**Statewide Central Navigation Call – Notes**

**March 19, 2029**

**Attendees -** *Please excuse typos and spelling errors. Trying to capture full participation on these calls*.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Aaron Weaver  Alyson Goedken  Amber Marolf  Anne Herman  Anne Herman  Brenda Weyers  Brittany Masters  Brittney Livingston  Carmen Bradley  Caroline Sabin  Catherine Brown  Colleena Lashansky  Darniece Amos  Deboarah Dancer  Denise Zwiener | Elci Warnell  Emily Kluver  Emily Kluver  Erin Sams  Gay McTate  Greg Donovan  Heather Hansen  Jason Feldhouse  Jeff Walker  Jen Thielen  Jennifer Skala  JoAnn Gieselman  Joanna Murray  Julie Nash | Kelsey Tourek  Lea Ann Johnson  Lindsey Drake  Mario Hatcher  Mary O’Hare  Mary Pinker  Nichole Hert  Nikia Gunn-Abdulai  Phillip Burrell  Rachael Surmick  Rachel Kinney  Rachel Meir  Rose Hood Buss | Sandy Nation  Sara Riffel  Sarah Papa  Schalisha Walker  Shelly Witt  Tammy Bichlmeier  Tanya Gifford  Tonya Beckenhouse  Valerie Roth  Zach Nelson |

**Community Check-In**

*What are the COVID 19 direct impacts to your community?*

*How is your community assembling/mobilizing around needs?*

*What questions do you have?*

***NCFF – well over 1,100 hits on NC resource page. Link to*** <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/covid-19-information-and-resources.html> ***and let us know if there are items to add for your area. Send anything you have to Mary,*** [***mpinker@nebraskachildren.org***](mailto:mpinker@nebraskachildren.org)***.***

**North Platte (Lincoln County)**

- (check audio) Caroline

- Lot of restaurants going to carry out only

- At this time, utility company not offering anything in the way of extension on payments

- Milk, eggs, bread, paper products seem to be running short. Those very basic things might be in short supply; other items available. Plenty of produce.

**Dawson Co**

- Nichole

- Similar situation to Lincoln County

- This Monday, had one childcare center close. Second closed this Tuesday. With this, all childcare centers are now closed. Some homebased childcare providers are still open. Nichole and team are now coordinating care for people who need to go to work, with people home and no source of income

Visit www.GECLC.org to see what’s been developed

**Tribal Communities**

-Greg

- Even in good times, tend to be food deserts, think this will be exacerbating.

- Think Panhandle circumstances are generally same as Dawson and Lincoln Counties.

- When things are left, they seem to be the more expensive items.

It will be a time to share resources, strategies, and brainstorm new ways of working together, build partnerships, and ensure all youth and families can be served.  Please feel free to share the Zoom connection information with others in your community that may want to participate in this call.

Stacy Shank DHHS

- The four tribes are working together. Winnebago seemed to have strongest plan so they were sharing with others. Also working with local non-tribal community partners.

**Sandhills**

Cathy

- Plenty of food, just not necessities like paper products, milk.

- Have not gotten a lot of referrals this week but is anticipating that will change.

**Hall Co**

- Mary: thank you Julie for questions sent yesterday

- Valerie:

- Haven’t gotten any applications in last few weeks but have been getting phone calls about financial assistance. Moving to weekly phone calls to triage calls. Know local utilities will not do shut off but want to educate people to still pay bills so don’t have to deal with huge bill when this is over. Encouraging people to apply for Medicaid, unemployment.

- Schools are delivering food by schools bus. Grand Island public schools are handing out food for any child in community. There is some concern with food banks that their supply is running low. Trying to set up process with local grocery stores so food can come to food banks and don’t have individual people trying to do shopping for food banks.

- Julie:

- They do have child care centers open in the area, but have lowered to the limit of 10. Mental health is a need for all in community, to include first responders but also children, young people. The isolation is a challenge. Have had someone certified to do baby sitting classes and are doing activity packets for birth to 3 and 3 to 5 so have quality activities.

- Valerie:

- United Way has created a Facebook page so people can post needs and people can respond

- Julie:

- Schools still doing backpack program so kids can have food for the weekend

- Some conversation about re-routing RiR funds to do activities, etc. Would like to be more creative so as to be able to help child care providers. Calling all child care providers in the area and tracking all of their needs so that can meet next week and adjust workplan to the ‘new normal’.

**Buffalo County**

Denise Zwiener

- They also have a Facebook page to coordinate efforts.

- Trying to get food on food panty shelves.

- Talking about RiR funds and maybe re-routing these.

- There may be some pieces coming out of ESU 10 and see if there are ways they can build on what they are doing there.

**York**

Erin

- Health dept had first community briefing zoom.

- Chamber of Commerce being great partner.

- Have no cases of COV-19 at this point in any of the 4 areas.

- Question of food has come up, but have several places operating and full just modified practices (like scheduled hours).

- Local transportation service still running but now need to call 24 hours in advance instead of 20 minutes in advance.

- Other places still accessible via email, phone calls

- Diapers are a bigger need than food.

- Have heard that some mental health providers getting ready for telehealth.

- Have not had any CR referrals.

- Chamber compiling list to get names of volunteers who would be willing to mobilize if needed.

- FFA

- A concern is mental health, as connected to the challenges of isolation. Trying to remind people to be calm, be kind.

**Blue Valley**

Colleena

- Earlier in the month stated compiling lists of landlords for young people and strengthening relationships with them. The landlords have been wonderful. They have been talking through late payments, etc.

- Connecting young people with unemployment.

- The info Sara R. sent out yesterday has been wonderful.

- A little concerned about isolation and mental health, with youth suicide and those issues. Doing the best that they can. Doing outreach on a weekly basis.

- Not too much food shortage, but diaper wipes bleach are needs.

- Panic seems to have died down and people are looking for ways to support each other, things seem to have turned corner a bit.

**Lancaster**

- Lindsey

- Utilities are not doing shut offs but still encouraging people to pay some so as to prevent a huge bill later.

- Haven’t had a ton of referrals come in, but looking more at support services funds policy like removing cap, looking at applications on a case by case basis instead of allowing only every 12 months. Encouraging people to access Medicaid, etc.

- Rachel

- Home coalition is doing a pretty comprehensive survey of needs.

- Lincoln early childhood group is meeting to determine what the need is there, understanding needs of partners.

- Haven’t heard from their Central Navigator, but are moving some PAF dollars to HUB-provided services and supports.

- Know behavioral health providers—at least the major ones— are doing telehealth. Others moving this way if they have not already. Want to make sure main supports they have been provided aren’t being interrupted.

**Platte Colfax**

Tammy on Platte Co

- Ditto on schools providing lunches, pantries moving to appointments. The pantry in Platte County is open 3 mornings a week. Not a food shortage issue per se. Stores may open special hours for older adults and pregnant women special hours so they can get their nutritional needs met.

- WIC

- Schools sending activity packets home

- Fund for basic needs assistance is likely to be developed.

- As far as CR, had a referral yesterday where there was first mention of hours being cut back. Right now funds are looking pretty good and anticipate being able to provide later on good assistance to people.

- Power companies doing same thing in terms of no shut offs.

- Side note: have been hit recently with large dental bills.

Sarah

- Pushing out that telehealth is acceptable.

- Pushing out that they mental health providers too can make support service fund referrals.

- Partnering with pantries for basic hygiene products (esp. feminine hygiene products)

- She and Tammy discussing what areas of need people can partner with versus CR needs to address directly.

Tammy

- United Way posting a lot on Facebook to keep community updated, pushing 211, continue to push out your life your voice and Boys Town resources.

Mary: please send these

**Madison County**

Heidi

- Also encouraging CR coaches to use telehealth, zoom, whatever and they will support them.

**Dakota County**

Sandy

- Schools doing grab and go meals. Sioux doing for anyone 18 and under – do not have to be in school

- Pantries doing drive up-- pop the trunk and food box goes in.

- United Way talking a lot about childcare…facilities reducing numbers to 10 and priority for people who have to be at work. Also question about childcare for other people who need to be at work.

- Haven’t seen huge uptick in CR referrals but sure they will.

- School closed, restaurants closed

- Numbers coming in to Tyson is down

- Joanne – UW has 40 page doc with resources. Childcare, food, blood, and addressing 211 as a resource.

**Dodge Co**

Stephanie

- Similar situation to others above.

- Utilities are continuing to do shut offs – Rachel and Stephanie are going to work on this with local utility companies

- Huge requests for funds to pay utilities.

- Encouraging 211 use

- Fremont public schools are also doing grab and go meals for ANYONE in Fremont, doesn’t need to be at the public school. Also have restaurants that have said they will give a free lunch for kids.

- Daycares still open for the majority.

- Library, senior center closed

- Food pantry still operating and homeless shelter director who runs it said she is not concerned about food supply. Had stocked up in Jan thinking of flood preparation. Though have seen 18 families this week at the pantry that had never engaged before.

- Trying to still reach out to families regularly via phone, etc.

- Mental health providers moving to telehealth.

- As far United Way work goes, if families can’t get to grab and go (e.g. with seniors) trying to figure out how to get people food.

**Douglas Co**

NECC, Dee, PEO

Nikia –

- Have great resources when it comes to food. Any requests that they get, they send out to partners. Haven’t had many applications come through but think this will change. Have had questions...most agencies still in touch by phone text etc. but not all clients have the tech…they are asking would it be possible to pay for things like cell phones.

Dee: Working on a website and hoping this could be replicated. This will help community

Project Everlast:

- Schalisha

- Have been connecting with young people virtually, keeping them engaged through doing ‘lives’. Plan on doing other things next week too, and also including content for children. Focused on very consistent communication. Also some pantries earlier this week. Their Facebook is private, but some is public. Schalisha will send link to public cooking video.

Phillip

- Policy-wise trying to revise support services funds reconsidering getting more than once within 12 mo period. Depends on what works best with remaining budget. Continuing to put out resources that are available for young people

Rachel Kinney

- Challenges: getting hours cut, diapers.

**Sarpy**

Tanya LUS

- As far as jobs and younger employees, younger employees getting cut first.

- Walmart, etc need help with cleaning and stocking shelves. Is temporary work.

- Only major need is formula (in their case, diapers are fine so far)

- Carmen

- Has been following up with CR participants. Agency posting on Bellevue 411.

- Jeff Walker

- Part of long-term flood recovery group for Sarpy. Addressing and reaching out to all flood impacted families checking in about loss of income, illness, also looking forward and realizing that while utilities are on hold now could be an even bigger problem and bigger bill in 6 mo. Outside of their local purview, they have put a COVID-19 application together in case someone needs something; they work closely with LUS. Teams are working remotely at this point.

**Notes from DHHS:**

Please don't forget that some families may now be eligible for DHHS economic assistance programs due to income loss. You can apply online at https://dhhs-access-neb-menu.ne.gov/start/?tl=en

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to the DHHS community support specialists:

Shelly – Western/Central – 402-984-9905 – shelly.witt@nebraska.govStacy – Northern/Central – 402-375-7055 – stacy.schenk@nebraska.govDarla – Sarpy County/Southeast – 402-595-3314 – darla.berger@nebraska.gov

Darniece – Douglas County – 402-595-3369 – [darniece.amos@nebraska.gov](mailto:darniece.amos@nebraska.gov)

Information on Economic Assistance waivers is updated daily. See NCFF COVID 19 resource pages for links to the most recent information.

**Notes from NCFF:**

Virtual connections/Strategies for youth/parent leadership and engagement:

* Virtual trainings (cooking using only a microwave, creative activities to do at home with children, coping with isolation)
* Parents/youth can earn stipends for participating to bring in extra income
* Working to develop a process for electronically paying stipends

ESU Connections

* Anne Herman of Ava Insights is working between Dept of Education and NCFF to connect ESU, local school districts with Community Response and local collaborative efforts
* Leveral regional structure of ESU to address barriers and direct resources toward gaps
* How do we reach areas not covered by CWB collaboratives?
* How do we mobilize families and resources?

CN calls moving to weekly until further notice. Believe innovating things will come out of this and want to get the word out about these things. All will be recorded. Continue to send questions.

Will post recordings, notes, and FAQ. Next call Thursday, March 26th at 10am. Same information to connect.