Statewide Central Navigation Call  
April 16th, 2020

90 participants – the list below reflects the participant list as best recorded but apologies for any misspellings and/or people whose names were not recorded

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

Anne Herman, AVA Insights/Consultant Nebraska Children

Barbara Jackson, UNMC/MMI

Betty Medinger, 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

Carmen Bradley, Lift Up Sarpy

Carmen Trevino, Panhandle Partnership

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

Catherine Brown, Nebraska Children

Cathy Minnick, Sandhills Community Collaborative

Collena Lashansky, Blue Valley

Darla Berger, DHHS

Darniece Amos, Community Support Specialist

Deborah Dancer, Douglas County Community Response

Denise Zwiener

Elci Warnell, ENCAP and Lift Up Sarpy County

Emily Kluver, DHHS

Erin Sams, York County

Faith Mills, Panhandle Partnership

Gay McTate, Nebraska Children Consultant

Greg Donovan, Society of Care

Heidi Hausmann, Norfolk Family Coalition - Madison County

Jackie Farrell

Jason Feldhaus, Nebraska Children

Jean Ann Fischer, UNL/Nebraska Extension

Jeff Weaver

Jen Thielen, Nebraska Children

Jenny Skala, Nebraska Children

Jessica Hildebrand, Nebraska Children

Jessica McGinley

Jill Giles

JoAnn Gielselman, Growing Community Connections

JoAnn Gieselman Growing Community Connections

Joanna Murray

Julie Nash, Hall County Community Collaborative (HC3)

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

Lea Ann Johnson, Nebraska Children Consultant

Lisa Janssen, Lancaster County

Lori Larsen, Heartland Disaster Recovery Group

Lynne Brehm, Rooted in Relationships, Nebraska Children

Marti Beard- NCFF/Communities for Kids

Mary O'Hare, Consultant Nebraska Children

Mary Pinker, Nebraska Children

Nichole Hetz, Dawson County/Gothenburg.

Nicole Vint

Nikia Gunn-Abdulai, Douglas County Community Response.

Phillip Burrell, Project Everlast Omaha

Rachael Surmick, United Way of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

Rachel Meier, Policy Development, Nebraska Children

Rachel Sissel

Rose Hood-Buss, The HUB

Rosie Zweiback, UNMC/MMI

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

Sarah Vonasek, Community & Family Partnership serving Platte and Colfax Counties

Schalisha Walker, Project Everlast Omaha

Shelly Witt, DHHS

Shonna Werth

Stacy Schenk

Stacy Scholten, Nebraska Children

Steph G

Stephanie Skeem

Stephanni Renn

Tammy Bichlmeier, Platte-Colfax CR

Tana Miller

Tera Kucera

Tonya Beckenhauer, Consultant Nebraska Children

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

Wanda Fedorchick

Will Meinen, AVA Insights/Consultant

Zach Nelson, Flood Recovery Consultant for NCFF

**Chat Box:**

* Introduce yourself
* Questions/Answers throughout the call
* Specific thoughts/questions regarding existing policy changes or the need for policy change in your area

**Agenda:**

**6 month statewide Community Response Evaluation Highlights – Catherine Brown, Nebraska Children and and Barb Jackson, UNMC**

Barb Jackson from UNMC shared results of 6 month report (July-Dec 2019) and thanked all for supporting and getting your data in. Highlights from this report and celebrations include:

- A huge number served compared to prior year

- Funds provided through Community Response over $500,000 – as before, most funds are going to housing and utilities

- New forms were just started new forms in Oct 2019 and now they are beginning to get outcome data. For Community Response, the data show that the small number of people for whom there was both pre and post-test data showed increased hope and resilience.

- See one pager for more details

An update on consent process was also shared. The new guidance to adopt during this time: Families still need to be informed that data would being shared with NC and UNMC/MMI, but now may get verbal consent over the phone. Can do this because in Quick Base there are not names visible in the evaluator view. This is what we would recommend as guidance; however, all do need to make sure it algins with your guidance at your individual organization. To document verbal consent, in the consent portion of the form where the person’s name would be written, type the person’s name, your initials, and ‘verbal consent’. If person does not consent, then as usual leave this part blanks. Barb will work with data from Douglas Co and Bit Focus. Will update FAQ document available on Box so this is all available in writing.

**Child Care Executive Order and Relief Fund Updates – Nicole Vint, Marti Beard, and Mary Pinker**

Nicole share that the new executive order will allow a waiver of the criteria childcare subsidy families would usually have to meet in order to receive in home child care. Prior regulations typically require a family getting in home care to meet criteria around the number of children in the home, the needs of the children, and hours worked by the parent or parents. The requirement that a background check be done of the in home care provider is still in place, and to be licensed in home providers also have to complete the ‘prepare to care’ orientation. DHHS will be pushing back the firs aid CPR training to about 6 months. Overall, this option provides subsidy families the ability to access alternative care if they have lost their regular care. Also, it potentially opens up some new employment opportunities for people—k especially child care providers who might be laid off. Anyone 19 yrs of age and meet the background check are eligible to be in home care providers for families receiving the child care subsidy.

The executive order will also allow licensed childcare providers to bill for subsidy children who are absent as long as the provider is still open. (Usually, providers can only bill when the child is present.) Providers can only bill up to the authorized amount that the child would attend. The FAQ for this will be posted shortly. The ability to bill for absent days is effective the date the provider returns this amendment form (see link below). Outreach to providers being done now. Once the provider submits the form, they can start billing for absent days.

Link to amendment form: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Documents/COVID-19-Child-Care-Subsidy-Provider-Enrollment-to-Bill-for-Absent-Days.pdf>

Link to Child Care provider resources: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Child-Care-Providers.aspx>

Jenny Skala let the group know that Director Stephanie Beasley was on the call and how grateful all are for her work. Director Beasley thanked Nicole and team, and shared her appreciation for the introduction and the work being done in Nebraska. It’s incredible. Learning a lot and grateful to be here.

Mary P shared that we have this call every thus at 10 and would always welcome your and your team’s joining.

**Update on child care relief fund – Marti B**

Marti echoed the thank you from the 3,000 child care providers across the state, and provided the following quick overview and update:

- A little over 1,200 applications have come in from across the state, about one in every county.

- Have been able to fund about half with current funds. This work is a NC and NECC collaborative effort.

- Closed link this week, at least until had more funds and/or more info

- Have now allocated all of the funds. Funds coming from two private funding sources. Do have a couple of grants out, and looking for public funding sources to explore.

**DHHS Prevention Updates – Emily Kluver**

Emily shared that it has come to their attention that some retailers are charging SNAP clients for retail delivery. Have come to find out after the past week that retailers CAN charge delivery fees. There are some retailers that offer free trials that will offset the costs. But do be aware that some retailers are changing fees.

Have also had questions about how stimulus checks and enhanced unemployment income will impact DHHS benefit. On this:

- Stimulus checks will not be counted for Medicaid or EA benefits. BUT if a person has delinquent child support the stimulus check might be offset. Working to understand what this looks like for families.

- Still trying to figure out when enhanced unemployment income does/doesn’t count. Should know more next week.

- Also looking at doing some proactive outreach with families at this time. Outreach is being done with young people who aged out of b2i (at 21) since September 2018. Outreach is also being done to families who have children under age of 5 but were denied due to income; they were seeking help and want to make sure they are connected.

**Older Youth Hot Topics – Sara Riffel**

Share that there are now opportunities for young people to participate in ‘hot topic’ conversations. These last about 2 hour and take place at 3 pm Central time. Each week’s topic is picked the week prior by the young people. Today’s topic is employment resources, budgeting during a crisis—the conversation will be grounded in Your Money Your Goals framework. Contact Sara R if you would like the flyer and more info.

**Policy Changes and Opportunities  - Rachel Meier and Jenny Skala**

Donating Cleaning Supplies

The cleaning supplies is going to be up to the local district. Cleaning supplies is an allowable cost for a school participating in the National School Lunch Program or the Summer Food Service Program. This means that they can purchase these items with the funds located in their school lunch account. But, schools purchase cleaning supplies outside of their school lunch funds all of the time. The Office of Nutrition Services has no input on supplies purchased with general funds. In regards to cleaning supplies purchased with the school lunch account, NDE would suggest either holding onto the cleaning supplies for the next school year, or donating these supplies to a non-profit or another school. This being said, if a school wants to do something different with the cleaning supplies not purchased with their school lunch account, that is up to them. The NDE still suggests that any donated items go to a non-profit and/or child care.

Encouraging staff to work/volunteer at local food pantry

We just do not know the rules about what staff can be asked to do what. One idea that was proposed is that the school could partner with the local food pantry. Some schools are dropping food off at the students homes by utilizing their school bus contracts. The school could partner with a local food pantry and have the bus driver drop off food from the pantry with the school meals.

Meal Waivers

NDE will be sending out another announcement of the different waivers available for the schools to participate in. The schools can elect which waivers they wish to opt into. Schools have to notify NDE as to which waivers they are choosing to opt into.

WIC

Although there has been an increase in unemployment as well as people applying for SNAP benefits, there has not been an increase in the number of people applying for WIC benefits. WIC provides essential items for Women, Infants, and Children. Many families could benefit from these benefits. Please let us know what barriers people are having in accessing WIC.

From Rachel Meier:

In response to some discussions about WIC, the USDA approved Nebraska's request for WIC flexibility in response to COVID19. WIC physical presence requirements are waived through May 31, 2020. https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/COVID-19%20Physical%20Presence%20Waiver%20Request%20Nebraska%2003202020.pdf

Rachel shared that physical presence requirements have been waived for WIC. Heard in one conversation in community that if person quit a job in last 20 months cannot get unemployment benefits and wanted to clarify that your work history will be looked at and might have impact, but won’t impact $600 federal benefits for which they could quality later. If you are hearing issues like this let us know these detailed barriers, and communication issues, and let us know if you are encountering any programmatic issues like these,

**Community Conversation:**

Mary facilitated the following discussion. She asked that one person from each area respond to the following question:

* What are the partnerships right now between the local school districts and your Community Response prevention systems?

People were asked also to share any policy related questions they have been hearing.

| **Location** | **What are the partnerships right now between the local school districts and your Community Response prevention systems?** |
| --- | --- |
| Tribal Community Response  Greg | Not aware of any unique efforts with schools. In general, just see increasing demand and expect schools to be players. |
| York  Erin Sams | Almost from beginning had relationship with truancy officer housed at York public schools and many referrals come from this source.  As far as policy, don’t have anything at this point.  School officials that are on call with them in York are concerned about mental health of children in terms of being isolated from peers, teachers.  Just started first conversation with local PCIT therapists about possibly doing a community Zoom briefing throughout the week. Just in the beginning conversations about this, not sure yet where it will go. |
| Sandhills | We have a strong relationship with many of the schools in our 8 county area. The schools are doing a good job of putting their eyes on the kids each day....lessons, show and tell, birthday celebrations. Referrals are picking up. |
| Otoe | They have a couple of board members – herself and others— that serve on the Board of Education and are in fairly close contact with schools. Speak to them at least a couple of time per week and try to meet any needs that schools cannot. |
| Panhandle  Carmen | Relationships with schools re doing really well. Have contact with the school liaison and have referrals there. Also through the local ESU they have a doctor on staff for the mental health part and know the funds are no longer available to us but even so if they have children within the age range they can serve can still process requests that are needed through that avenue. Needs are being met this way. |
| Madison Co/  Norfolk | Have a pretty good relationship from schools from years past. Continuing to provide lunches if people want t go pick them up; this has been good. Also providing experiments through aftershock program. Creating packs to give out to kids so they and their families can do the experiments at home and continue to learn. Have a weekly distribution; CR helps publicize via Facebook. The schools are making around 500 packs and are running out. Trying to help through CR to be able to help them make more. Also support mental health support in schools through community response and all these agencies are continuing to provide via telehealth. |
| Sarpy Co  Elci | Have had a relationship with schools via social work. Bellevue reaching out to families via ENCAP but don’t see same type of outreach in Greta or Papillion. Feels like the calm before this storm for these other areas. Have strong connection to mobile pantries and are trying to figure out how to serve more people on the area because food insecurity is an issue.  Lift Up Sarpy has also partnered with a local therapist and she will be doing a Zoom meeting for First Responders and Businesses to talk about mental health concerns. |
| Hall  Valerie | Have had 5th death and are number one in state for deaths  Have a weekly meeting with school officials in the area.  She has emailed administrators in the 4 county areas to let them know what resources are available.  Doing school lunches until mid May and supporting this and backpack funding through United Way funding.  Close contact with school social work staff can call on them for help if a family needs more.  Have had a few people say they get their tax refund on an emerald card…? And also what to do in terms of waiting until these funds come through to help. Mary Pinker said she will add to agenda for next week in terms of responsibly using resources.  From Brittney to Everyone: 11:01 AM  Families can check their check status here. https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment |
| Valentine  Jessica – new Central Nav as of Tues | Two days worth of meals on Tue and three days worth on wed. Kids in the car = number of sack lunches given out. This is more than has been done in summertime; because started planning based on these summer numbers and it wasn’t enough |
| Dakota/Growing Community Connections  Sandy | Schools in South Sioux has been doing the grab and go lunched. 8 sites, Three days of meals on Tues, 4 days on Friday. Children have to be present in order to get the meal and she understands this but then you are putting them in the car or walking them down  Did have double sided CR fliers in English and Spanish being given out at meal sites (see sample on FAQ site with the notes). Also, community project leader is doing video that she puts on website and does video chat with community leaders about how people are helping and Sandy will be on soon.  Dakota County Growing Community Connections is doing community conversations which include our schools to determine how we can best serve families, we are also sending out a survey to our nonprofits to determine the needs they are seeing as well. Our schools are continuing to serve the mental health needs through telehealth.  Question about where to find us, how to get an application. Trying to think of places that are open and have people.  USDA has provided a waiver and NDE is in support that says there is no need for kids to have to be present…local districts can apply for the waiver.  Questions about who is/isn’t eligible for a stimulus check. Did find an article about what specific visa types are eligible…it is pretty clear cut and easy to understand. See attached document on FAQ site. |
| Fremont  Steph | In regard to schools, just had a call yesterday. 2800 meals since started grab and go lunches. Glad to heat about schools being able to use bus contracts because know there are still transportation issued for some families. Some of the outlying smaller towns are a bit more of a challenge. Former coordinator now school social worker in Fremont and is a good relationship. Also work closely with school truancy officers. |
| Families First Partnership  Caroline | Relationship with educational development network is strong and get referrals from here. Has been a good relationship. As far as bordering schools, starting to get a lot more communication with ESU 16 social worker and she has been a good connection to get information out to smaller communities and bordering counties.  NP school provide a lot of food assistance to families. Thurs pack should last families through the weekend. One of the cools biggest concerns is kids for who they are concerned for safety in the home. Some of the families not participating in the Zoom calls, not connecting with teachers.  Had all the boxes of pinwheels so adding labels to pinwheel and add to churches at meal giveaway at end of the week with CPS hotline etc. figure even if it goes to the family, maybe someone close to them can give them the information too  Excited for outreach to Keith co and schools will be part of the conversation of how to get outreach and assistance to families in Keith co. a fair number of people from Keith co do come to North Platte.  For the COVID funding they are finding a population of single people in the home and that would not qualify for CYI. Wondering how/if to support. Will connect with Mary. |
| Douglas Co  Nikia, Aaron | From Nikia Gunn-Abdulai to Everyone: 11:09 AM  OPS is offering grab and go lunches and other districts are providing drive up lunches and drive by food pick ups.  Everyone is doing what they can at this point. |
| Dawson  Nicole | Talking with school districts. Schools doing grab and go districts |
| Platte Colfax | Food drive being done at local elementary schools Colfax co central navigator has been partnered with food drive locally every month. Also teamed up with local pantry and local hospital– there is a booklet of mental health resources in every box of food.  Tammy working on a project to do summer enrichment packets…contracting with school employees to take home packets for students.  Also creating more of a partnership with extension and ESU to get content out electronically. Have a really strong relationship with school social workers and counselors and getting them reminded to continue to make referrals.  Columbus PS schools just started a weekly backpack program. Call right after this to see where they are at—they are now doing daily pickup. |
| Denise ? | Have been problem solving with Region III and the public schools to provide additional funding for therapists in the schools. They are still providing therapy to students but has fully expended, and new funding is available until July 1. Working through CR and partners to problem solve and apply for additional funding to continue therapeutic supports to students through the schools. |
| Blue Valley  Collena | Schools also doing grab and go, have also done parades through town with teachers in cars so kids can be connected. Older youth program watching kids to seniors is growing and changing. Schools asked if high school seniors cold also do this as their senior service…now more than connection calls, includes drop off of art work at nursing homes, finding out more about people so can do art specific to them, legacy work. Also reached out to Doane for college volunteers, others are involved too. Looing at summer programs to help those most at risk. Schools on 1184 meetings and increased contact with families too. Lots more but don’t want to take up any more time. |

Next Call: Thursday, April 23, 2020  10am