Greater NE Community Response Call

April 22nd, 2020

Agenda:

* Research and Evaluation
  + QuickBase reports
    - Walk through of canned reports available
    - Working on additional canned reports – please send suggestions of what would be useful – reports on children in the home, reports on support services funds
    - There are short, 5 minute or less videos on Box to learn how to pull down information in real-time to use in your community conversations and planning
  + Community Opportunity Map
    - Neopportunitymap.org
    - Currently 2017 data
      * Useful in grant reports or gathering information on who is being reached in your community area
    - Input on next phase of updates
      * Will send out options in writing, please provide any input on what you would find helpful
* Hotel Vouchers/Housing Updates
  + CoC – Continuums of Care
    - Local CoCs, as well as three Coordinated Cares across the state
      * Balance of State – everywhere except Lincoln, Douglas, and Sarpy County (Omaha Match)
  + When social distancing regulations first began, people were locked down in shelters
  + Effect and dynamics changing with street outreach, and shelters having to develop COVID 19 policies to protect the staff and residents
    - If you are currently in a shelter, you can stay and remain there until lockdown
    - Most have developed policies that if a resident leaves, they may not re-enter for a minimum of 14 days – this includes those who left for any reason, including to go be tested for COVID 19
    - Seeing an increase of people who are unsheltered
  + Playbook conversations prioritized alternative sheltering, due to shelters being full or not accessible for another reason
  + Looked to other areas and researched best practices around alternative sheltering, including hotel/motel vouchers
    - Main concern is public health – unsheltered individuals are at extreme risk of exposure to COVID 19, as well as exposing others
    - Unsheltered are also often at high risk due to other complicating factors or conditions
    - Hotels right now are best option to shelter individuals living in the streets
  + CR dollars are able to be used as flexible, supportive funding to provide the financial support to hotel/motel vouchers
    - If CoC identifies someone who needs shelter, CR will complete the Participant Info form and go through Support Services process as normal to provide the voucher for hotel/motel
    - CoC identifies the hotels and provides to Jason and team at NC to review and negotiate rates and policies/MOUs
    - CoC providing the coaching/case management capacity to assist individuals with their full scale of needs including and addition to housing
    - Providers are working on a long-term housing plan through CoC, but if CR also identifies additional resources, all this is encouraged to be done in partnership
    - Intended to be short-term and COVID 19 response related – federal dollars are coming to NE through HUD (ESG). ESG dollars and FEMA dollars available through disaster declaration can be used to address long-term needs. Jason is working to problem solve and research how these funding sources will support this work in the long-term.
    - Opportunity for partnership between CR and the applicable CoC to grow long-term as well
  + Liability
    - Working on mitigation fund for hotels if there are damages
    - Typically damages are about $300 on average (most common is someone smoking in a non-smoking room and needing professional cleaning)
    - The mitigation fund can help support and encourage relationships with hotels who may be reluctant to partner on this need
    - NC staff are here to help talk through specific examples if this comes up and will try to support the problem solving to meet the needs for all
  + Assisting with hotel costs for an individual needing to isolate due to exposure or testing positive for COVID 19
    - Hotels are not the place to quarantine if exposed or testing positive
    - University of NE campuses are a potential place to quarantine if exposed
    - If a person in a homeless shelter need quarantine, the shelter could spread out residents and offer non-symptomatic residents who have not been exposed hotel vouchers to make enough space for residents who need to be quarantined.
  + Things to ask hotels – typically happening between CoC provider and hotel level
    - Asking about privacy, supporting vulnerable populations
    - Policies to lock doors, protect against trafficking, what trainings have staff attended?
    - Policies around disinfecting rooms and public spaces in the building
  + Call/email Jason with any questions or needs
* CR referrals and Central Navigation Capacity
  + Communication and Partnership with DHHS teams reaching out to individuals denied SNAP (757 people)
    - Will discuss more on the Thursday call
    - Discussion on expansion ideas – strategies to serve youth, families, and individuals across collaboratives and in outlying counties
  + United Way 211 call data
    - Mary will send follow up email with document to complete to ensure CR Navigators are listed on 211. 211 staff will then refer individuals needing help to local CR
    - Discussion on how to best partner with local and statewide United Way – this conversation will continue on the next Greater NE call
  + 211 provider data form for Central Navigation/CR – provided as a follow up to this meeting. Check with Mary if you did not receive the form to complete.
* Other Specific questions
* Next call is Wednesday, May 6th from 10:30-12:00.