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**Human Service Provider Call**

**6/11/2020**

**Zoom Meeting**

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 Updates:**

United Way is trying to manage reopening their offices. They are continuing to share information about their 211 Information & Referral Line and their Get Connected Volunteer Portal.

Last Friday, they submitted a press release that shared the recipients of the FEMA Food-Related Funding. They were able to distribute over $76,000 in funds.

Paula Paider Licht is in week two of her position as Director of Community Building and Impact and she is excited to connect with nonprofits in the community.

Also, they are working on engaging again with their Over the Edge event, which is rescheduled for Friday, September 4.

**Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Updates:**

Peter Supple reported that the Disaster Relief Fund awarded one grant in the amount of $1,000 to Resources Unite for printing of handouts related to the General Assistance Program. He stated that if you know of someone that is in need of help with rent and/or utilities, to refer them to General Assistance.

They do have a children’s brain health meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 18. On Wednesday, June 24, they have their adult brain health meeting. If you are interested in joining either one of those conversations, reach out to Peter at [Peter@dbqfoundation.org](mailto:Peter@dbqfoundation.org).

Applications are still being accepted for the Disaster Relief Fund. Information can be found at <https://www.dbqfoundation.org/disaster-recovery-fund-covid-19-response-fund-support-your-neighbors-and-friends>

**City of Dubuque Updates:**

Jerelyn O’Connor reported that the City has been very busy with taking applications for the Housing Assistance program. Assistance can be up to $3,000 and it can assist with rent or mortgage payments. The state’s program is also taking applications online. The City of Dubuque’s Housing staff is helping those who don’t have access to a computer fill out those applications. As of Monday, June 8, they had received over 200 applications.

Kelly Larson had shared before the meeting information about the Iowa Finance Authority’s Eviction and Foreclosure Preventions Program, which provides short term relief to income eligible renters and homeowners who have experienced a documented loss of income due to COVID-19. There will be a series of informational webinars. More information can be found at: <https://www.iowafinance.com/covid-19-iowa-eviction-and-foreclosure-prevention-program/>

**Iowa Workforce Development Updates:**

Ron Axtell shared that there has been a recent reduction in the number of new unemployment claims filed in our area. However, there are still a lot of issues and questions related to ongoing claims.

Iowa Workforce Development staff continue to work mandatory overtime in order to respond in a timely manner to the Unemployment Service Center helpline and email helpline.

He continues to encourage individuals to not call the local office number because staff are working remotely and only answering the state’s helpline. IowaWorks offices remain closed throughout the state and they do not have any information about a potential reopening date.

Ron emphasized that the vast majority of workers that were laid off were considered “temporary” lay-offs which means they are likely to return to their employers. It’s very important that when their employer calls them back, that they need to return to employment. Otherwise, they might collect unemployment benefits that they don’t qualify for and that could result in an overpayment situation.

If people are called back at reduced hours, they might qualify for partial unemployment. So, they should continue to do their weekly reporting.

The number for the Unemployment Service Center at 1-866-239-0843. The website is: <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/COVID-19>

Ron also added that Flexsteel is going to have a significant layoff and closure of their production facilities. Normally, they would do in person worker information meetings to share information about retraining, re-employment, unemployment insurance benefits, etc. However, due to restrictions they are unable to do that so they sent a rather large mailing out to all 206 Flexsteel workers that got a notice. The mailing went out on Monday.

They will continue to respond as best as they can to workers getting laid off while practicing social distancing.

**Child Care Needs:**

After the conversation last week, Danielle Peterson, Abbey Degenhardt and Tara Roddick from Childcare Resource and Referral met to discuss what the current needs are for childcare. CCRR is able to run a report based on the providers that they have in Dubuque County to see the availability so they always encourage those seeking childcare to call them to help personalize their lists. Currently in Dubuque County, 380 spots are available. The list of providers can be found by calling Child Care Resource & Referral at 1-855-244-5301.

The group talked about the availability of spots in homes and at centers and started planning on what the fall will look like. They aren’t sure what it will look like, but they wanted to take a proactive approach and think about opportunities and possibilities for child care sites.

They are also looking at funding sources to help offset some of the costs. One of the main problems with childcare right now is getting people employed as childcare providers and workers and then keeping them employed.

Tuesday, June 16 is their first meeting with about 10 childcare providers to find out what their concerns are, how are they preparing for the fall, and what their needs are right now. After that conversation, they are going to invite community members to another meeting and find out where the partnerships could be and what their needs are.

**Mental Health America Update:**

Sue Whittyfrom Mental Health America reported that Mental Health America National reviewed their screening results for the month of May. She sent this information to our legislators and they reported that they felt the results were alarming. With individuals who have lost their jobs or are filing for unemployment, she encourages that we need to do a check in with those people. The Mental Health America National review showed a 400% increase in depression and anxiety. For younger adults, 9 out of 10 showed they had moderate to severe depression. 8 out of 10 rated their anxiety “extreme”.

Sue also stated that the report found that in the United States, 45,000-50,000 people take their life every year. In the month of May, 20,000 people reported that they were suicidal with 11,000 stating they were suicidal every day. In the six years that Mental Health America has been screening these calls, this is the most extreme result they have seen. People who have not sought out counseling in the past are now reaching out for help.

Sue also drew attention to the COVID Call-In Counseling Line that is being implemented through federal dollars. There is still more information to come.

Sue spoke to Hillcrest regarding their Mobile Crisis Unit. They started to go into people’s homes to conduct services on June 1st, while still being careful and taking precautions.

Danielle mentioned that at the latest United Ways of Iowa call, they were discussing advocacy with legislators regarding telehealth and the language that is in legislation right now.

**HACAP Updates:**

Heather Harney reported that HACAP’s Energy Assistance Applications are due by June 30th.

Also, she gave an update on the Iowa Finance Authority Eviction Program. Community Action Committees such as HACAP are in the middle of processing those. If you know of anyone that has applied for that, there should be some information within the next couple of weeks as they start to go through submissions. If you would like to apply you can at <https://www.iowafinance.com/about/covid-19-ifa-recovery-assistance/>

**St. Mark Youth Enrichment Updates:**

Dawn Cogan mentioned that she would welcome any resources that she would be able to use internally to continue to educate herself about how to be better in the fight against racism. At St. Mark’s, the team is going to read *How to Be An Antiracist* by Ibram X. Kendi. [Link to book.](https://www.ibramxkendi.com/how-to-be-an-antiracist-1)

Dawn also gave an update in regard to their programming. She said that they have the most students they’ve ever had to date signed up at their Dyersville Elementary School sites for the upcoming school year. Kaitlin Schmidt added that they are still looking into how to get social emotional learning kits to Dyersville for the summer.

Kaitlin also shared a link to a webinar that discusses whiteness at work. People can access the recording here: <https://www.equityatwork.us/whiteness-at-work>

Donna Lowen added to this discussion that conversations are taking place with the Iowa College Access Network to devote even more attention to supporting students who have been historically denied opportunities.

**Crescent Community Health Center Updates:**

Before the meeting, Angela Petsche sent these updates:

1. All staff will be transitioning from home to work between June 15 and June 30th.
2. Parking lot screening continues for patients and staff before entering the building.
3. Additional equipment and supplies have been ordered to assist with in- person patient care.
4. Patients will be limited on-site when we re-open to limit the number of patients on site at once.
5. We are not providing on site community testing at this time.
6. Most lab services are conducted curbside when possible.
7. We will be adding 3 more dental operatories and 6 more medical exam rooms. Construction is underway.
8. The behavioral health department will be expanding to the 2nd floor of our current building to allow for more privacy. Build out to begin sometime in July.
9. The wellness center will open to 100% capacity with further announcements from the Governor.
10. 2019 Annual report is in the process of being distributed to stakeholders and community members.
11. The Open House planning team is looking at early Fall for the event- all activities dependent on the health pandemic and restrictions.
12. Patient and Family Advisory Board will be celebrating its 4th birthday of existence in July. This group of 12 has been an integral part of the planning and implementation around many projects internally and externally.
13. Donor signage was installed on Tuesday by Edwards Creative- it looks amazing!

**Misc:**

Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa is still taking calls from their Homeless Hotline at 1-833-587-8322. The Homeless Hotline is also being used to coordinate drop-offs of groceries with Dubuque Area Labor Harvest.

Coral Joblansky from the Riverview Center said they can take new clients right now.

Stacy Sherman said that Catholic Charities is taking new clients for Telehealth (or in-person) Counseling. Refer anyone to 563-588-0558 to make an appointment for Counseling. In addition, they accept insurance, however - also have a sliding fee scale and they do not turn anyone away for inability to pay for counseling.