Statewide Central Navigation Call  
June 4th, 2020

Zoom Connection Information:

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

Meeting ID: 929 504 480

One tap mobile

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+16465588656,,929504480# US (New York)

Chat Box:

* Introduce yourself –3333-33-3
* Questions/Answers throughout the call

Agenda:

* Young Adult and Provider Open Forums – Schalisha Walker, Project Everlast
  + Flyer for forums shared. Thursday June 4th @6:30om
  + Series of young adult forums open statewide. Allowing a safe space to talk about feelings over murders of James Scurlock in Omaha and George Floyd in Minneapolis. Wanting to allow open conversations to give young people a place to be comfortable being vulnerable. This is has been a very difficult time for young people, allowing this space has allowed young people to find support, resources, and connections. More forums will be held in the future with facilitators. Flyer will also be sent out with the zoom link so that it can be shared out with young people. This also provides information on how to stay safe if young people would choose to join in protests and provides other ways to speak out such as reaching out to senators, connecting with organizations, etc. If other communities would like to have similar conversations in their area Project Everlast can assist in helping with those conversations as well. There was a forum on Tuesday night that was very impactful, there are plans to continue offering these opportunities.
  + This is a critical time to make sure that our young people are feeling heard and that they are safe in sharing as well as feeling connected. Schalisha would be happy to assist with questions, resources, and support. Schalisha can be reached at [swalker@nebraskachildren.org](mailto:swalker@nebraskachildren.org)
  + There is a public FB page as well, anyone can friend request the page: Schalisha Aaron (Project Everlast)
* Child Care Grants- Nicole Vint. DHHS
  + Received approximately $20 million dollars through CARES Act that will be used to support childcare providers across the state that were affected by COVID-19. These are different from the prevention/community dollars also coming from the CARES Act. The community playbooks that were developed statewide were major factors in receiving this funding
  + One grant will be a stabilization grant to assist with those providers seeing lower enrollment, needing supplies, etc. Stabilization grants will be available for up to $3500 for in-home childcare providers; $5500 for childcare centers.
  + Incentive grant offered towards reopening’s for licensed providers to assist with costs. Grants will be available for up to $2000 for family childcare providers; $3000 for childcare centers.
  + Will aim to have grant application information by the end of the month established with more details.
  + Some of funding will be allotted towards the new childcare referral website. Website was created to give parents a real live picture of what is available for childcare. Funds will assist in further enhancing the website.
  + Also set aside funds for afterschool summer learning. Will be working with Beyond School Bells.
  + Also funding a grant that began with private dollars in October to assist childcare providers with a one-time $1000 grant. This will assist the 260 applications that were not funded at that time due to capacity.
  + Anyone needing to update information on childcare referral website can access the contact information on the website.
    - <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/childcare-providers-frequently-asked-questions.html>
    - There is also support@nechildcarereferral.org for support questions about the website.
  + There will be more information shared on how new providers can be added to website. Questions can go to Betty or Nikki for more information.
  + New Childcare Portal: Post card will be going out via early learning connection staff that will detail the portal.
  + Childcare capacity needs are uncertain. Providers are currently working at half capacity or less. As reopening’s occur this is something that will need to be assessed. Buffet Early Childhood will be sending out surveys to follow up with providers to find out more on capacity needs.
  + For any questions regarding the childcare funds from the CARES Act please reach out to Nicole via email: Nicole.vint@nebraska.gov

* Launch NE, School Reopening – Lane Carr, NDE and Anne Herman, AVA Insights
  + Lane shared the following link with the statement from the Commissioner of Education regarding the recent events across our country and in our state. <https://www.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/NDE-Commissioner-of-Education-Statement.pdf>
  + On Launch Nebraska website there are three pillars that will breakdown information in the decision making in reopening Nebraska schools.
    - Three pillars are Leadership and Planning, Conditions for Learning, and Continuity of Learning.
    - Professional Learning and Resources offers links to series to professional learning opportunities that are free. One specific resource includes a partnership between Unbound End and Launch NE to offer “Unfinished Learning and Instructional Equity”. This will be a great resource as conversations are continued around equity.
  + Asking for input on what are the needs of children, parents and caregivers to provide information and learning opportunities. Wanting to know how comfortable families are with sending children back to school with health precautions in place. As well as how practical would staggered learning be for parents. Other questions include what tools could be utilized for parents to share their needs or concerns and how to be sure we are getting input from all parents. Looking at inviting and including youth and parent voice in the decision making.
  + Other topics of conversations include how to plan for job flexibility for parents and caregivers and how to support businesses as they access and change their work to offer the flexibility that may be needed.
  + Wanting to give schools plans and tools on reopening however that may look depending on their community decisions. They are hoping to begin making decisions in July on reopening’s.
  + CARES Act funding can also go to addressing priorities that were identified.
    - Looking at funding schools that were struggling before and schools that were in COVID hotspots. Especially related to technology access.
    - CARES Act Priorities: 1) Technology infrastructure and device access 2) Planning supports for fall (planning for scenarios) 3) Professional development for inclusive remote classrooms 4) Nutritional supports for students 5) Social-emotional, mental, and behavioral health supports
  + Decisions to reopen are made by districts in partnership with public health departments. Which is why getting out this information is critical in getting out as well as gathering insight from parents and caregivers. There are districts that are working together in making decisions regionally.
  + Input/Questions:
    - Lincoln Public Schools recently sent out a survey to parents. May be a great resource on how to reach out to parents and/or what questions to ask.
    - Parents are wanting to know what options will be available, what different ways are being explored in returning to school.
    - Will be looking at bringing different sectors such as businesses, economic development, chambers to discuss the need for flexibility in the fall.
  + Reach out to Lane at lane.carr@nebraska.gov if you have additional thoughts or ideas.
* DHHS Fan Program
  + For the fan program if there are providers that would like to participate, e-mail DHHS.LIHEAPPolicyQuestions@nebraska.gov. There is a list of current providers posted on the public website, if you would like to refer a household for a fan. Households do have to have an active LIHEAP case to be eligible.

* Community Conversation: please have one person in each area think through and answer the below question. Others can answer in the chat box:
  + What are your thoughts and/or considerations on how best to engage parents/caregivers and young adults regarding their concerns and guidance when it comes to reopening schools?
    - York: Thursday mornings they have community wide briefings. Local public schools shared that they are looking at 5 different options at what the reopening will look like as well as what Graduation will look like. June 22nd they will hold graduation with social distancing guidelines and plans set in place. Encouraging ways to engage with parents using teachers that are parents and utilizing Communities for Kids.
    - Valentine: School district is trying to figure out what reopening will look like for them. Surveys and forums may be a great tool to use to access how the community is feeling about reopening schools. Because this is such a hot topic of conversation there is more confidence in getting a good response rate. The last time that surveys were sent out there were grocery incentives that were included for participation.
    - Panhandle: In 11 county area they have about 30 schools that work close together collaboratively towards making decisions. This can allow a great way to partner in getting feedback.
    - Norfolk Family Coalition: there will be a call tomorrow to determine back to school plans. Heidi was welcomed to meeting and specifically on communicating with parents, caregivers, and community. Hoping to allow consistent and clear communication about plans.
    - Lancaster: LPS survey went out today. Some options include ½ days but leads to issues around transportation for those that do not have transportation availability. The other area of concern is surrounding access to technology. Concerns about normalcy and social interactions for students. Hoping for a good response to survey and working together as a community in addressing challenges.
    - Sarpy: Going forward with virtual learning is causing concern amongst parents is the feeling that they are not meant to teach their children, especially those that struggle with parenting already. Also wanting to support parents that feel inadequate in voicing their concerns while being honest and vulnerable. This may be a question to ask on surveys, but worried parents will have a hard time admitting this struggle.
    - Hall: Have done many things across the area. Superintendents have held Facebook Live town hall type sessions where they answer questions and hear input from those participating/watching. There has been lots of communication from school districts but not finalized plans in place.
    - Growing Community Connections: Had a large apartment complex fires and connecting with those affected, thankful for no injuries reported. Tri-state area are having ongoing conversations around reopening. Sioux City is having many conversations and communications around the development of plans, cleaning buildings, etc. They are trying to be sure to let families know they are working on making decisions on plans and have included partners in conversations.
    - Fremont: Looking at starting later, ending later. Also planning around potential second wave of outbreaks. There has been little communication to collaborative about the development of plans. There is confidence that parents and young people would want to provide input in decision making. There are curriculum plans also being developed by teachers.
    - Douglas: Update from Project Everlast Omaha- working with schools to be sure that they are still connecting with young people, so they don't fall through the cracks especially if there are plans to continue with virtual learning when school starts. There are meetings set up with schools to stay in the loop and up to date with referral processes.
    - Dawson: Lexington Public Schools are limiting preschool classes to 10 students per classroom. Reaching out to schools Gothenburg has been providing opportunities to share on where they are in making plans. Locally it would work best to have a face to face stakeholder meeting. Schools offer something similar and it would be beneficial to invite families from each grade to participate and giving space to listen. This would also give the school a chance to share values they are keeping in mind as they develop plans. C4K could be a resource in these conversations. A town hall for employers would be another option for input.
    - Communities and Family Partnership: Our conversation so far with local schools has been helping with some resources for keeping kids engaged during the summer and don't know much of their plans at this time for August. Heard our local ESU working at getting needed supplies for schools. Wondering if the schools messaging systems can be used to drive people to schools' web site to answer a survey. Will share what Lincoln has done with our districts.
    - Buffalo: Find that a survey or forum would be a good start. Kearney Public Schools sent out a survey at the end of the year to get feedback about the remote learning that occurred to finish the school year, more than likely they will use this feedback to help with planning for the new school year. Getting information out to parents/caregivers soon with potential scenarios of how school may look would be good.

All notes, audio, and chat box recordings are posted at <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/frequently-asked-questions-for-communities.html>

Next Call: Thursday, June 11, 2020  10am