Statewide Central Navigation Call  
May 14th, 2020

10:00-11:30 AM

Zoom Connection Information:

<https://zoom.us/j/929504480>

Meeting ID: 929 504 480

One tap mobile

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Chat Box:

* Introduce yourself
* Questions/Answers throughout the call
* Specific thoughts/questions regarding existing policy changes or the need for policy change in your area

Agenda:

* DHHS Prevention Updates – Emily Kluver
  + Department has announced that they will be extending emergency slot allotments for the month of May for SNAP. Families that don’t already receive the max amount for their SNAP benefits will be able to receive those benefits through this allotment.
  + Outreach for families with children under the age of 5 that were denied based on income in the last few months has been occurring and will continue to offer resources such as WIC and with Central Navigation. Most families have an email address listed and were emailed. Those living outside of Omaha/Lincoln are beginning to receive phone call follow ups.

* DHHS Crisis Funding – Emily Kluver
  + Urgent, crisis funding may be available to address immediate needs. Playbooks, surveys, and community conversations are being considered – if you have any specific, immediate needs that may have come up since playbook discussions, or that you want to provide additional information on, please put in the chat box.
  + If you aren’t able to access the chat box, you can email them to Mary Pinker to compile
  + DHHS are looking to see if they can fund some of the emergency needs communities have. This will be assessed by looking on community playbooks. Will follow up with communities with any questions. Recommended to keep playbooks updated and to remain in constant communication as things change quickly.
* USDA Summer Food Program -- Kayte Partch
  + Follow ups from 4/30 call
  + Have you had any additional thoughts or conversations on local solutions or locations to apply (i.e. restaurants)?
  + Have had good support from Nebraska Appleseed and schools, 508 sites have currently offered meals. About half of those will discontinue serving meals throughout the summer.
  + Nebraska Appleseed and USDA websites offer ways to find food sites.
  + Continuing to advocate and work with nonprofits to continue to offer meals throughout the summer. Also have a list of vendors that can offer meals for childcare providers, etc.
  + USDA has offered flexible ways to offer foods to be provided in a nonconjugate meals until the end of June. There has been some advocacy to continue to offer this flexibility to be extended even further.
  + Links for more information, brochures, etc:
    - USDA find meals for kids map: https://usda-fns.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=789a7a56a07f4e3dab873fd8c2918f9a
    - Nebraska Appleseed map: https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=11KyEMCwR37RybMCoIuUakIbPI5BO23qd&ll=41.51006159590926%2C-99.76241304999996&z=7
    - Text "food" or "comida" to 877-877. You will receive a message asking for your zip code and after providing that will receive a message with meal service info about the sites near you.
    - Most of the “Hot Spots” that have been identified across the state have established plans to continue to offer food service at least through June and some throughout the summer.

* Connectivity Funding – Cullen Robbins
  + Lifeline Program: Can offer discounts in services in phone, broadband, etc. especially for those who qualify for support services or income guidelines. Individuals can apply via mail or with their providers. Reimbursement to providers often covers all of provider fees. There are some minimum service requirements for phone and broadband services.
  + A lot of carriers, especially in urban areas, both phone and cable company are likely to have services available for low income, or those who have recently lost their jobs, at least until the end of May and possible extensions for a few more months.
  + Commission trying hard to expand broadband to rural areas.
  + Lifeline program is something that needs to be shared and communicated more, it has been most underutilized.
  + Public Service Website: PSC.nebraska.gov
  + NTAP/Lifeline specific link on website: https://psc.nebraska.gov/telecommunications/nebraska-telephone-assistance-programlifeline

* Policy Changes and Opportunities  - Rachel Meier and Jenny Skala
  + Technology survey follow ups: Communications workgroup is looking at the survey that was sent out regarding connectivity issues.
    - Looking at funding at providing connectivity options such as broadband connections and laptop access.
    - Interested in hearing what school districts are asking for laptops back before summer, some reasoning is to update laptops and ready for Fall Semester.
    - Trying to narrow down numbers per community on how to access how much equipment is needed. Also trying to brainstorm ideas on distribution.
      * Ideas:
        + Check with childcare providers, Sixpence families
        + Distribution:
        + Partner agencies pick up and distribute, public schools to use their already developed systems
  + Bring Up Nebraska was a highlight on the Governors town hall yesterday. Press release will be going out today as well. COVID Fund has been raised to $340,000 that will be most utilized in hot spots and provide food assistance. Trying to sell masks for vulnerable populations.
  + State Senator Forums are being established. Four forums have been established, have been divided into regional districts. Look out for doodle polls to set up a schedule for each area of the state.
* Community Conversation:
  + Please have one person from your area respond (others can share in the chat box with one another):
    - What is something you’ve learned through this crisis that you want to share with others? Where are the opportunities to support one another regionally or statewide?
    - Denise/Buffalo County: Health care professionals at board meeting shared about how crisis has brought healthcare providers, hospitals together that in the past have shown division. Asking community questions on what they would like to hold on to as we move into the future that has been enhanced by this COVID-19 crisis.
    - Community and Family Partnership/Platte Colfax: Have noticed how fast things can happen when community and partners come together. Have received tremendous response in regard to needs. Last night, over 125 families came to food pantry distribution. Local police helped, had 20 volunteers step up as well. Have seen great mobilization on community efforts with low duplication of efforts. Have worked with childcare providers and Chamber of commerce to provide cleaning supplies to childcare providers. Have another food pantry offered today to assist those that weren’t able to receive food yesterday.
    - Dawson: Had been in process in starting collaborative when COVID-19 crisis hit and quickly ramped up efforts. Has been able to find the numerous resources and sharing across communities as a great learning opportunity. Went from standard facilitated process that is typically used when developing collaborative communities and moved smoothly and quickly into playbook development.
    - Douglas County Project Everlast and Community Response: Have learned how fragile mental health is for clients. How very important mental health services really are. Housing is such a huge barrier for young people from availability to affordability. Have seen an increase in collaboration across partners.
    - Families First Partnership/Lincoln County: Unavailable to share.
    - Fremont Family Coalition: Working offline with other collaboratives. Have seen a quick mobilization in offering services and supports to families. Greater Fremont Development Council, once a month partner with local restaurant to offer free dinner meals for families in need. At distribution last week they handed out 200 meals and this week gave out 400 in an hour and a half. 3000 grab and go meals have been distributed by the schools through the week and 2800 weekend meal packs as well to date.
      * Regional collaboration with other collaboratives has met to discuss what areas are covered and which are not yet covered and developing plans on how to serve those that are still needing to be connected to. This will allow communities that doesn’t have central navigation established to continue to be served. Side note: Other communities encouraged to consider doing something similar with their neighboring collaboratives.
    - Growing Community Connections/Dakota County: Have been very busy. Coaches have been seeing many mental health issues that have not been addressed. Have been sharing information with families regarding counseling and therapy. Schools are continuing to provide telehealth mental health services with their students. 250 food boxes are distributed each week to food pantries and to health centers. Health Centers have given out food boxes to those that were coming into clients that are sick and also transport to those that are homebound. Schools are also giving out meals and also transporting meals to homes for students that have no transportation options. Crisis have brought together community together even more. Dakota County offers tristate services as they serve South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska.
    - Hall County/H3C: Director started in November and quickly adapted to this situation. Tuesday morning meetings offer opportunities to hear from a variety of professionals and to share needs. Collaboration has allowed to meet those needs. Have also seen an increase in partners, funders, and community members. Local news station will be interviewing landlords and utility company around how to help with bills and will also feature H3C to share information. If available, link will be share for this news story.
    - Sarpy/Lift Up Sarpy: Mental health gaps and housing needs continue to be a big need. Have seen an increase in support, partnering, and funding solutions to these needs.
    - Lancaster: COVID-19 testing on May 15th will offered. I need to jump off for another meeting. For Lancaster County I think that the things we have learned is how great cross sector collaboration has been...Lancaster County non-profits historically collaborate well but this pandemic has brought other sectors in to the collaborative fold. One item to highlight is the upcoming FREE COVID-19 testing that will be happening on May 15th targeted for those that have barriers. Translators will be on site, no insurance needed.
    - Norfolk/Norfolk Family Coalition: Collaboration with other CWB communities have allowed for learning opportunities and continued communication. Have also learned to adjust to what is happening each day in the community.
    - Panhandle: People have offered donations, specifically to offer food. Held first mobile food pantry. Had volunteers come out to help and support the food pantry. Served 397 households that day. Planning on continuing to do this the next couple of months. Have received funds through CSBG, and different COVID funding opportunities. Utilizing different avenues and partners to share information and resources. Local theater offering drive in theater movies at Farm/Ranch location with free will donation, funds will be allocated to the collaborative this weekend.
    - Better Together/Otoe: Unavailable to share.
    - Sandhills: Slow to start but have been full force this week. Getting a true view of collective impact. Community Response is new and is being seen as a great resource and that is there for a reasonable of time. Utility companies are seeing it as a resource as well, providing referrals to CR. Workers at local livestock yard have been impacted by COVID and have been connected to CR through bilingual advocate. Received iPads today and will be distributed to families, hospitals, and nursing homes. Looking at some contracts for bilingual navigator to formalize position.
    - Blue Valley/ Southeast Nebraska Collaborative: Would build on the theme of appreciation for partnerships internally and externally. The level of support for outreach has been amazing. The landscape looks very different now than when it did 4 years ago when collaborative started. SENC continues to grow, especially during this crisis. Their newest partner, the Cornhusker United Way has raised $10k to reach those most in need in Saline County as quickly as possible. This doubles the efforts in Saline now. Very hopeful that we will come through more informed and better connected.
    - Valentine: Had a free COVID testing in school parking lot yesterday. Max was 125 and tested 87. Will know results in 5 days. When you ask people for help, they rarely say no and often do more. Connections are just important. Often people aren’t aware of the needs so that is what keeps them from helping. If the community is connected and knows the needs, I think they can be met better.
    - York: Seen an importance of small things such as common agendas. How much easier things can move forward when you share a common agenda and COVID-19 has established that.
    - Mass testing have been offered in Lancaster, Valentine and Fremont and more information will be coming in regard to numbers.

* Next Call: Thursday, May 21, 2020  10am