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**Human Service Provider Call**

**5/7/2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

Danielle welcomed all attendees. This call is to help streamline communication and support and encourage collaboration to make the most of resources during this COVID 19 pandemic. It also provides the opportunity for updates on local needs from the nonprofit sector. United Way streams accurate local information to 211 so residents calling in have the most up-to-date information. Please refer to United Way website for previous notes and resources-<https://dbqunitedway.org/covid-19-nonprofit-support>

This call has created great opportunities to build partnerships and for our system to work together to coordinate and broaden our impact. There has been a great deal of collaboration with the city, nonprofits, philanthropists, legislators and more. THANK YOU!

**United Way Update:**

Danielle Peterson said that the United Way office continues to share and push out the 2-1-1 Information and Referral Line and reporting on updates weekly. 211 stickers and signs are still available for anyone if they wish to display them. The office will continue to share the information with the business sector, small and large businesses, to make sure people know who to call if they need resources in the community. Also, the United Way office has continued to be part of the COAD.

On Thursday, April 20, United Way announced our United Way Community Impact grant recipients. 31 organizations, including nine new nonprofit partners, will be receiving funding in the amount of $850,000. Our first funded partner meeting will take place on May 19.

Danielle has been talking with United Way Worldwide and United Way of Iowa about how to safely phase back into work. She said that resources will be available that can be shared that will outline the plans that have been put together. She mentioned that the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation has put together a great website that has information that people can access about reopening businesses, and a hotline small businesses can call.

United Way has FEMA Funding that is now open. We have $76,000 available to allocate across Dubuque County for food-related funding. Requests due on May 25. Find out more information at <https://dbqunitedway.org/fema-application-phase-37>

**Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque:**

Donations to the Disaster Relief fund and applications for the funding for nonprofits can be found here: <https://www.dbqfoundation.org/disaster-recovery-fund-covid-19-response-fund-support-your-neighbors-and-friends>

Jenna Manders reported that the Disaster Relief Fund works to fill in the gaps that federal and state funding aren’t able to meet. There were five grants provided this week. Grantees are SASC for IPads for telehealth, Friends of the Paradise Church to retrofit their kitchen for the Marshallese population, Dubuque Main Street and Farmer’s Market to create online ordering for vendors and to market their new guidelines and SNAP and Double Up Food Bucks, Project Rooted, who are providing no cost lunch for Dubuque and Western Dubuque School District, and the Red Basket Program who are providing period products to those in need.

Outside of the Disaster Fund, the Community Foundation is partnering with the Morgridge Foundation out of Denver, CO as part of a Giving Tuesday initiative. The criteria was COVID-19 relief for organizations that have an operating budget less than $500,000. Through that, the Community Foundation was able to get additional funding out to Almost Home, Convivium Urban Farmstead, Dubuque Dream Center, DuRide, Every Child Every Promise, Fountain of Youth, Project Rooted and Presentation Lantern Center.

Jason Neuses is looking at the food system in the county, who is a provider in the system and what those funding streams are. He is hoping to have a map that outlines that to have a better understanding of the food system in the county within the next week. In reference to case management, the Community Foundation is hoping to get information out about who is working with individuals and how they are working them through the different systems. They have also looked at childcare and rely on child care resources and referral as a resource to help them to share the needs for the childcare facilities.

**Iowa Works:**

Ron Axtell reported that the Iowa Workforce Development website has been updated. This will provide a more direct path to COVID-19 CARES Act information, pandemic unemployment assistance, FAQs, etc.

<https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/COVID-19>

**City of Dubuque:**

Jerelyn O’Conner and Kelly Larson reported that the City has set up a special testing site which was operational as of yesterday. It is not currently open to the community but is open by referral. They are trying to reinforce with all of the medical providers that there is an isolation shelter available. They don’t want people to wait until they get a confirmation test. If they are symptomatic and unable to isolate at home, the City does have a shelter available.

Also, Representative Chuck Isenhart is going to be coming to the Commission meeting on Monday night. He will be raising questions about the lack of healthcare coverage for the Marshallese population, which has been on the City Council’s list of federal legislative priorities for a few years. They will be discussing that and advocating for federal change potentially as part of the next COVID-19 relief package.

**General Assistance Program:**

Danielle Peterson has been in conversation with Josh Jasper with concerns regarding the Marshallese population, food, medical expenses, and funeral expenses.

Josh Jasper reported that the General Assistance program from the county does support anyone in need of assistance that is eligible for three categories: rent, utilities, and burial assistance. He reminded everyone that the County Supervisors did increase the amount of money for rent and utilities. He reminded everyone that if they do have clients that need help in those areas,to refer them to their office. They don’t need an appointment and they can come Monday through Friday.

In regards to the burial concerns, it’s the sad reality that the issue is increasing significantly, especially with the vulnerable populations in the community. The Board of Supervisors did meet yesterday and increased the funding to support those families in need.

**Critical Need for Testing:**

Ann McDonough emphasized strongly the critical need for testing. She reported that Dubuque County is behind with access to testing kits, collections and testing procedures. Very few Dubuque County citizens have been tested, even if they are very sick. The Board of Supervisors has partnered with the Governor and there is a 1,000 test kit collection being done in Dubuque County, specifically for long-term care facility staff and contact tracing with those who have been in contact with someone who tested positive. They are expecting Dubuque County positive numbers to increase.

She also emphasized that everyone needs to register at [https://www.testiowa.com](https://www.testiowa.com/en) to show the need in Dubuque County. Currently, their request for testing from the governor has been denied on a couple of occasions. Ann said that as restrictions ease up per the governor's office, positive case numbers will increase. She knows we haven’t peaked so she asks that everyone be diligent about wearing masks and social distancing.

Dawn Cogan, of St. Mark’s Youth Enrichment, asked Ann to clarify the accuracy of the TestIowa website, in light of recent news articles stating that the website isn’t working. Ann responded by saying that the website collects data and information very well. She is asking from a standpoint to collect information and said this is the resource that is available at this time. The state hygienic lab is running all the testing through rigorous protocols. She doesn't have any reason to doubt the validity of the test.

Ed Raber added on to say that in addition to testing being done at the state hygienic lab, testing is also being sent to the Mayo Clinic and LabCorp. He also mentioned the surge of conspiracy theories that are questioning Dr. Fauci.

**Childcare Updates:**

Abbey Degenhardt reported that on May 6 she received funding opportunities for childcare providers. There will be rejuvenation grants for those who are beginning to reopen, monthly stipend opportunities and essential employee stipends. Many childcare providers that are providing services are experiencing significant loss. She mentioned that we were in a child care crisis before all of this started and now there is a good possibility that it will be much worse moving forward after COVID-19. She asked that people make sure to take the opportunity to appreciate our providers and show them your support. On May 8 is Childcare Appreciation Providers Day. Abbey asks that you please show your support by sending them a note and thanking them. Abbey also mentioned that she is in partnership with the Community Foundation, Child Care Resource & Referral, and the Noon Optimist Club to put together care packages for the 72 providers that are open in the state during COVID. She plans to get those out by the end of next week. And finally, she was on a call with the Iowa Women’s Foundation and they gave an update on the situation with childcare and what that looks like moving forward. Once she has the presentation, she will share.

**Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA:**

Danielle Shea reported that the Y is going to be opening up school age care as of Monday, May 11. If you know someone that has a need, they are able to take more kids. They are following guidelines from DHS and are going to maintain a 10:1 staff ratio. There will be no contact with any other groups throughout the day. If people are interested in more information or have any questions they can email Danielle at [dshea@dubuquey.org](mailto:dshea@dubuquey.org). If you know someone with childcare needs they can email [reply@dubuquey.org](mailto:reply@dubuquey.org)

Also, their shelter is currently full. However, they are working to open within the next couple of weeks another room at the shelter that will also have a crib. There are two women that are looking for apartments and working on the process of exiting the shelter. Within the next month, there should be about three spots open. They are getting one or more calls a day asking for this service.

**College Access:**

Donna Loewen, from the Dubuque College Access Network, reported that across the country, FAFSA completion rates are down among high school graduates and those returning to college. Our numbers in the Dubuque area are not quite as drastic as the national numbers but still are lower. Their network will have a leadership team meeting next week and they are going to see what needs to be adjusted to align with the needs of this time.

In relation, Danielle Peterson asked what nonprofits are doing in regards to summer interns and their ability to complete their internships. She asked what other organizations are doing. Paul Duster, from the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, said they are pursuing some interns through Loras College but they are still trying to figure out projects and dynamics.

Gwen Kirchhof from Almost Home shared her worries about the lack of student help in the fall, since they rely on that workforce for evening shifts.

Danielle Peterson asked Donna Loewen if the local colleges will be anticipating opening up in the fall. Donna said that hopefully the leadership meeting next week will provide some updates. She encouraged anyone who is not connected to the Dubuque College Access Network Facebook page to do so. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/DubuqueCAN/>

Ann McDonough chimed in to say that she sits on the Board of Trustees for Clarke University. She said that enrollment and recruitment is robust and they have every expectation that they will be able to convene. The biggest question right now is what housing is going to look like and how to house students safely.

**Brain Health Support and Access:**

Amy Schauer from Stonehill Franscican Services, reported that they are doing okay right now. Stonehill has no cases. They have received lots of donations of cloth masks and still continue to potentially need PPE in the future. They had 200 face shields delivered from John Deere but they could still use additional face shields. All of their staff are wearing surgical masks and goggles or face shields. Amy emphasized that they could still take donations of cloth masks, PPE, goggles, and face shields. They are also working on getting staff fit-tested for N95 masks. The Ipads they received through the Community Foundation Disaster Relief Fund have been working out great. They are also looking ahead to the fall, since they have many students that come in to work with the residents. Colleges are reaching out asking if they could help write a grant to do things virtually.

Francie Tuescher from Hillcrest Family Services reported on brain health. Their residentials are full. In terms of outpatient brain health, they are seeing higher acuity of patients presenting. As time goes on, the anxiety and stress are increasing. They are looking at what is the new normal of telehealth and how that can help them expand services. Also, they are looking how to advocate reasonably on new ways to get services out to a broader audience and what does transition look like. Lastly, she spoke about the $3.7 million grant they received from the Certified Community Behavioral Health Center. At Hillcrest, they believe there are a lot of varied needs out there that are in the homes and may not be presenting to providers. As they start to open up and come out of this pandemic, they are expecting to see needs increased.

Susan Whitty from Mental Health America reported that some populations are not capable of going online and maneuvering websites. She said that we really need to think as a community how we can assist people without physically being by their side. We will need to talk to our providers about opening up access to the Internet in some way.

Susan also shared that this is Nurses Month and Mental Health Month. Also, they will be offering the Kathy Davis Scholarship in honor of Kathy Davis who was on the Mental Health America Board. She will share the information once more details are available.

Finally, with the continued spread and opening up the state, Susan shared her worries regarding the virus and its spread. She feels we need to work on getting more positive information out. In relation, she instigated the Nurse to Nurse Warm Line. This line offers support and a caring conversation to debrief due to caregiver strain during the pandemic. That phone number is: 515.650.2295

**Volunteer Needs:**

Danielle Peterson shared that if your organization has volunteer needs, to please update our Get Connected portal. Please tag if it is at home, virtual, etc. <https://dbqunitedway.galaxydigital.com/>

If you need help, email [ellen.dettmer@dbqunitedway.org](mailto:ellen.dettmer@dbqunitedway.org) or [danielle.peterson@dbqunitedway.org](mailto:danielle.peterson@dbqunitedway.org)

**Misc**:

Riverview Center is launching secure online teletherapy and advocacy, going live within the week.

Reminder to all that McDonough Foundation Grant Application deadline is May 31st. [mcdonoughfoundation.org](https://www.mcdonoughfoundation.org/)

The Dubuque Salvation Army is able to assist with rent/deposit for those seeking to leave shelters or are having financial problems.

Dawn Cogan shared that she did the Nonprofit Survival Kit call with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque. She said it was wonderful and a very valuable tool and a great way to take care of ourselves as nonprofit leaders.

Megan Ruiz from the Presentation Lantern Center asked if any other immigrant populations are eligible for funding from the Community Foundation. Danielle Peterson replied that she believes that this donation was specific to the Marshallese population but she will check.

Dawn DeMaio with the City of Dubuque, shared that they have expanded the shelter and are asking for some donations of DVDs and pans for the rooms we have added. If anyone has either of these things they can be dropped off at the post office by the Housing elevator, which is to the right of the front entrance of the post office. Alexis informed me she will post a sign with a box there.