**Statewide Central Navigation Call**April 1, 2021

Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91496192036?pwd=R3NrdWVrT1UxQkVKd0dXQnhNY3hjdz09>

Meeting ID: 914 9619 2036

Passcode: 331676

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**Chat** **Box:**

Introduce yourself

Questions/Answers throughout the call

**Agenda**:

* Community Spotlight
  + Cathy Minnick, Sandhills Community Collaborative (Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Loup, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler Counties)
  + Working on getting collaborative going for 2 years and operating for over a year.
  + 20,000 people in 8 county area.
  + Staff consists of Coordinator Cathy Minnick, Central Navigator Diana Boutwell, and a Bilingual Outreach staff person
  + #1 priority at the moment is mental health.
  + MyLink app has been developed in the area and is showing to become a large asset for collaborative partners and those needing help in connecting to resources
  + Have a website and Facebook page established
  + Challenges include being a very rural area and lack of resources.
    - Example: finding home health options for individuals
    - Lack of childcare providers.
    - KaCee Zimmerman (DHHS)- Basic needs group: There have been funds available to serve families, especially during the pandemic. Many of these families are some that have never been served before via DHHS services. 900 families have been served through food banks and a Farm to Table program was established in a local church. As resources went down it was noticed that families had to choose what they could afford to provide their families. Diapers where one basic need that was needed most. A community member developed a ‘diaper depot’ that the collaborative partners helped with when it became overwhelming to handle with all of the requests that were coming through. 320 families were served with diapers alone. Collaborating with DHHS has allowed the cross sharing of information on what needs are being highlighted and what barriers families are reporting. This has also helped in assisting families in developing sustainable connections to resources and supports.
    - Jaci Walrath- Mental Health workgroup: have established a way to pay for up to 7 sessions and developed partnerships with local mental health providers. Would like to see better access to assessments and more sessions to be provided.
    - Transitional Youth group: Mindfulness matters. How to deescalate yourself. Mental health is very important and ties into prevention. 20 schools have signed up to receive Trauma Informed/Mental Health First Aid trainings. Hoping to train school “champions” in each of the schools. With mental health being addressed the hope is it will lead to increased prevention strategies.
    - Getting a reputation that they are the place to turn to for help, have even received interesting ones that don’t really fit into the scope of the collaboratives work. Regardless families are connected and assisted.
    - Success Story: A family called that was needing a wheelchair for little boy. Insurance wouldn’t cover and they didn’t know any connections to obtain one. Eight small organizations, for the first time ever, all partnered together financially to buy the wheelchair for the little boy. The collaborative helped share and connected partners together to meet this need.
* Reaching Teens Workshop
  + Crystal Aldmeyer, NCFF
  + Dr. Ginsburg will be offering a virtual workshop. Collaboratives and partners are welcomed to attend. Toolkit is designed to offer youth engagement and empowerment. Helps those working with youth to develop and offer youth centered approaches as they interact with youth. No limit on attendees. All virtual via Zoom May 4th, 2021 9-12:30am.
  + Here is the link to register for Dr. Ginsburg's workshop: <https://www.projecteverlast.org/events.html/event/2021/05/04/reaching-teen-a-virtual-workshop-with-dr-kenneth-ginsburg-/327819>
* JAG Nebraska
  + Jim Lambert, JAG Nebraska
  + LEAP for post-secondary pathways for CYI youth, Nebraska is one of 10 sites for LEAP. LEAP is incorporating JAG into the program as well. Nebraska is in the process of furthering JAG efforts across the state.
  + 1979 started in Delaware for kids that had little to do in the summer months in an effort to offer education opportunities that would eventually lead to job opportunities. Numerous states offer JAG program. Columbus, Fremont, and Omaha Nation have JAG offered. Nebraska City, York, Hastings, Grand Island and Omaha Metro. Benson and Bryan Highs School are also joining. JAG is a class in the schools. Enrollment is anywhere from 35-60 students. Kids come from varied backgrounds and determine on selection criteria. Criteria depends on academics, family situations, and other challenges. Look at need, want, and benefits for each student. The students should want to be a part of the program. Teach employability skills, communication skills, etc. Show them different employers and getting to hear what those employers look for in a job candidate. Utilize project-based learning. July 19-22nd will have training and welcome presenters from the group to come speak about mental health and self-care. Data is entered into a JAG Force and it will measure performance outcomes. Track students 12 months post-graduation. Nebraska JAG program has a 100% graduation rate. Looking at offering different certifications for youth such as nursing, welding, trucking, etc. Employer handbook being developed as well. Two conferences are offered in Fall and Spring. Career development conference in the spring and welcome workshop facilitators. Also offer competitive events public speaking, employability skills, etc. and welcome judges for that as well. For questions, connect with Jim Lambert: [jlambert@jagnebraska.org](mailto:jlambert@jagnebraska.org) or 406-459-9193
  + Next steps will consist of Sara reaching out to communities mentioned to offer further connection to Jim and the career specialist in the school. Would also like to see how Central Navigation can work with career specialists with referrals and resource connections.
* Behavioral Health and Wellness
  + Children’s Mental Health Eagle Riders
    - Karla Bennetts, Families Care
      * Eagle Riders are riders that come together to offer the Pony Express Ride. They deliver mail from professionals, families, and youth addressed to Governor around mental health. They start on May 19th in Scottsbluff and will travel across the state and ends on the State Capitol on the 22nd. Professionals, families, and children also come to the state capitol that day to offer their thanks for the opportunities. Mini events are offered across the state as they travel through the communities. This event offers families to feel connected to other families who may share similar experiences.
      * <https://www.facebook.com/ponyexpressride>
      * Family Run Organizations of Nebraska work to provide day to day services for families. Collaborate with community organizations. Organizations include Parent to Parent Network, Families Care, and Independence Rising. These organizations are run by individuals that also have children with needs. This offers true understanding of what families are going through. Will share information on the mini-events that are offered in each community.
  + Child Abuse Prevention Month
    - Brenda Weyers, NCFF
    - Kathy Stokes, NCFF
      * Pinwheels represent in the happy childhoods every child deserves and the role we all have in making sure that all children are safe. Campaigns include pinwheel displays, activities, and events. These events and activities offer collaboratives to offer more information on the collaboratives themselves, information on what resources and connections that are available, and another way to get the communities involved in participating in bringinig awareness to this campaign and its intents.
      * State level: DHHS Children and Families Services and First Lady Susanne Shore will offer a planting event. There will also be a proclamation on April being Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.
      * NCFF doing a lot of paid and unpaid strategies. New Bring Up Nebraska website has launched and live. If you have information, you’d like to have shared on the website please let Brenda know. <https://bringupnebraska.org/>
      * Nebraska Child Abuse Prevention fund board put together different radio spots on how people can best support families in their communities. Also have paid digital ads. Ads are different and also target different populations. Ads are also available in Spanish.
      * Toolkit was also developed and available on NCFF website. It has sample press releases, logos, suggested social media posts, social media playbook, messaging research, images and videos, email signature image and more.
      * If you would like something custom made, please also reach out to Brenda.
* Immigrant Families and LB 298
  + Leonor Further, Immigrant Families Task Force
    - Working with Family Wellness Group in addressing the needs for mental health services in different languages. Will be reaching out to communities in efforts to connect with local bilingual therapists to gather information on barriers they are seeing and an invitation to join a group for strategy and solution building. Hoping to then further connect with non-English speaking mental health service recipients to see what they feel would have been a benefit leading up to accessing services.
    - Will be meeting on April 22nd from 10:30-11:30am with discussion to be had around the new Public Charge Rule change and also hearing more about what communities are doing to connect immigrant and minority population to accurate COVID vaccine information and getting registrations.
  + Micky Devitt, Heartland Workers Center [micky@heartlandworkerscenter.org](mailto:micky@heartlandworkerscenter.org)
    - April 13 and 14th 8am-5pm will be offering a LB298: Closing the Unemployment Gap to educate the public and senators on the parameters around the bill. Would like to hear from voices across the state. Available online and welcome the public to register to offer a chance to share their story and reason for supporting this bill. Please fill out our LB298 partner sign-up for bill updates! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScYucLPf-dSYzuZrciUHr3BWFpvJon3LzI-CgoaDBJMGwSO1Q/viewform?gxids=7628>
    - LB298 Virtual Lobby Day sign-up (by Friday April 9) at <https://forms.gle/xKgRvYk2ZZYAsBWo6>
* Food Security
  + Food Security Update: The first P-EBT distributions should arrive to families April 17th through April 27th depending on if they are a SNAP household. SNAP households will have funds added to current SNAP cards, non-SNAP households will receive a new P-EBT card and will arrive later in this timeframe.
  + Districts have been submitting data to NDE, but as of Tuesday afternoon, just 33 districts had uploaded their files. If districts are not able to get their data uploaded by the 5th of each month, their information will be picked up the next month.
* Housing Task Force: Jason Feldhaus
  + CDC extended moratorium and continuing at a federal level. Will allow to continue to offer rental assistance.
  + Working with Legal Aid to offer legal services for individuals that are needing access to legal representation when facing legal issues around housing and evictions.
  + Lincoln and Lancaster up and running with ERA Funds. Online Portal is available and taking applications. Last week Lincoln processed $200,000 in rental assistance, in two weeks $900,000.
  + MatCH is taking applications for Omaha rental assistance. Have private, CARES, and some stimulus funds to utilize.
  + If an individual has already submitted an eviction moratorium Declaration form to their landlord, they do NOT need to sign and submit a new one. Even if the form they submitted lists March 31 as the deadline, that form is still in full effect.
  + But if it is helpful (or removes the opportunity for misunderstanding) to sign a new declaration form, a copy with updated deadline is available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/EvictionDeclare_d508.pdf>
  + NLIHC has made the same form available in a number of different languages: <https://nlihc.org/coronavirus-and-housing-homelessness/national-eviction-moratorium>
  + CDBG has RFP open for funds. NCFF and partners working in cooperation for Community Response assistance that will hopefully assist with mortgage assistance as the ERA funds do not cover mortgages.
  + John Turner: Encouraged to follow NIFA and Governors Facebook page for updates. Needing help in getting the word out across the state on how to make sure people are accessing this resource. Have found it beneficial that communities are offering to assist individuals in applying for the funds especially for those that are not comfortable with technology. First round of checks is going out this week with another round set to go out next week.
  + It is much easier and simpler if landlords and tenants are able to connect and apply together. The landlord does not see personal information from the tenants. There are push notifications sent out to applicants if there something missing or reminders.

**All notes, audio, and chat box recordings are posted at**[**https://www.nebraskachildren.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-communities.html**](https://www.nebraskachildren.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-communities.html)

**Next Call:  April 15, 2021, 10am CST**