Statewide Central Navigation Call
April 30th, 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
* Specific thoughts/questions regarding existing policy changes or the need for policy change in your area

Agenda:

* DHHS Prevention Updates – Emily Kluver

DHHS B2I staff have been reaching out to young people who have aged out in the last few months. Have made contact with 80 youth were connected to Central Navigation for resources and support. Stimulus check update in chat box.

* WIC – Nicole Christensen

Still available to families during this time. WIC has a temporary waiver to assist families over the phone rather than coming into the office. WIC is assistance for pregnant mothers and families with young children under 5. WIC provides nutrition education, breastfeeding education and community referrals. Also receive information on how to use WIC card. Also have an app for families to access, to scan items at the store and for updates especially during this time. There is a card feature now that offers flexibility in being able to buy things in different quantities. Food shortage at the stores is being addressed. There is also flexibility in what types of foods participants can buy, so that families can substitute items such as grains i.e. bread, tortillas, etc. At this time there is not an option for grocery pickup/online shopping because you need to be present to sign for your purchase.

* USDA Summer Food Program – Kayte Partch
	+ USDA funded program filtered through NDE. Focus on high need areas that are selected by free and reduced lunches. Meals are prepared and served. 485 sites currently operating mostly by schools. Survey and 300 of these 485 are choosing not to continue meal service past school year end date. Searching for nonprofit organizations to provide meals while school is not in session, especially for schools not providing summer meals. Meals only served to children at an eligible site. Organizations can choose to offer breakfast, lunch, snacks, or only one meal.  Can also decide the timeline that they can offer. Schools are being encouraged to continue offering the meal program through the summer while also understanding the factors that schools may be concerned about such as staffing, risk of exposures, etc. <https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/SFSP-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
	+ Information on website also shares information on sites that offer meals and those that will not be offering food after the school year ends. Also can find additional information for meal service providers and families.
	+ The policy that food can be sent home, with no children present at pick up will continue at least until June 30th, 2020 but there is  some push to keep it in place until the end of summer.

* Housing Updates – Jason Feldhaus
	+ Hotel/Motel Vouchers and CR
		- Several communities now have access to provide vouchers. Please send any questions, barriers, concerns, issues to Jason. Great conversations happening across the state.
	+ Liability concerns- There has been some research into this. Rare to find incidents of significant damages. NCFF has put aside some funds towards this just in case it is needed. If this does arise NCFF will work to negotiate the costs and provide some funds. There are continued discussions around individuals that end up testing positive for COVID while in hotels and how to support hotels with cleaning, staff, etc. Will be looking into what, if any, liability responsibilities lay with CR/CYI community organization. If a hotel does ask that an individual be removed from the hotel, then it is expected that the individual will need to find different accommodations.
	+ HUD is highly encouraging rapid rehousing with the state in relation to COVID-19, rental assistance using CDBG funds, ESG funds that will  be coming into the state.
	+ Legal Aid is also gearing up to offer expanded services in relation to evictions. If you see any situations that come in regards to evictions please let Jason know so that Legal Aid can be connected.

* CR Updates
	+ Spanish/English Central Navigation
	+ Communities were asked to identify their capacity in regards to bilingual (english/Spanish) central navigation, some communities prioritized this need and found someone local to provide translating, and there is also a statewide number for communities that need to access this line. There is a document online that lists each community's capacity and contact information.
	+ Link to CR/CYI Participant Information Form online <https://www.nebraskachildren.org/what-we-do/community-prevention-systems/community-response-connected-youth-initiative-evaluation.html>

* Policy Changes and Opportunities  - Rachel Meier and Jenny Skala
	+ Playbooks are being shared with state policy makers and have helped develop the following workgroups. NCFF will communicate out with communities the work being done by these workgroups.

* COVID 19 Response Workgroups

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| ·         Food Insecurity·   Housing·   Financial Strategies·   Older Youth·   Domestic Violence·   Translation/Interpretation Needs  | ·        Child Care Needs·        Early Childhood·        Educational Summer Needs·        Well-Being, Mental Health, Child Abuse Prevention·        Communication Press Release·        Senator Communication and Outreach |

Translation/Interpretation Needs: Videos have been established in Spanish and will be made into several languages. Discusses prevention materials and health. Print materials are currently being developed as well.

TEST Nebraska will be starting with a soft lunch-Grand Island will be Tuesday at the fairgrounds. Find out more on the HHS website.

* Rachel-CDC and OSHA have released guidance and recommendations specifically aimed towards meatpacking plants. Please let Rachel know if your community would like to receive more policy information and updates regarding meatpacking plants. CDC and OSHA interim guidance: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/meat-poultry-processing-workers-employers.html

* Community Conversation:
	+ Please have one person from your area respond (others can share in the chat box with one another):
		- As the state plans for a slow re-opening, what is your top priority, concern, or need in this process?  If you had a magic wand, what is one thing you would ensure happened throughout the re-opening process?
	+ Otoe County is working on a central website with all available resources and links to assist families.  The Community Action organization is busy but keeping up. Has a new covid relief fund established by our Community Foundation to assist schools and organizations that are helping fill gaps.
	+ Growing Community Connections/Dakota County  are meeting several times a week with community partners to address daily needs as well as looking at possible challenges ahead and resources available. Very grateful to NCFF and their partners as well as our many local partners for their outstanding support to our communities! Very excited about the videos especially the one on what to do if you are sick. There have been a lot of questions around that and how to know if you should go to the hospital.  Seeing a lot of sick individuals. Sioux City, Iowa was identified as the #1 hot spot for COVID. With South Sioux City being just across the river and the home to Tyson's largest beef packing plant, there is a lot of fear and uncertainty. Tyson will close on Friday for deep cleaning and open again on Tuesday. Employees will be paid during this time, but production is down and the number of work hours have been cut. This means a smaller paycheck. Have seen an increase in the demand for food and rent and utility assistance. Probably the biggest concern is the rent and utility payments going past due for 2, 3 or 4 months. Woodbury County, Iowa (Sioux City) is on the list to not re-open at this time. Community partners are meeting weekly and updates are shared with all to keep connected. Voices for Food packaged about 600 boxes of food for families that are tested and self quarantined, and will deliver to those that tested positive.
	+ Tribal Areas: No one today.
	+ York: Themes being seen when asking for assistance, people not wanting to apply for SNAP or unemployment because they would like to give those that need it more the opportunity. Hoping that people will reflect on this time and will accept the grief we are all going through and reopening slowly.
	+ Sandhills: the referrals have ramped up with lots of rent and utility assistance requests. Many families and the clinic, nursing home and hospital are looking forward to getting computers.  Identified a bilingual support person for the area, she already has done outreach and identified 5 families in need of assistance.  Would like to see what others are doing as far as a contract for this.  Are submitting a grant to the Custer County Foundation today to cover the implementation fee of a resource app, intended to get started on ASAP.
	+ Panhandle: Offering weekly calls with employers about reopening and meeting with individual groups as well and keeping them informed on reopening timelines. People also want to give even when they are struggling themselves.
	+ Norfolk: Looking forward to going back to the priority community had before COVID of rebuilding of small businesses and downtown.
	+ Lancaster Co/Lincoln/ The HUB: Increase in needs for support services for young people. Also struggling with mental health and isolation as well as stress of waiting for unemployment.
	+ Sarpy: Has a weekly Zoom call for frontline workers and first responders that offer resources tailored to these workers.
	+ Hall: Officially has a CN that speaks Spanish. Still a hotspot for COVID-19. In the last week UW meeting developed communications team, now have access to billboards and informational brochures to businesses and signs for local tracks, Facebook frame, youth doing videos in order to relay messages around wearing masks and social distancing. Most of this is all being donated. Radio is also putting out messages in different languages. Lots of concerns about opening up too fast. Concerns on how to restore the feeling that community is safe as there has been some negative national attention.
	+ Fremont Family Coalition**:** Mental Health is a high concern. Looking at pushing the availability of telehealth. Wanting to be sure to offer assistance as they move back into the new normal.
	+ Families First Partnership: Food drives have been occurring that have helped stocked local pantries. Business supported as they reopened, daycares opening on May 4th as well. Promoting information about continuing social distancing and sanitation. Further developing connections with agencies that were not usually very involved.
	+ Douglas: Running out of options on housing, no options with homeless shelters and for individuals with no credit. Young people with mental health are especially hurting. Young people coming out of jail are having hard time finding housing due to background. Awaiting need for rental assistance as young people fall ebind. There is some assistance for childcare. There have been an increase in the need for telehealth and access to computers. Continued worry from providers for vulnerable children, looking at partnering for grocery delivery. Rental assistance joint effort with Project Everlast and United Way.
	+ Dawson: Not really talking about reopening. Reconciling different perspectives in the community on reopening, but seem to be a long way from reopening. Looking at getting additional testing into Hotspots like Dawson.
	+ Buffalo County: Food drive for food pantries and food sources. Unemployment checks are still not coming through. Community Response kicking up. Two Rivers Public Health Department is trying to find bilingual interpreters to help with testing as well.
	+ Community and Family Partnership: working with local school districts on food. Mental Health First Aid for frontline staff including teachers. Expanding marketing so that it will be easier for people to find information and resources. Childcare needs as reopening occurs, worries due to lack of staff.
	+ Blue Valley: Not available.