****

**Human Service Provider Call**

**10/29/2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81979408164?pwd=TTF4Q0lqR1V2dk05NXpRYkZVT3pWZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81979408164?pwd=TTF4Q0lqR1V2dk05NXpRYkZVT3pWZz09" \t "_blank)

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. 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**

Danielle Peterson

* We continue to direct volunteers where they are needed most and highlight virtual opportunities. Working with nonprofits to see what their needs are.
  + Get connected portal – if you have any volunteer needs/opportunities, especially virtual, please post. Over 4,500 people on this site. <http://dbqunitedway.galaxydigital.com/>
  + Dubuque Area Labor Harvest is consistently needing volunteers to help deliver groceries. Typically Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:30am. Connect with Tom Townsend or Paula Paider Licht [paula.paiderlicht@dbqunitedway.org](mailto:paula.paiderlicht@dbqunitedway.org)
* **Voting – please get out and vote!**
* Please be sure your agency information is updated and accurate in the 211 information system. This system is getting more calls than ever due to COVID and the recent storm. It is important that 211 is able to give out accurate information to those calling in. <https://www.211iowa.org/>
* COVID Brain Health services resource flyers are posted on UW’s website under the resources tab. <https://dbqunitedway.org/covid-19-community-resources>
* **Next meeting Nov 19th** – 3 weeks out.

**COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disaster) - Long Range Planning Committee**

Danielle Peterson

No new applications these past two weeks.

**Community Foundation**

Cynthia Werenberg

Working on identifying training opportunities available in the community around mental health and/or social emotional training for businesses, teachers, childcare providers, etc. (not providers). If you know of any other trainings, please let me know. Aware of Hillcrest, St. Mark and school district has trainers/trainings. Trying to get a better idea of what is already available in the community. Is there a repository for training? 211 could be an option for this. There may be a list started by the Brain Health Stakeholders group - training subcommittee. East Central Region and Mental Health America may have available trainings (per Sue Whitty [info@mhadbq.org](mailto:info@mhadbq.org)).

Alex Baum

Immigration and data:

Dubuque has a significant Guatemalan/Mayan population. Many speak a dialect that we are not prepared for in Dubuque. Significant student population in the school system who have challenges with school and adjusting. They have had to learn Spanish and then having to learn English to succeed in our high schools. It is a significant challenge. We think we have some opportunities that may be able to help. COVID has made those situations worse. May be able to offer additional online supports and services for them. We’re working on it!

Working with Ron Axtell (IWD) to get unemployment assistance for the Marshallese community. A lot of people who are unemployed and there is also a lack of people looking for jobs. Working on breaking down the barriers that are keeping our Marshallese community unemployed. Working with Ron on the logistics of holding an Iowa Works seminar and service for Marshallese community members when trust is such a large part.

Marshal Islands had their first cases of COVID-19. Has sparked a bit of a panic in the country and in our Marshallese community locally. If there is a significant spread, it could be absolutely devastating. One major hospital in the Marshallese capitol. There are big barriers there. Some of the Marshallese community here is looking to send PPE over to them since they don’t have access to a lot. If anyone has masks or hand sanitizer or postage that you would like to donate, let Alex know. They are looking to source some of that because there is a lot of anxiety in our community here about what could happen there.

Data walk is still up at [www.dbqdatawalk.com](http://www.dbqdatawalk.com). Reading the COVID data from the state wrong. State is not able to track individual testing numbers. When you see the numbers of tests, that is actually the number of unique individuals who have not previously been tested but are now being tested. There is a lot of recalculating that needs to be done with that and we are going to make some changes to the data walk. Going to have an update coming out soon with more accurate data. With the outdated software that the state has, it can’t record multiple tests for each person. They only report the most recent test in the dashboard. Example, when you see in the TH we have 130 new tests in DBQ county, that is not correct. What they are showing is the difference in the total number of individuals who have been tested. So that means there are 130 people who were never tested before who have now been tested. I got tested in June and again in October, so my October test is not counted in those numbers. If you go into the dashboard, you can see a bar graph by date. My October test would appear in October, but my June test would disappear from that bar because it can only show the most recent update. This changes a lot of things for positivity rate. That’s why the positivity rate that IDPH is putting out is probably more accurate than the one I was showing which was based off of the number of new individuals receiving a test. But it also means that we are conducting a lot more tests than is being reveled within that data. I’ve been told that they are trying to get a new piece of software that will allow them to capture multiple tests but there is no historical data. There is no way to go back in and figure out what the positivity rate should have been. It is what it is. If anyone has questions, please give me a call.

**Workforce Development**

Ron Axtell

US unemployment rate for Iowa has dropped below 5% for the last 13 weeks. That is significant because that was one of the criteria that was in the CARES Act Benefits program. Therefore, Iowans are no longer eligible for that program. The last payable week for the extended benefits program in Iowa is the week ending October 31st.Exteneded benefits cannot be paid to any claimant after that date even if they have not yet received the 13 weeks that were in the original CARES Act. Those who lose these extended benefits may be eligible for another unemployment program under the CARES Act, Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program. Claimants would need to go to our website to find out how to apply for that particular program.

Don’t track who is not in the workforce. Seeing a lot of individuals who are retired or working parttime jobs. They are not working because of COVID. SSI or SSD who had been working part time also stepping away from the workforce. This is a dynamic of what is happening.

We found out on October 19th; the Governor announced 72 projects totaling over 6 million dollars for the Registered Apprenticeship Expansion Grant through the Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant opportunity. Some of the local area organizations that are receiving funding;

* BAC CPA employer in Dyersville, $7,600 to establish a county technician registered apprenticeship program
* Bogey Mechanical Systems in Dyersville, $5,000 to expand their plumbing registered apprenticeship program
* Dubuque Community School District, $49,000 to purchase portable welding simulators for both high schools to enhance the current welding apprenticeship program
* Four Mounds, $5,000 to create a new hotel management registered apprenticeship program
* West Delaware Schools in Manchester, $15,000 to upgrade equipment for their existing registered apprenticeship welding program
* NICC Calmar and Peosta (whole NE part of the state), $250,000 to expand its industrial maintenance and CNC registered apprenticeship programs as well as develop new CDL registered apprenticeship program. Simulators, training, and e-learn modules are some of the items that will be purchase and used to support hybrid, online, and face to face educational opportunities

The state has had a big emphasis on registered apprenticeships. Future Ready Iowa was a big part of that and kind of slowed down when the pandemic hit. Now there is a lot of funding going out to enhance or start some new registered apprenticeship programs across the state. Those were the ones who were awarded here in our area.

The state does not track individuals that are not in the workforce. Some people due to medical issues, or fear of the virus have chosen not to work. They have stepped away and are not looking for work. Those individuals are not factored into the unemployment rate. I have seen many people who are retired who used to work part time jobs to supplement their income who are choosing not to work. We are seeing a lot of individuals who are on SSI or Social Security Disability who had also been working part time to supplement their benefits who have also chosen to step away from the workforce right now. It is impossible to track those people, they are out of the equation.

A lot of employers looking for employees. A lot of employers who are struggling to find workers. They want to get back and expand in some cases but can’t find employees. Some instances new employers that want to get up and running but are struggling they can’t find employees. There is still a lot of fear around the virus. And people don’t want to put themselves in a position where they might get ill or even die.

**HACAP**

Heather Harney

State did say we can only do LiHeap applications remotely. This is a change. They are not allowing for any in person applications. Take applications again remotely staring November 1st for non-elderly and non-disabled. Elderly and disabled have been able to apply since October 1st. Applications and the phone numbers to apply for LiHeap (low income heating energy assistance program) this year are on our website. <https://www.hacap.org/energy>

**Childcare Coalition**

Abby Degenhardt

Pushing childcare into this group once a month. Right now, the schools have things under control. Things going better than anticipated. Including the Childcare Coalition in this call one time in November and one time in December. We will wait to see where the needs are and go from there. We have had great discussions about pop up centers or opportunities or locations in the event we need places for kids to go. We planted the seed and we’ll wait to see how things go.

Family resource guide has been pushed back. The Family Resource Guide is almost ready to go. Hope to get these printed next week. 10,000 copies will be printed. Goal is to distribute to every family in Dubuque County who has a 5th grader or younger. There will be a special perforated insert page that in the front that will be a “go-to.” It has a quick search/go-to resources, 211, childcare resources, mental health resources, food resources, etc. Generous donation from Jim Theisen to cover the cost this year.

**Stonehill**

Amy Schauer

If you are working with anyone who is looking for a job, please remember Stonehill Communities is hiring. We have positions that help people get a taste for healthcare before they invest in further training or education, these are Service Tech positions. We have a variety of positions though in laundry, environmental services, dining, nursing, etc. We have seen a 50% dip in application and need help recruiting.

If you know anyone who has a loved one with memory impairment, Stonehill is taking applications for our waiting list for the Assisted living with memory care apartments we are opening in January 2021. I know it can't be easy to be a caregiver at home right now. We will have 10 new traditional assisted living apartments and 14 new assisted living with memory care. They are private pay, but hopefully we can serve those in need.

**VNA**

Sara Herzog

* Still in the midst of COVID. Stay home, stay safe, social distance, wear masks, wash hands.
* Have flu shots for children at our office under Vaccine For Children program.
* First time ever, we also have flu shots for adults in DBQ. No cost or insurance requirements. If you do have insurance and can get it at your doctor, we ask that you do that. If you know of anyone who does not have insurance or it isn’t covered, have them call our office. It is a first come, first serve basis.

**Next meeting Nov 19th**