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**Human Service Provider Call**

**6/4/2020**

**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 announced its FEMA grant recipients this week. They were able to award over $76,000 in food needs to our local Dubuque County partners. A press release will be sent out soon.

We continue to meet every other week with United Ways of Iowa group to talk about what it means for our communities across the state how communities across the state are doing, how people are working together, and where potential opportunities for the partnership may be.

Paula Paider Licht has started as the new Director of Community Building & Impact. Welcome, Paula!

**Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque Updates:**

There is approximately $640,000 left of the Disaster Relief fund to distribute. This week, they allocated one grant in the amount of $20,475 to St. Mark Youth Enrichment. These funds will go towards their summer program.

There is still funding available 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>

**St. Mark Youth Enrichment Update:**

Kaitlin Schmidt announced that they will be serving around 75 kids through their summer programming. Unfortunately, due to many circumstances, they are unable to provide services in Dyersville for their summer program.

St. Mark’s has connected with the Head Start program in Epworth. They are sharing with them St. Mark’s social-emotional packages for children. There is a Head Start facility in Dyersville so that may be an opportunity to reach children and families in Dyersville.

Dawn mentioned that if they have to go back to virtual teaching, there will be even more of a childcare crisis for parents who are teachers and those who are returning to work.

**City of Dubuque/Dubuque County Updates:**

Dubuque County Supervisor Ann McDonough wanted to emphasize that you can’t be evicted without a court order. The timing of some evictions will relate to when the courthouse opens. Whenever the court hearing is set is when the final date of eviction is. Iowa Legal Aid reported to Ann that before the moratorium was lifted, statewide there were 633 FED’s filed and only 29 of those were in Dubuque. Last Thursday, the sheriff reported that 50 FED’s were filed in Dubuque County. Ann also mentioned that she met with the Dyersville Food Bank and they are receiving a tremendous number of requests.

Jerelyn O’Connor reported that the City received many applications for the Emergency Rent & Mortgage Assistance Program. The State’s Rental Assistance program is taking applications as well.

**Catholic Charities Update:**

Stacy Sherman reported that Catholic Charities did receive some direct assistance funding for their Operation Help program. Operation Help operates to fill in the gaps of needs in the community. They work alongside the other social services agencies to receive referrals from people who have been enrolled in their programs, but they are still finding unmet needs and finding gaps for people who don’t qualify for certain programs. They have gotten referrals for people applying for General Relief but were ineligible. This funding will go towards helping those folks with their rent and utility bills. They have been primarily working together with Hillcrest, Salvation Army, Presentation Lantern Center, and some of the shelters. They have distributed almost $40,000 since April 1st. They do have a little bit of funding left from their Disaster Grant so if any agency knows of clients who are not able to pay rent or utility bills, contact Stacy Sherman at s.sherman@dbqarch.org

**Child Care/St. Mark’s Updates and Discussion:**

The group discussed St. Mark’s difficult decision to not have their services operational in Dyersville this summer. Kaitlin Schmidt said they are exploring ways to be present without meeting in person. Dawn added that Dyersville is at the top of their priority list and their programming team is meeting to discuss how to meet the needs of the children and families there. Ann McDonough recommended reaching out to the Dyersville Head Start program.

Ann said that she would have known none of this information if she had not jumped on this call. She asked, what are we doing to communicate this information to our Boards? Our elected officials? She also wants to build a discussion on people who do not have the privilege to choose whether or not to send their children to daycare. It is important to build solutions and planning together for our community.

Abbey Degenhardt (Dubuque County Early Childhood) chimed in to explain the community group that is already in place to discuss childcare needs. Before, the group was focused on providing childcare for those who attend NICC programming. Now, the issue has evolved into something far bigger.

Ann asked what the statistics are. Who is getting childcare, who is not getting childcare? How many openings are there? Abbey said that there are openings in childcare for people who are re-entering the workforce. However, she said that they are waiting to see how everything pans out. It is difficult to plan when they have no idea what everything is going to look like in the next few months.

Danielle Peterson offered to do outreach to Kristin Dietzel and ask her about re-engaging a group to discuss child care needs and how to leverage our resources. Ann wants the group to also consider transportation issues and how those can be addressed relating to childcare. If anyone is interested in joining this group to address childcare issues, reach out to Danielle at danielle.peterson@dbqunitedway.org or Abbey at director@dcearlychild.org. Amy Schauer recommended they include Kim Gonzales from VNA in their group.

Danielle Shea (Dubuque Community YM/YWCA) shared a challenge that also needs to be addressed is maintain staffing to serve in childcare centers as well as DHS regulations of space, etc.

Jordan O’Connell from NICC said that they are wrapping up a Child Care Career Pathway Certificate class that helps those students be able to open their own childcare center. Also, he has been working with incoming students about finding open childcare spots and has not had any issues. He asked this group to help promote this program which is heavily promoted through Opportunity Dubuque.

Ann asked Jordan about data collection. Many people are getting more money on unemployment than their previous jobs. She asked if there have been surveys about the difference that extra income made in people’s lives and businesses. If we can build the case to get more money into the hands of people who work in childcare, they will more likely want to do it. Through NICC, Ann thinks that would be an avenue to do the surveys and data collection. She said it doesn’t matter the number of surveys received, what matters is that data is collected. She said that Whitney Sanger from Project Rooted received 50 responses about healthy food and school lunch programs, as an example.

Jordan responded by saying that they have been in conversations with Kristin Dietzel from Greater Dubuque Development Corporation about what data they want. They have arrived at 11 separate data points they are tracking. One example is that they are tracking what percent of people who are pursuing or expressing any interest in a career pathway certificate program are parents, need childcare, and how NICC helped them. Whether it was helping them identify a childcare center, giving advice, referring them to a center, etc. Ultimately, NICC is trying to identify what group of people are not coming to NICC because of childcare being a barrier for them.

**Rapid Rehousing:**

Ann also mentioned she feels there is a need for rapid rehousing in our community. She has already been in conversations with HACAP and Hillcrest regarding rapid rehousing.

Stacy Sherman added that she spoke with Amanda Hohmann from Community Services of Eastern Iowa and she mentioned that they had applied for rapid rehousing funds and emergency solutions funds through Iowa Finance Authority. They are continuing to organize the homeless hotline and the Coordinated Entry system for homelessness for Dubuque and Delaware County. Danielle reminded the group that Hillcrest Family Services received additional funding for housing needs.

Ann stated she is talking about putting people into empty buildings immediately who would otherwise be homeless. She wants there to be a purchase and renovations of a facility whose distinct purpose would be rapid rehousing. She is challenging the group to look at a much broader view and building some kind of system that is bricks and mortar.

Danielle answered by saying that it will be a good discussion as our various housing groups convene. She mentioned there are many agencies that are part of that group including Opening Doors, CSEI, United Way, Homeless Advisory Coalition, and the City of Dubuque, to name a few.

**Dubuque Community YMCA/YWCA:**

Danielle Shea reported that as they look at their summer programs, they have also had to decrease the number of kids they can have in their facilities. They might run into a similar issue in the fall when kids are going back to school since it is still unsure what that will look like. Depending on what the school year looks like, they might run into issues with getting enough staff for before and after school care.

Danielle mentioned that right now they are only able to serve 40 kids when they are using to serving 75 or more children. Because of DHS regulations, Danielle mentioned that they are going to run out space in Dubuque to serve all the children who need childcare resources. Right now, they are trying to collect what the need is going to be so that way they can make an educated decision on if they are going to be able to run as normal. They have to have 15 children signed up for before and after school care in order to run those programs.

Right now, there is an estimated start date of August 13 for the upcoming school year. However, that still needs to be passed by the School Board. Ann mentioned that there are public strategy meetings with the school board that is critical to have agencies attend. Danielle Shea said she will make sure the YMCA is present at those meeting but that the YMCA has strong ties with the school district.

**Misc:**

Danielle Peterson said that funding was granted to homeless prevention services. 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.

If anyone has questions about unemployment or wants to file a claim, they should continue to contact the Unemployment Service Center at 866-239-0843. The website continues to provide updates: [www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov).

Amy Schauer mentioned that she thinks another barrier for kids this summer is going to be accessing the parks. The City of Dubuque had posted that they were not opening equipment or restrooms because of budgetary restrictions of sanitizing daily. She asked if there is a way we can work on getting parks open as things begin to open.

Megan Ruiz thanked the group for helping to get funds at the Lantern Center food pantry. Over 150 people (including about 30 children) have been helped weekly. They are starting to get low on funds & will re-apply soon.

We will meet on Thursday mornings at 9 am. The link to pre- register is here: <https://dbqunitedway.org/covid-19-nonprofit-support>