Chat Box:

* Introduce yourself
* Questions/Answers throughout the call
* Please add in any continued needs you are aware of locally around diapers and wipes, and any continued barriers to addressing these needs

Agenda:

* DHHS Prevention Updates – Emily Kluver, Child and Family Services
  + May Supplemental Allotments- On June 6th if families didn’t receive the max amount of SNAP benefits, they will receive an allotment on their accounts.
  + WIC program got an extension through June 30th to continue to take applications over the phone. WIC is available to families with children under 5, income guidelines are more generous than the SNAP program.
  + Fan program starts June 1st. If families meet eligibility requirements, they can receive fans to keep their homes cool over the summer. The list of those distributing fans will be available soon.
  + Well Being Guide for educators was released on Friday. DHHS has seen a decrease in calls to the Child Abuse Hotline, more than likely due to school being out for the year. This guide will equip educators to be able to connect families with resources as well as identifying child abuse and neglect. Guide will be translated in Spanish, with hopes for more languages to be included in the near future.
  + Links:
    - <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Supplemental-SNAP-Funds-to-be-Issued-June-6.aspx>

<http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/Supporting-Child-and-Family-Wellbeing.pdf>

* TestNebraska – Doug Carlson, Deputy Director, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services
  + Have tested over 18,000 people in partnership with the National Guard.
  + Utilize CHI Health Lab in Lincoln and Omaha.
  + Mobile Test sites have been offering testing sites in over 16 different communities. Testing sites are usually in a tent or in fairgrounds location and set up as a drive thru. Nasal swab tests are administered without leaving vehicles and is relatively a quick process. After the test, results are available within 72 hours via email.
  + Wanting better communication. More materials and sharing out of information on sharing these services not in only in different languages but also just getting the word out.
    - For people without email? Encouraged to have a family member that would allow you to utilize their email or call the Help Call Center at (402) 552-6645 that can walk people through the process of receiving their results outside of emails.
    - How to help people that test positive? The local public health departments know names of those that are testing positive. A good idea to reach out to local public health departments in getting information to those that are testing positive on how they can receive additional supports through the collaboratives.
    - At test sites as you drive up there are signs that state how the process works and what to do after testing.
    - Testing after already been tested negative? If someone feels their situation has changed, or have been exposed, encourage them to take the assessment and get tested.
    - PPE availability? Working on getting PPE to organizations that work directly with families and children. Can reach out to Doug to get reliable and effective PPE. doug.carlson@nebraska.gov
    - In regard to false negatives: Testing is as accurate as possible.
    - As summer roles out there will be continued opportunities for testing.
    - Recommendations:
      * Translators at testing sites as well as health departments.

* CARES Act Community Funding – Jennifer Skala
  + Press Conference yesterday: 20 million dollars to collaboratives to go to assisting communities in playbook concerns and issues. Details on how these funds will be allocated to hopefully be released early next week. Playbooks have been vital towards this funding opportunity.
  + 40 million will also be provided to broadband issues across the state.
  + Many states are not investing in prevention the way Nebraska has, this is an opportunity for Nebraska to be a prime example of the difference that prevention efforts make.
* Community Conversation – Please have one person answer the following:
  + How is reopening looking for the community partners in your local area? What is your additional capacity/resource needs, questions, or concerns?
    - Buffalo County: Staff working from home through July. Community wide, volunteer opportunities are changing. Program feeding 1500 people right now, how to transition to continue to help people with food as they lose volunteers returning to work. Low requests so far for financial assistance, working on sharing resources with employers and agencies as they anticipate an influx in referrals. Needing ideas on how to support international students. Encourage to think about how to utilize new funding opportunities to meet needs in community.
    - Sara Hvonaskek/Community and Family Partnership: Continuing virtual meetings. Discussions around policies in providing services, meetings, etc. Community partners: businesses looking very different. Resource concerns that are being addressed around food insecurity; grant dollars have been helpful in addressing these needs. Working with NE extension, health department, schools in how to develop a smooth system for distributing food. Especially if there is a second wave of COVID. Looking at partnering with hospitals, health department, etc. to assist those that are testing positive. Partnered with C4K, Chamber and health department to offered cleaning supplies and PPE to childcare providers. Agencies that are contracted with to do coaching, one is starting face to face contacts with families. Question on guidelines on how these visits should look and what precautions to take. Also, guidelines for nonprofits to reopen.
      * DHHS case managers have guidelines in place that can be utilized for reference. http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/COVID-19-Guidance-on-Child-Family-and-Facility-Contact.pdf
    - Nichole Hertz/Dawson County Community Collaborative: Meeting virtually. Working to build connections with service providers remotely. Because of busy schedules it has been hard to connect via phone, email, etc.
    - Douglas: People not sure on when and how to open. Especially on how to ensure safety of staff and clients. Have received plans from other providers as Project Everlast develops on plan. A lot of agencies are adapting work to assistance clients while social distancing.
    - Fremont Family Coalition: No conversations recently on reopening. Looking possibly at June 1st. Most partners and other nonprofits after still working from home and using technology to meet. Lutheran Family Services is looking at infections rate percentages as part of their plans to reopen. Fremont United Way and Chamber with other nonprofits developed reverse parade for families with Omaha Circus, collected donations and raised over $10,000 and a trailer full of goods such as diapers, wipes, food, etc.
    - Growing Community Connections: Reopening is pretty slow. CR referrals have been increasing drastically. Concerns about childcare and afterschool programs reopening. Thru October there will be only virtual meetings.
    - Hall County: 2 different phases in reopening. Continuing to take referrals. Collaborative has been revisiting plans and goals and how work can continue against COVID. Central Navigation is seeing increase in requests and anticipating more to continue to come in. Childcare providers, many shut down and are now reopening. Looking at how to support them during this time. JBS donated hamburger, school donated food, to childcare providers. Staff will be working from home through the summer.
    - Lift Up Sarpy: Business reopening with a limited rollout. Collaborative working via zoom at the moment but there are talks as they move to reopening themselves. They are looking to guidelines to establish safe procedures as they continue to serve families.
    - Lisa Janssen: Working virtually and will continue to do so for some more time.
    - Rose Hood Buss: Continuing to work remotely. Are seeing an increase in numbers in those needing assistance. Access to food, specifically for non-parents, working on connecting them to resources. They are looking at rate of decline in COVID cases before reopening.
    - Norfolk Family Coalition: Will return to office next week but will keep doors locked, will meet with families and individuals by appointment only with PPE. Meetings are mostly virtual and planning so throughout the next month. Coaches are also continuing to meet clients via telehealth, some are meeting in person with guidelines.
    - Panhandle: Public Health Department put out a tool/process to determine group meetings and will be utilizing this tool to determine if they will start large meetings and collaborative events. Organizations continue to work with precautions to ensure safety and health of providers and families. Intakes are all done via phone. Partners are working remotely. Mobile food pantry offered last week. Food insecurity needs are being met with generous donations of food and monetary donations. 2,000 lbs. of pork anticipated to arrive next week.
    - Better Together: Doors are not open. CR is being implemented and steps are being established in how to handle case flow with the current COVID precautions.
    - Sandhills: Slow to see the effects of Covid-19 but have definitely arrived now! We have been hit hard with requests for housing and utility assistance. Also, our bilingual navigator has opened the door to our Spanish speaking families, and we have had many referrals from these families. Our goal is now to connect Monica with resources and people to help her in her new role. We will be doing virtual meetings and phone referrals probably through June. A testing in Broken Bow this weekend was encouraging - 168 tests were given with only one positive. PPE for those going out into the community is a concern.
    - SE NE Collaborative: Increase in number of requests for housing and food especially last week. Homeless need for hotels due to shelters having restrictions, 7 homeless individuals in the last week. Reopening is slow, restaurants is at limited hours and capacity which affects young people that work in the field. June 15th, office will reopen to public with precautions. Youth programs: 22 young people reaching out to older people in community, young people are able to receive stipends to also offset the need for work during this time. This has also been a big help to older people that have been feeling isolated. Some great ideas are developing from this opportunity. People are attending meetings that haven’t normally in the past because of the availability of virtual meetings with no travel.
    - Valentine: Working on getting nonprofit up and going. Virtual meetings being utilized. COVID rates have been low. Nonprofit of the Midlands connection was a great resource. Opening up in the area. Youth sports are taking registrations. Businesses are opening, school is done for the school year and planning for the next school year. Following guidelines but looking at having opportunities for youth in town.
    - York: Community briefs are every Thursday morning. This morning reports, people are reopening slowly. Working at lower capacity than the guidelines recommend. Graduations looking at occurring before the end of June. Increase need for face masks in public. How to communicate going back to normal while continuing to practice safety recommendations. Collaborative office is continuing to work remotely.

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

Next Call: Thursday, June 4, 2020  10am