**Statewide Central Navigation Call**April 29, 2021

Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91496192036?pwd=R3NrdWVrT1UxQkVKd0dXQnhNY3hjdz09>

Meeting ID: 914 9619 2036

Passcode: 331676

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**Chat** **Box:**

Introduce yourself

Questions/Answers throughout the call

**Agenda**:

Information Sharing and Updates from Last Meeting (40 mins total)

* Housing Resources – Jason Feldhaus, NCFF and John Turner, NIFA, First Lady Susanne Shore Opportunity
  + Emergency Rental Assistance marketing and outreach provided by NIFA. State of Nebraska distributes assistance. John is a continuously accepting feedback and updated numbers for the State ERA show 1,565 apps submitted, 688 approved, $1,736,856 awarded, $588,596 paid out so far.
  + Balance of State, Omaha, Lincoln working together to learn from one another.
  + There are clinics happening across the state in an effort to help people apply as well as educating the public on housing resources such as eviction prevention, financial literacy, and more.
  + Clinics: Great opportunity to get out information, get PR out, partner with others, understand the needs in the community. There are funds that have become available to organize clinics. The funds can be used for PR, food, etc. Please contact First Lady Susanne Shore for more information. Please let her know in two or three sentences how you would utilize dollars to help make “clinics” to help folks get the resources they need and how much you think would be necessary to help make it more effective. susanne@firstlady.net.
  + Checks are down to a one day turn around once the application has been approved and forwarded to the state by Deloitte.
  + If there are some communities’ concerns, concepts that need to be shared, etc. please also connect with Jason Feldhaus at Nebraska Children’s.
  + There is some work continuing to develop liaisons between landlords. Also compiling more options for housing solutions and addressing current low-income properties.
  + If anyone has any specific cases that they are awaiting a response please email John Turner and he can reach out to Deloitte. We are helping Deloitte with any appeals to help obtain documentation and get people approved. [john.turner@nifa.org](mailto:john.turner@nifa.org)
    - Community feedback: There are individuals being denied but have not heard an exact reason as to why. Wondering if organizations are not completing applications correctly for individuals. -Response: will follow up on what the exact email response are and will share with John. Any appeals can go to NIFA for follow-up and review.
    - There are also individuals that lack emails. At clinics offer setting up email account. Show them how to check and utilize their emails.
    - NIFA is exploring different avenues on making the process easier.
* Federal Resource Update – Beth Claxon, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families
  + Funding opportunity through the Supporting Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act as well as through the Families First Act, Promoting Safe and Stable Families, as well as Chafee Funds.
  + Attachment will be shared by Jennifer Skala.
  + Assistance available for car payments, food,
  + Describes requirements, webinar information, reporting, etc.
  + Capacity Building Center for States: https://capacity.childwelfare.gov/states/
    - Liaison Jeremy Harvey [jeremy.harvey@icf.com](mailto:jeremy.harvey@icf.com)
    - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Grants%20and%20Contract%20Opportunity%20Docs/Infant%20Toddler%20Pantry%20project%204%2015%202021%20notice%20of%20opportunity.pdf>
* <https://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/index.cfm?event=website.viewArticles&issueid=225&sectionid=1&articleid=5795>
* Mental Health infrastructure Project -- Kathy Karsting, Division of Public Health
* Maternal Child Health Block Grant has allowed the opportunity to develop the Infant/Toddler Pantry. Offers products such as basic infant/child needs: food, formula,
  + - <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Grants%20and%20Contract%20Opportunity%20Docs/Infant%20Toddler%20Pantry%20project%204%2015%202021%20notice%20of%20opportunity.pdf>
    - The needs have been assessed and further funds have been allocated.
    - The funds will be available until funds are done. It will be shared when that time comes.
    - Nebraska Children’s may also be able to develop solutions and opportunities to further the program as the federal funds expire.
    - There will be a list of sub awardees developed soon for communities to be aware of the locations where projects will be available.
    - 5-year period of priorities are routinely developed. In 2020 the priorities were identified as youth suicide, behavioral health in schools, and improving access to mental health.
      * Title V grant has developed priorities to assist in workforce development as well as developing solutions in connecting individuals with mental health services. Community Health Workers to receive training on mental health awareness, addressing stigma, and mental health referrals.
* Also looking at working with Child welfare workers, probation, juvenile justice workers, and school health workers as well. Exploring train-the-trainer solutions for specific work force populations and regional behavioral health systems.
* There was an assessment done around how child and youth populations have been affected in regard to mental health during the pandemic.
  + See our Community Screening Survey on our NEP-MAP webpage: www.dhhs.ne.gov/NEPMAP. The report includes reflections on COVID effects on mental health and substance use.
* We are trying to rise to the occasion of offering training in Spanish. This has been named by the workgroup as a goal.
* In terms of peer support, there is a recognized need for networking and professional association opportunities for NE CHW. Hopefully something arising soon. One of Title V's next steps is, working with CHW in the lead, forming a group to address funding and sustainability issues for the CHW workforce in NE. See webpage for more info on CHW workforce development work: <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/MCASH-CHW.aspx>
* For more information, contact Kathy: [Kathy.karsting@nebraska.gov](mailto:Kathy.karsting@nebraska.gov)
* Mental and Behavioral Health and Wellness – Sheri Dawson, Division of Behavioral Health
  + Connect with Sheri to share more about the impact and need you are seeing in your communities.
  + From the disaster recovery health data that because individuals are working so hard to address the day-to-day needs, they may not experience signs or challenges for 12-18 months after the pandemic or change occurs. We should be aware and anticipate the needs that could be coming to the services system. 65-75% of individuals that presented during this study that they were being treated for their illness increased.
  + Opioid settlement coming to Nebraska: LB1124 Recovery Fund. 2.4 million came to Nebraska and 20 million more coming to Nebraska. There is a workgroup identifying at prevention, treatment, and recovery as well as needs and gaps. Will also look at capacity building and sustainability.
  + Suicide Prevention Lifeline is being developed in the near future 9-8-8 will serve as mental and behavioral health emergency responses. Will serve similarly to 9-1-1. Hope to be up and running by June 2022. Stakeholder meetings will be monthly and will also work with local groups to grow crisis response systems.
  + Marketing campaign will be rolling out- slogan is Nebraska Needs You.
  + Behavioral Health Strategic Plan will also be rolling out. Opportunity will be available in how to better connect in communities, meet people where they are at. Will be working to innovative, equitable access to services.
  + Peer support is critical in understanding true needs and challenges. There is peer support and lived experience that is incorporated.
  + Also, the availability of language is highlighted and with that there are over 100 languages that have been incorporated into the suicide prevention hotline.
  + Would be interested in community events and clinics to partner and offer easier access.
* Support in Your Communities from CSN – Laurie Ponce, Chris Jones
  + Crucial for collaboratives to share their voice with their senators.
  + The coalition will be reaching out to collaboratives in interest in engaging with senators. How to facilitate that communication and how the Coalition can help.
  + LB108 SNAP expansion. Last night a bill to expand childcare assistance, SNAP, and LIHEAP (LB 306) has advanced! There are vetoes expected and furthermore exasperates the need to connect with senators on the needs communities are seeing.
  + LB320 Landlord Tenant Act also advancing in protecting tenant rights and protections.
  + Chris Jones with NCHS (Douglas County Collaborative) offered insight into why and how she involves herself in policy work. Shared the importance of committees/workgroups to identify bills and legislation that correlates with the work and that would benefits families and children. The group has recently took on working with commissioners with the Families First Prevention Act and this can best serve families and children.

Small Group Playbook Priority Conversations (20 mins)

* Break Out Session De-Brief (Group 5)
  + What did you take away from this conversation as most important? What was missing from the large group conversation?
    - Nice to know that the continued support is there. Makes it feel like communities aren’t alone. Time constraints limit the availability to ask questions as individuals take in all the information.
    - Collaboration efforts are seen! Great to see, and exciting, to see the collaboration and like-minded work moving forward.
    - Mental health work and suggested work opportunities have affirmed communities already doing work are doing well and motivates them to continue the work.
    - Offers opportunity to provide next steps and connections. Also makes leaders to want to meet with community members to plan together, distribute the work, and partner further.
    - Great to have other community members attending the meetings rather than just the CN’s and Coordinators.
    - The Federal funding that is available for older youth is important, with so many young people not having jobs and needing to pay the rent. Is that available in NE – Mjo answered that it is in process. Lots of info needed.
    - Grateful for the collaborative and seeing state system coordination, this level of partnership is important to getting things done. We aren’t having to worry about leveraging funds and keeping donors as other NPO’s are doing.
    - ERA: Clinics are a great idea but really like the idea on the video. A good way to provide info to families and groups. Infant Toddler Pantry project – always a need.
    - ERA: Walked through an application with a client and included the central navigator email. Spent time (several phone calls) to get the client’s application linked to the landlord’s application. It is a lot to ask of clients.
    - Planned to submit application on Friday and hosting a community baby shower and disappointed no money left. (infant toddler pantry)
    - Interested in the information about funding available for youth aging out of foster care, specifically the age change (27 up from 26) will really help.
    - ERA: Had someone denied because a member of a federally recognized tribe that received ERA money. However, the tribal member was not eligible for their tribal money bc not living in South Dakota. Kayla is going to send information to John Turner at NIFA. This needs to be discussed on the next call.
    - ERA: wait time is so hard on families. Can’t provide other funds until hear back from ERA
  + What needs to be funded and supported – continued efforts, new efforts?
    - Both and And! Fund new programs and sustain previous programs.
    - Is there a way that some additional funds can offer incentives for bilingual mental health workers? The shortage of licensed mental health providers, especially bilingual providers is such a need. This is long term but if incentives to go into this field, get training, paid tuition, etc could be offered. On the job training type items.
    - Infrastructure – access to reliable broad band is still a big issue for the rural area
    - Transportation issues continue to be an issue especially in terms of transportation to food resources – mobile pantries are key, and rides to pantries are a major request.
    - NE Family Helpline appreciates hearing how services are being streamlined because that is what helps families, and it makes them more confident that they can help families. When systems are working it makes his work easier. Covid, while a really bad thing, has forced everyone to work harder and better to make things work.
    - There are so many groups working on housing that maybe they are duplicating efforts. All the groups could be better connected so that when a person goes into a place for services that the same resources are available from every point of entry. Want all the groups to know what the others are doing.
  + What can we support now that will help with the long-haul impact of this pandemic?
    - Transportation conversation and continue focus on internet capacity building.
  + What are other ideas or things that would be helpful for future calls?
    - Ask presenters to have visuals. Folks are getting lost with all the information provided.
    - Consider more frequent calls so that the agenda isn’t so full.
    - Provide background material to callers before the meeting so they can be more prepared for presenters.

Mindfulness – Joanna Murray (5 mins)

**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:  May 13, 2021, 10am CST**