to his leadership, Denver and Colorado have become national leaders in helping people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness. While John focuses on big-picture solutions, he is never too busy to connect with Coalition clients, residents, patients, and on-the-ground staff -- honoring the inherent dignity of all."

"For years we have been advocating for more federal, state, and local funding. Finally, our efforts are paying off as we see increased investment in housing, support services, and proven strategies for homelessness resolution. There's momentum building, and the next leader of our organization will help us seize this moment — working with our dedicated and expert team to continue to innovate and grow until all of our neighbors have adequate housing and health care," said Parvensky.

Parvensky has expanded the Coalition's reach and impact so that it now serves more than 22,000 people a year.

- The Coalition has built 20 housing developments, providing over 2,500 high-quality, affordable homes.
- The Coalition administers around 2,000 housing vouchers on behalf of the City of Denver, the State of Colorado, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. When combined with its own properties, the Coalition houses more than 4,500 individuals and families on any given night.
- The Coalition's Stout Street Health Center provides integrated health care to more than 15,000 patients annually, providing comprehensive care in a safe and welcoming environment.
- The Coalition has successfully advocated for substantive state, federal, and city-level legislation to address the crisis of homelessness.

Parvensky has been able to use innovative combinations of financing and funding to create complex developments to meet the unique needs of homeless families and individuals. By leveraging the Coalition's high quality health care services, he has been able to attract resources to create needed supportive housing. Similarly, he has been able to leverage the Coalition's supportive housing to attract resources for innovative health care. The combination has allowed the Coalition to achieve improved outcomes for both housing and health care for its clients and the community.

Yet even as the Coalition has made progress, the pandemic, rapidly rising housing prices, and widening economic gaps have pushed more Coloradans into economic insecurity, housing instability, and homelessness. The Coalition still has much work to do but will be well-positioned to leverage its future efforts off the foundation and success that Parvensky has achieved.

Parvensky announced that he will retire upon the recruitment of his successor. The Board has engaged an executive recruiting firm and has begun a nationwide search for his replacement. Parvensky will continue in his current position during the search process to support the transition for the Coalition's next CEO to maintain the organization's momentum.

Parvensky has assembled a strong executive leadership team and provided significant notice to the Coalition board so it can begin the process of identifying a new extraordinary leader to take CCH into its next chapter.

"While John will leave huge shoes to fill, we expect this exciting leadership opportunity to attract highly qualified candidates who want to build on the strong, lasting foundation he has created," said Neckers. "Homelessness is one of Colorado's great crises and it will take all of us working together to make continued progress. John has positioned us well to continue to do that."

[FOR YOUR REPORTING: Additional video soundbites from Parvensky are [in this drive](#).]

About Colorado Coalition for the Homeless:

The mission of the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless is to work collaboratively toward the prevention of homelessness and the creation of lasting solutions for people experiencing and at-risk of homelessness throughout Colorado. The Coalition advocates for and provides a continuum of housing and a variety of services to improve the health, well-being and stability of those it serves. Since its founding, the organization has earned state and national recognition for its integrated healthcare, housing and service programs. The Coalition's comprehensive approach addresses the causes of homelessness, as well as the consequences, offering critical assistance to over 22,000 individuals and families each year. Learn more at www.coloradocoalition.org.

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