**Statewide Central Navigation Call**October 1st, 2020

Zoom Connection Information:

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

Meeting ID: 929 504 480

One tap mobile

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**Chat** **Box:**

Introduce yourself

Questions/Answers throughout the call

**Agenda**:

**CSBG/LIHEAP Heating Season –**Matt Thomsen, DHHS

* If someone had an active LIHEAP case from earlier this year and they were expecting/ needing to apply for the heating season assistance LIHEAP was able to do a prior authorization for them, as they were already registered in the system, and found about 16,000 households were eligible. Today is the first day for the heating season assistance. LIHEAP were able to send a link for those that were deemed ineligible through the system in order to encourage them to call and complete the application if needing the assistance. Letters state how the payments will be made to utility providers on household accounts, and a list of utility providers they partner with. If there is a household that is in need of crisis assistance, please reach out to LIHEAP and can also contact Access Nebraska to connect with LIHEAP.
* Households can apply for energy assistance through LIHEAP at: http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/accessnebraska.aspx Households can also speak with a Social Services Worker regarding LIHEAP through ACCESS Nebraska.
* Toll Free: (800) 383-4278 Lincoln: (402) 323-3900 Omaha: (402) 595-1258
* Additional information regarding LIHEAP can be obtained via http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Energy-Assistance.aspx

**Connected Youth Initiative Evaluation Updates –**Sara Riffel and Claire Hoff, NCFF

* It is CYI Transitional Services Survey month! Community providers should have received guidance and surveys already, were emailed out by Claire. Surveys are administered typically in April and October. These surveys are for any youth that have been involved in CYI. Surveys are administered through a Survey Monkey link. In April the survey was canceled, therefore the October survey is critical to gather data. Please only use the link and no paper copies. New survey asks questions similar to the pre-survey youth complete when they first connect to CYI, this will offer an opportunity to see pre and post survey results. Data is utilized for a multitude of key reasons such as informing programming and service needs, community data, grants, etc.
* In the past TSS finding have allowed a designation of moderate level -evidence based, also have shown the impact that programming and services have had on a youth and outcomes.
* CN/Coordinators are asked to check in with CYI partners to assure they have all survey materials they need, connecting with them after receiving updates on youth that have submitted surveys. CYI service providers are asked to administer the surveys, provide e-gift cards, and track those e-gift cards. Nebraska Children will compile survey updates and share those with communities.
* Gift Cards: Incentive for participating in survey. This year will be mostly be a all virtual process. Young people will receive $10 for TSS survey and $40 for Opportunity Passport Survey. This can be issued as an e-gift card or Venmo. Nebraska Children will reimburse for the gift cards distributed or Venmo payments. Should have received guidance already from NCFF on the process for reimbursements. If you have not, please reach out to Sara Riffel. B2i youth are asked to send screenshots of completion page of TSS survey.
* Some examples of CYI providers that have the TSS information and can receive reimbursement for e-gift cards: Central Plains Center for Services, Child Saving Institute, Omaha Home for Boys. Blue Valley CAP, Family Housing Advisory Services, CAP of Lincoln/Lancaster, CAPWN, The Hub Lincoln, B2i/DHHS. If your community has any other CYI providers (sub-contracted organizations of your collaborative), please let Sara know and they will make sure they have the information and can identify a process that they can be reimbursed for incentive payments. This would most likely only be organizations that your collaborative contracts with for youth leadership/CYI chapter, it is believed all coaching/OPP providers across the state are included in the above list.
* How can collaborative support the TSS process? Check with CYI partners in community- coaches, OPP, housing supports, youth leadership chapter, etc. to make sure they have received TSS information. If they do not have the information, please reach out to Sara or Claire. Organize a virtual event. In the past events were pizza parties, social event but with COVID please stick to virtual events. If you need help looking at ideas connect with Sara and be sure to include young people in the planning.
* Promote TSS on social media. Share the TSS and OPP survey results with your collaborative, older youth workgroup, and CYI chapters to talk about the importance of the surveys.
* You can find select Transitional Services Survey reports (among other evaluation reports) on our website here: https://www.nebraskachildren.org/our-approach/community-toolkit/evaluation/
* There is a virtual trivia night for any and all CYI participants statewide on Sunday, Oct. 11 6-7 PM (Central). This event is a fun way to connect with other young people with trivia, raffle prizes, and complete the TSS at the same time! We will forward the details in the CN call follow-up email.

**CARES Act Support for School-age Care Providers in 2020-21–**Jeff Cole, NCFF

* Beyond School Bells is contracting with DHHS to support CARES Act funds to school age providers, school-based programs such as After School Bells. These funds will be able to support providers throughout the 2020-2021 school year. The link to the portal for applications will be live next Monday on the NCFF website and will be open through the end of the year.
* Incentivizing the partnering between school districts, community partners for providing more opportunities for youth. Some funds will be supporting outdoor innovative learning opportunities. Another component of this funding will also support additional staff. Hoping to engage older youth such as HS students and college aged students to work with youth. This will not only increase staff but will also connect peers and offer families to increase their finances through employment.
* There is a virtual conference at the moment for after school programs and providers at this very moment and have been able to engage even more people going virtually.

**Coalition for Strong NE/Non-Profit Association of the Midlands Legislative Forum --**Laurie Ponce, CSN

* + Network of non-profits in Nebraska that together support policy to fight poverty. Have been working hard during pandemic with a consultant to streamline and improve way to communicate with one another. Believe they can have a collective impact on poverty and legislation. Hosting a candidate forum for those candidates that are up for election. This will be available virtually. The purpose is to educate candidates, having a multitude of nonprofits available to describe to candidates the needs across the state such as food, housing, transportation, etc. This will be an educational event rather than debating and politically driven. If you live in a district where there are candidates that are running please ask them, encourage them to attend and participate in the forum. There is a list compiled of candidates with their contact information and what district they are in. There is also a letter developed to invite those candidates in attending the forum. It would be very powerful to the candidates to receive an invitation from someone in their district. Also have a map with the legislative districts that are up for reelection. There will also be a social media awareness piece available.
* Candidate Forum information has been emailed to Jenny. Let me know if you would like to get the email directly. laurie@strongnebraska.org

**Digital Learning Workgroup –**Anne Herman, AVA Insights

* Please continue to reach out with updates and issues surrounding the needs around digital learning for families. Have begun to explore how to handle big picture issues and the connections between caregivers and families as they navigate through this time, specifically how to offer help and assistance as they navigate utilizing technology, they may not be comfortable with such as broadband issues, computers, software, etc. It will help tremendously also to know what issues each specific school district is experiencing. They are also keeping in mind the language barriers they may exist for families on top of this. Please reach to Anne with any questions, ideas, or to share the concerns you are hearing.
* Device distribution: the state is working hard to get devices to districts. There are a bunch of devices that were being requested by school districts that have just become available. Please reach out to Anne if there is any questions on availability and requesting devices.
* Dakota County/South Sioux City - Families do not have the money available to pay for internet service so their children can do homework. The school provides WIFI hotspots in their parking lots but that requires children to go to the school to connect. The school also provides some mobile WIFI devices, but the family still has to pay for internet service. Some of the local internet providers will give discounts but it's still too expensive for some families.

**CARES R&R Questions and Follow-Ups –**Diane Lowe, DHHS

* Have a distribution list, hoping they can get it up on the website and will also share with Jenny to share it with communities. Funds should have been received by now. If there is anyone that has questions on the R&R reports and funding, please reach out to Diane. The R&R report database is in the process of being finalized. If you need another payment from the funds you have been awarded also reach out. Please use dhhs.CARES@nebraska.gov

**Barrier Busting/Solution Task Force Workgroup Updates**

* **Connectivity/Communication:** working on getting more certified interpreters and translators. Connecting with colleges to discuss options. Were able to look at barriers to this.
* **Food Insecurity:** Food boxes were unable to be approved/continued to many partners and limited to two food banks by USDA. If your community is impacted by this, please connect with Zach ASAP with to communicate those needs. Zach Nelson, NCFF Consultant Email: [zach@republicinsights.com](mailto:zach@republicinsights.com) Phone: 402.513.9115
* **Immigrant Families Workgroup:** Name change. Will be meeting on October 28th, 2020 @ 10:30am. Contact Leonor Fuhrer for more information. leonorfuhrer@gmail.com
* **Support for Youth and Families:** there is a group working to contact multicultural centers to assess the resources, needs, barriers around mental health for families. Specifically, around barriers such language, stigma, and culture. Working with foundation communications meeting to see what things are available around Protective and Promotive Factors. Nathan Busch is also working to connect with schools around the state on developing the resources around mental health. Organizing resources around mental health in a way that can be available to individuals on a regular basis. Next meeting in October. Contact Gay Mctate for more information: gmctate@cox.net
* **Unconnected Older Youth:** October 27th @ 2pm. Revisiting playbook and what does COVID recovery look like for young people and the shift in needs over time. Marketing campaign also in the works for young people to access Central Navigation. Statewide virtual event: Trivia night. If you'd like to join the unconnected older youth task force and have not received the calendar invite, please email Sara at sriffel@nebraskachildren.org
* **Housing Task Force and Funding Opportunities:** All CARES Act funds and private funding have been sent out to communities. If you need any help brainstorming or sharing challenges, please connect with Jason or Nate Smith. Applications have shown a challenge in showing the impact of COVID on the housing applications. Connect with Jason if you are also facing similar challenges.

**Save the Date: October 15th Virtual Celebration**

* **Join the call in celebrating the accomplishments and work that has been happening across the state!**

**Community Share**

* Denise Zweimer/Buffalo County: I anyone working with Walmart or HyVee to get reduced or free food deliver options for families in need? We have gotten a request for assistance to help with food delivery this winter... We are contacting them in Buffalo County, wondered if anyone had success with this?
* Sarpy county has connected with county and local police to offer delivery. Fremont is working on a pilot with DoorDash on deliveries. United Way of the Midlands did not receive enough buy in to offer the partnership with DoorDash, but is now being spearheaded with United Way Worldwide to work with the United Way in Lincoln to continue this project. Project Hunger in Grand Island works with HyVee on best purchasing options. Dakota County worked with the schools and Voices for Food and also are interested in how to work with Walmart and Hy-Vee.
* Communities have also utilized school bus drivers and even teachers to help with distributing food. Zachery Nelson would appreciate hearing from communities on what communities are doing to meet this need. NCFF also offer support in utilizing funds to support food delivery/transportation.
* Buffalo County: Hosted a Laptop Recycle event in early September. Collected almost 100 devices. Recycled with Mother Board and now have about 50 we can buy back for around $250 each. Great community service for takeback and helps our CRT. We also collected several cell phones for SAFE Center. Highly recommend for communities.
* A discussion around the lack of dental care providers who accept Medicaid. There is a big need, has been on the radar of NCFF. The Community Health Center in Sioux City accepts Nebraska Medicaid. However, they have a 2-3 month wait routine exams, similar experiences by other dental health providers on the long wait.
* Care Portal is launching in Lexington on October 7th at 10am and in Grand Island on October 28th. Ryan Stanton at COMPASS is the contact person. ryan@compassnebraska.org

**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: Thursday, October 15, 2020   10am**