**Statewide Central Navigation Call – Notes**

**April 9, 2020**

**Attendees – 76 people was max on the call**

Aaron Weaver, Project Everlast Omaha

Alyson Goedken, Nebraska Children

Amy Encinger, University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute

Andrea Curtis

Angie Harroun, Blue Valley

Anna Harms, AVA Insights/Consultant Nebraska Children

Anne Herman, AVA Insights/Consultant Nebraska Children

Bev Quiring, York County Health Coalition

Bill Stanton, Casey Family Programs

Brenda Weyers, Nebraska Children

Brittany Masters, Families 1st Partnership in North Platte-Lincoln County, Central Navigator

Brittney Livingston, Project Everlast Omaha

Caroline Sabin, Families 1st Partnership, North Platte-Lincoln Co.

Catherine Brown, Nebraska Children

Cathy Minnick, Sandhills Community Collaborative

Chris Schroeder, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency

Collena Lashansky, Blue Valley

Crystal Aldmeyer, Nebraska Children

Darla Berger, DHHS

Darniece Amos, Community Support Specialist

Deborah Dancer, Douglas County Community Response

Elci Warnell, ENCAP and Lift Up Sarpy County

Emily Kluver, DHHS

Erin Sams, York County

Gary Harpster

Gay McTate, Nebraska Children Consultant

Greg Donovan, Society of Care

Heidi Hausmann, Norfolk Family Coalition - Madison County

Jason Feldhaus, Nebraska Children

Jeff Weaver

Jen Johnson

Jenny Skala, Nebraska Children

Judy Sickler

Julie Nash, Hall County Community Collaborative (HC3)

Kelsey Tourek, University of Nebraska Medical Center Munroe-Meyer Institute

Lea Ann Johnson, Nebraska Children Consultant

Lynne Brehm, Rooted in Relationships, Nebraska Children

Martha Marfileno

Marti Beard- NCFF/Communities for Kids

Mary O'Hare, Consultant Nebraska Children

Mary Pinker, Nebraska Children

Megan Garcia, Public Health Solutions

Dr. Monalisa McGee Baratta

Nichole Hetz, Dawson County/Gothenburg.

Nikia Gunn-Abdulai, Douglas County Community Response.

Nikki Erikson

Phillip Burrell, Project Everlast Omaha

Rachel Kinney, Project Everlast Omaha

Rachel Meier, Policy Development, Nebraska Children

Rose Hood-Buss, The HUB

Sabina Alic, Outreach Coordinator, Nebraska Alliance of Child Advocacy Centers

Sandy Nation, Dakota County

Sara Riffel, Nebraska Children

Sarah Papa, Community & Family Partnership serving Platte and Colfax counties

Schalisha Walker, Project Everlast Omaha

Shannon Wilkinson, DHHS NHAP

Shelly Witt, DHHS

Shonna Werth

Stacy Scholten, Nebraska Children

Stephanie White

Susanne Shore, First Lady

Tammy Bichlmeier, Platte-Colfax CR

Tana Miller

Teresa O’Donnell

Tonya Beckenhauer, Consultant Nebraska Children

Valerie Roth, Central Navigation, Hall County Community Collaborative (H3C)

Veronica Kaufman

Will Meinen, AVA Insights/Consultant

Zach Nelson, Flood Recovery Consultant for NCFF

**Agenda:**

Chat Box:

* Introduce yourself
* Post any questions/answers for the FAQ
* Questions/Answers throughout the call

**Child Care Relief Fund – Marti Beard**

Marti shared and update about this fund.

* This is a gap filling relief fund specifically for licensed child care providers providing full time care and that are currently open.
* The fund was launched last night and since then over 1,004 applications have come in as of this morning.
* To see this many applications is both a little overwhelming and a little heartbreaking
* There is an expectation that more application will come in
* This fund is all privately funded. Have $500,000 a of 10 minutes ago in support. But this is not quite half of what is needed.
* With Community Response communities, Marti and team are working closely with Mary and Jenny to identify providers in the areas that have applied and also making sure to connect providers (especially those who don’t meet the criteria for this fund) back to CR for resources. The goal is to amplify but not duplicate resources.
* Excited to be able to offer this.
* Would encourage people on this call to work with their local funders, especially those who might be prioritizing child care in their relief efforts (Omaha Community Foundation is one such local funder that is prioritizing child care). Marti and team are more than happy to share application and processes with your local funders.

Mary reiterated that we are in touch and said coordinators received the same link that child care providers did.

Please continue to apply—this helps show the need as we are connecting with funders. Will keep partnering on that and talking through how to make it work.

**DHHS Prevention Updates – Emily Kluver**

Emily share the following updates:

* Wait times: As a follow up to the call last week during which families waiting a long time to get interviews finished for Access Nebraska was mentioned as a concern, Emily shared that the DHHS team is working on a call back feature that is intended to reduce wait times for families.
* Home visiting/child safety: There was also a concern expressed last week about the limited number of eyes now on vulnerable families (i.e. is there are way for children who are potentially experience abuse or neglect to reach out?). Emily shared in the chat a link to the home visiting programs that DHHS programs support. The link is http://dhhs.ne.gov/MCAH/HV-ProgramMap.pdf. These home visiting programs are still fully operational. Most operate out of local public health departments. Encourage central navigators and other who are working with vulnerable families with children under the age of 5 to reach out to these home visiting programs.
* SNAP and food security: There should be a press release coming out today. It highlights that Nebraska DHHS will be issuing emergency allotments to SNAP participants, meaning that for families that have not already used their maximum allotment, they will get an additional allotment for March and April. Look to the press release today for details that will let families know when this allotment will be available. The allotment will push out directly to EBT cards. Also remember that the DHHS support specialists, who are on the call today and whose information is on the Nebraska Children website NC website can help.
* SNAP recertification: Also, there some new information about SNAP waiving recertification during. That information should be coming out in the press release as well.
* Stimulus as income? There have been questions as to whether stimulus payments will count as income. Emily clarified that the stimulus payments will NOT count as income.

Sara asked about additional funds in unemployment and whether this will or will not count as income. Emily will check and let the group know.

**Bridge to Independence access to Support Services Funds? – Sara Riffel**

Sara gave a heads up to the group on the call that independence coordinators that are supporting young people in Bridge to Independence (b2i) may be reaching out to Central Navigators to help the young people with whom they work. This is just a heads up that if you are hearing form young people in b2i or independence coordinators that you may use the Support Services funds to help.

**Playbook themes and responses - COVID 19 Fund and Bring Up NE Funding – First Lady Susanne Shore and Jennifer Skala**

Jenny Skala noted that she knows we’ve had a lot of questions about how this work ties to actual funding, and thanked the group again for your time on this work. She said a first review of documents has been completed and findings from this review will be shared with decision makers later today. Findings could potentially provide more resources in funding or other mechanisms.

The First Lady spoke about the COV-ID 19 Fund (announced last Friday). After the fund was announced, there were instantly calls from individuals. Efforts have been made to collect information from indivifusls and connect them back to collaboratives. However, the fund does not individually provide computers of funds. The reason for creating the fund was that two companies came to governor and wanted to donate funds but didn’t know how best to go about doing so. Now have $50,000 dollars and are continuing to fundraise. It seems most people and organizations are getting hit hard with requests and are trying to address these individually. Funds raised will note be millions but, will be another source of revenue. Approximately $10 thousand went to computers for students; also utilizing funds that Nebraska Children has. How remaining funds will be is not yet known.

Jenny reminded people on the call that some advance payment to address COVID-19 related needs have been provided to communities.

**Food Insecurity opportunity – USDA Meals2You**

Anne Herman shared that the USDA Meals2You has been offered; this is something schools can apply for. The big thing for the group to understand is that this is something that has to come thorough the education partners and yet is still another resource that exists. Information from calls like these is being shared with the education group and the education group is working to get flexibility with the funds they access. Think these funds will be especially important for rural communities. Just be aware that this is another possible solution that we re trying to mobilize quickly, especially for rural areas of Nebraska. Largely based on free and reduced numbers so schools have most of the information that they need already.

**Policy Changes and Opportunities  - Please use the chat box to share any thoughts/questions you have regarding policy changes and need for policy changes  - Rachel Meier**

Rachel shared via chat that:

* There are a TON of policy changes happening quickly -- Governor's Executive Orders, Federal legislation, state agency practices.
* YOUR expertise and the things you are seeing on the ground and the information you've provided in the Community Playbooks will inform what policies we focus on in the Bring Up Nebraska email updates and what solutions we work to support with communities. Some examples of policy issues would be eligibility, liability, barriers due to directed health measures (needs around virtual supports and telehealth).
* Here is the SNAP announcement language from the Governor earlier this week: Extending SNAP recertification periods by six months during the months of April and May.
  + Providing emergency allotments to SNAP recipients, up to the maximum allotment per household, in April and May.
  + Permitting able-bodied adults without dependents, who are subject to work requirements and are unable to meet these requirements, to be able to receive more than three months of SNAP benefits within a 36-month period.
  + Waiving the requirement that DHHS do an interview for every case prior to eligibility determination for SNAP benefits.Extending eligibility periods for other financial assistance programs to align with the SNAP extension.
* Regarding unemployment - if individuals are denied after applying, they will be automatically put in the PUA system (pandemic unemployment assistance). Individuals should apply even if they know they will be denied at first for regular unemployment. There is a factsheet on the Nebraska Children COVID page under "Nebraska Legislature >Labor Updates CARES Act Business and Labor Committee, Tom Green" <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/covid-19-information-and-resources.html>
* Paycheck Protection Program factsheet <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP--Fact-Sheet.pdf>

**Community Conversation:**

Please have one person from your area respond (others can share in the chat box with one another):

* What is giving you hope right now? Please share one solution to a need that your community is working on.

Jenny shared would love to focus these conversations more on solutions.

Mary shared we are working on finalizing the 6-month statewide evaluation report, which as of this evaluation year include data on changes in hope for people participating in Community Response. The draft report shows positive responses in this area and we look forward to sharing more about this next week.

| **Community and Person** | **What is giving you hope?** |
| --- | --- |
| Blue Valley – Collena via chat | 1. Hope: the new models projecting fewer deaths in NE and the remarkable support being shown to our senior citizens by youth. 2. Solution: Older youth are organizing in groups of 2 or 3 via on-line and in person, (with social distancing), and setting up veg gardens and flower gardens for seniors in their community. |
| Buffalo – Judy Sicker | 1. Addressing how to support Spanish speaking residents. Working with people from other organizations and finding that citizenship status and language present additional barriers, so now have people on staff to offer translation and related supports |
| Platte and Colfax counties - Sara Papa | 1. Working in partnership with local literacy agency to how those agencies can get their electronic devices to students so students can continue their school work and/or English language learning 2. Joining in collaboration with local United Way, which had set up a COVID-19 relief fund for local nonprofits. The collaborative has joined with them to match those dollars so that there is additional funding, and also so the collaborative can widen reach in the community |
| Dawson – Nicole Hetz | 1. Seeing work that’s taking place to establish a collaborative in their county and using this as an opportunity to get something in place in an area where it’s not been happening before |
| Douglas - Nikia | 1. Staying connected and having weekly meetings with collaborative agencies and partners and using this time to talk about needs of clients in the community and being able to problem solve such that clients get the things that they need |
| Douglas - Aaron | 1. Have been able to buy phones for kids getting out of jail so they can stay connected. Schalisha doing a great job of sustaining the family feel and sustaining hope 2. From Aaron to Everyone: 10:48 AM The amount of virtual trainings and opportunities for young people to learn during this is also very cool |
| Families First Lincoln Co - Britany | 1. Worked hard to get forms online and getting word out that the collaborative is there and able to help |
| Fremont Family Collab - Steph | 1. Trying to expand services in neighboring counties and outreach to child care providers to make sure everyone is covered |
| Growing Community Connections – Sandy N | 1. All the people in the community that have come together. If someone has a need then someone else says they can help or know someone who can. Food pantry at end of march – all are drive through—has 160 boxes and scramble to put together more and still turned away some. Then the question came up about people who are elderly or disabled. With public transportation shut off…how to get to grocery, or drug store? And might not have compiter to order online. So it same up that the Y has a van and this group has funds that maybe it can purchase food boxes and van can be used to deliver it t people. Great to see how people are pitching in and doing what they need to get things done. |
| Hall Co - Julie | 1. Every day see someone stepping up to the plate. Place with staff who are not busy connected yesterday and asked how they can help, for example. 2. Valerie and UW started FB page to partner needs with what’s available. 3. Great to see community come together, which brings hope for after this is over |
| Sarpy - Elci W | 1. One of the things that has brought them hope is seeing everyone come together and want to help, wanting to give a hand out to each other. Just got extended funding for our access points and glad to be able to better support families that might be experiencing homelessness. 2. From Jeff Weaver to Everyone: 10:52 AM What gives Sarpy Disaster Recovery hope during this time is our 2019 flood impacted individuals. They are recovering from the flood, now Covid-19 hits (double whammy!), but through the past year they have developed resources and resiliency to overcome. We are seeing victories each day as they continue to grow, persevere and help others. Very encouraging! |
| Lancaster Co - Rose | 1. Would echo what’s been heard so far. This has pushed us to work beyond our normal boxes. [It has been good to have the] Ability to work with councils outside the city of Lincoln. One way this is happening is a Nailed It competition with council members and adult supporters. This is a fun way to engage people and have some fun rather than engaging with the doom and gloom. Will let you know how it goes next week! Young adults pick the dish and pick the winners. Adult supporters are the competitors. |
| Norfolk – Heidi | 1. Learning more and more about the solutions that are out there. Did have a call yesterday to discuss playbook and had a lot of mental health providers on the call and another aspect of that is making sure people have the technology to continue to connect with their families and mental health providers. |
| Panhandle | Not present |
| Better Together Partners for Otoe - Lisa | 1. Just beginning to roll out CR, but community is really coming together and discuss needs and fill gaps informally even though central navigation not yet in place. Trying to roll out CR implementation at same time pandemic is happening. |
| Sandhills - Cathy | 1. Impressed with how small towns are getting creative. For example had a cruise night last night. It was a way for people to get out and not be so down in their houses. Also good to see businesses supporting other business. Some of the businesses that have had to lay people off, and larger ones are offering to hire temporarily those who have been laid off. 2. In terms of solution, have a sort of ‘phone tree’ that is used to get forms out. I call 4 people, they call four people. Everyone gets into they need this way. |
| York Co – Erin S | 1. Seeing more efficiency in resources getting to families. For example, schools going from delivery of meals daily to a week’s worth at one time. Even though this does present other challenges, it’s a move toward efficiency. 2. Also, one of the grocery stores is offering 5% discount to anyone who wears a mask when they come in. 3. Had a conversation about the playbook and financial tab and see future opportunity to work with banks and offer people who are living paycheck to paycheck more sustainability. |
| Tribal Communities – Greg | 1. Have to acknowledge things are diff in diff com 2. Stress is increasing due to employment and furloughs 3. In western ne have purchased gift certificates from local grocery store so can respond right away to a need if someone comes in with a need around food |

Mary knows these solutions did not come easily, and people are spread thin. It’s inspiring. Please keep sharing information.

Jenny encouraged people to reach out if there are questions about the stimulus funds, PPP, or other new policies.

Next Call: Thursday, April 16, 2020 10-11am