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**Human Service Provider Call**

**8/6/2020**

**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:**

Danielle Peterson –

* Working with COAD – (see Peter Supple, CF) Continue to encourage non-profits to apply. Nonprofit assistance through the CARES Act. Even if you don’t meet the initial criteria, applications will be put in a queue. If criteria widens and there are funds left, the organization’s information is there.
* Over 2,200 inquiries to 211 since the beginning of this calendar year. The top referrals have been to IDPH/Test Iowa, general assistance through Resources Unite, LIHEAP and utilities. About 10 unmet needs; some related to homelessness and questions about VITA, one transportation, and one legal aid question. Please share with your networks and if any changes need to be made, contact Paula Paider Licht paula.paiderlicht@dbqunitedway.org or Danielle Peterson Danielle.peterson@dbqunitedway.org
* Childcare: 291 surveys completed in English and a handful in Spanish. Since last call, all families had to commit to educational model (hybrid or virtual only). Concerns with large number of kids staying home, what additional educational supports do they need? See Childcare/Abby Dagenhart below for more information.
* Back to School Bash – this week Friday 8/7 12-2pm at Prescott. Modified version, drive/walk through. Bags containing a shirt, thermometer, book, and other items will be distributed.
* Get connected portal – if you have any opportunities, especially virtual, please post. Over 4,500 people on this site. <http://dbqunitedway.galaxydigital.com/>

**Community Foundation:**

Peter Supple –

* Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COAD) work: Approved Hills and Dales last week for COVID related expenses. Yesterday, tabled one and approve three: Almost Home: COVID related expenses, Dubuque Rescue Mission: mobile food truck, and Hillcrest Family Services: return to learn program. If your agency has been impacted by COVID, contact CF or UW about available grant funds <https://www.dbqfoundation.org/disaster-recovery-fund-covid-19-response-fund-support-your-neighbors-and-friends>

**City of Dubuque:**

Kelly Larson –

* Tonight, council is going to consider a mask mandate. (Which was approved) By ordinance or proclamation. Proclamation, criminal misdemeanor if violation. If ordinance, it is a fine (example $10). Also considering restricting restaurants, bars, and gyms to 50% occupancy (not approved). If mask mandate passes, will be looking at distribution locations for free masks. Open to suggestions for that.
* In addition to Test IA site at Epic, free COVID testing at Hartigs and Union Family Pharmacy. These additional locations are accessible via public transit. People need to fill out registration at <https://doineedacovid19test.com/>
* City offices continue to be closed to the public until September 8th.
* Finance department has changed hours. This impacts utility billing. The new hours are: 7:00am – 5:00pm Mon. - Thu., 7:00am – 1:00pm on Friday. AM pre-work hours for people.
* Masks now required on the Jule.
* Governor has indicated there will be some reimbursement for cities out of federal funds. Waiting for more details on that.
* Supposed to hear on the 15th what local sales tax consequences have been. This will help with a clearer picture for next year’s budget.
* Housing – Funds available for housing and eviction assistance. City utilities - sent out 900 notifications to families who are delayed on utilities. Help work with them on a payment plan and apply for the assistance program. Got very few responses. If you know of anyone who needs utility assistance for city utilities, get in touch with city finance department. A lot of people were denied assistance because they were getting $600 additional unemployment funds. Now going back to reevaluate.

**City Housing:**

Ryan Feller –

* Going back through applicants that were denied. Most folks do qualify since they lost the extra $600.
* Paying monthly rent for quite a few people so they don’t get evicted.
* Had an uptick in inquiries based on the utility billing agreement. Want to work with and get a payment plan. A lot of inquiries. To dates over 425 inquiries. And about 50 full applications (approximately). Encourage anyone to do that. The money is still there. Taking calls daily. <https://www.cityofdubuque.org/FormCenter/Housing-and-Community-Development-7/COVID-NonProfit-Support-Grant-Applicatio-402>

**Catholic Charites:**
Stacy Sherman –

* Team of services providers (Catholic Charities, Salvation Army, Hillcrest, Resources Unite) that are collaborating on individual cases. Primarily families that have received eviction notices to ensure people are applying for exiting programs, general relief and through the city rental assistance program first. Then if they are not qualified, working together with landlords to see if we can make up their back rent get them in a position to maintain their housing. Sometimes it works, sometimes they want to proceed with eviction. If want to move to eviction, referring people to ECIA for rapid rehousing.
* Catholic Charities is accepting NEW CLIENTS for Telehealth and in-person Counseling. Please call 563-588-0558. We accept those that do not have insurance through a sliding fee scale and DO NOT turn anyone away for inability to pay.

**Childcare Group Updates:**

Abby Dagenhart –

* Meeting today 8/6/20 at noon. All are invited. E amil Abby director@dcearlychild.org, Tara Roddick, Danielle Peterson or Paula Paider Licht for a link.
* There will be updates form school districts (DBQ, W DBQ, Holy Family)
* There will be discussion about wrap around care/childcare space. Making sure wrap around and childcare space is a safe place to go when not in school. Y care has partnered with RTA to get kids to and from school. Discuss how are kids getting to school. If they are not in school and can’t be at home, that they have a safe place to go.
* Will be discussing how are employees are preparing for this school schedule. Hoping business can get creative. If there is empty office space can they monitor kids and assist with education.
* Want to make sure kids are safe and have access to food.
* Send Abby a message if you would like to be involved
* Family resource guide that DCEC puts out every year at the Kids Expo is still going to be printed and distributed despite the Expo being cancelled. Trying to find the number of families we have in Dubuque County and want to make sure each family gets one copy of the resource guide. Children’s brain health group is creating an insert to go into resource guide. Donor covered the cost of printing about 10,000 of these. Hoping to get them out at the beginning of October.

**Iowa Work Force Development:**

Ron Axtell –

* The additional $600 ended in IA on July 25th. People will see a significant change this week. Some discussion at Federal leave about extending that. Anything will take time to implement.
* If exhausted traditional unemployment of 26 weeks, may be eligible for and addition 13 weeks of pandemic emergency unemployment compensation. IWD will automatically transition people to this program at the end of the 26 weeks of benefits. Very important to continue to file weekly claims so there is no break in receipt of benefits, especially if going from one program to another.
* If individuals applied for state unemployment insurance and were denied, they may be eligible for pandemic unemployment assistance if you were unable to work due to COVID-19.
* Continue to use the 866 #, do not call the local office.
* Please encourage people to access the IWD website if they have any Unemployment claim questions or issues. <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/COVID-19>

**Brain Health:**

Sue Whitty –

* Only piece of regional funding that we have heard about at this time. Mental Health Supports for teachers - provide some teacher support for the stress and anxiety that is connected with going back to school and feeling at risk. Anxiety is extreme right now.
* Private practice outpatient mental health clinicians seem to be full. Most private practice individuals put their name on Psychology Today. This is one way they get their referrals. Some are not on the 211 resource list. 361 providers in the area. They are all full and getting fuller because of COVID.

**St. John’s Almost Home:**

Gwen Kirchhof–

* If they can get people hired, they will look at opening in September instead of their typical opening in October.

**SASC:**

Mary Boots –

* Continuing to provide telehealth options for substance use and problem gambling.
* Gearing up for schools going back in session. Trying to reach students with our high-risk youth programing in the middle and high schools. Provide support to students who are high risk for substance use as well as those impacted by substance use in their home.
* Prevention team is also active in preparations to provide prevention services, evidence-based curriculum in schools. On preventionist works a lot with 3rd grade classes and is getting creative adapting lessons to be able to interact virtually with students.
* Offices are closed to the public. Still processing what phase 1 will look like. Potentially end of August to serve client that are really in need of face to face and/or don’t have zoom capabilities. Keep pushing it back to ensure staff and community stay healthy.
* Anyone looking to engage in services at SASC can call 563-582-3784 to access any type of services.

**Mindful Minutes:**

Molly Schreiber –

* Working with the school district on what best delivery is.
* Looking at doing at home subscription boxes. Create 1000 boxes that have activities for their social emotional learning.
* Have started offering live zoom classes. Currently have to charge but looking for grant funding to offer it at no cost. Want any student anywhere to be able to zoom in and have a live teacher teaching to them.
* Still talking with district. Two by Two offering their curriculums online – it is a “can do” but hoping to be on the “should do” side. We know social emotional learning and brain health is so needed. In conversations with Mae Hintgen on how we can expand this to other schools in our areas. Also in W. DBQ schools, going to do a video for now and go live as soon as they can.
* Questions: Molly Schreiber Mollymschreiber@gmail.com 563-542-1168

**St. Mark:**

Dawn Cogan –

* Working closely with Dubuque and Western Dubuque school districts.
* Plan do DBQ all virtual.
* W DBQ – going back to regular classes M- Th, plan is to provide on-site programming.
* Connecting with partners to see what is most helpful for them in the capacity of what we do.
* Figuring out how to get supplies to families.

**HACAP:**

Heather Harney –

* Received Head Start grant. Working with CDI with transition effective Oct 1st that aligns with merger with Operation New view. Will take place over the next month and a half.

**CHAT BOX**

Volunteer Iowa, IEDA Launch Iowa Nonprofit Recovery FundFinancial Assistance Now Available to Eligible Nonprofits Impacted by COVID-19August 3, 2020 (DES MOINES) – Volunteer Iowa and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announced today the launch of the Iowa Nonprofit Recovery Fund, an extension of the Iowa Small Business Relief Grant Program.The program will provide short-term relief to nonprofit organizations that have seen reduced revenue and/or increased costs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible nonprofits may be awarded a grant of up to $25,000, based on income, expenses, outstanding obligations and other state and federal assistance received. The program has $10 million available, which was allocated through federal CARES Act funds.

<https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/covid-19/>

The COVID-19 Iowa Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention program has expanded its eligibility criteria to now allow more Iowans to receive assistance with their rent and mortgage payments. These changes allow renters and homeowners who previously received $600 unemployment benefits to now be eligible to apply for rent and mortgage assistance. You can learn more about eligibility, program details, and the application process here: <https://www.iowafinance.com/covid-19-iowa-eviction-and-foreclosure-prevention-program/>

Housing seems to be an issue of concern: Short term housing; where can one stay when the shelters are full and motels stays are very expensive? Can we look into short term transitional housing specifically for CO-VID 19 families who lost jobs, housing, and income? A brain health care coordinator indicated that there is a limited list of open housing locations for her population.

Danielle reached out for un update on numbers from General Assistance at RU:

Things have been going well with General Assistance.  Definitely busy. We've noticed a sizable increase of applicants once the first round of evictions took place toward the end of July.  Based on what people are sharing and what landlords are sharing, I think the need is going to continue to go up.