**Human Service Provider Call**

**06/17/2021**

**Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/pFx4B_hd4JtwAgsv69SPYgSsfgiGSFJslwqjTcrw8lfp_QmbL75yu5cUsFgQMty_.LeUUqxtBg5bzQ7He?startTime=1611240722000>

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

* Group discussion: What would we like from this group moving forward? Is it Still beneficial to meet monthly?
  + Yes, continue to meet and share information (does not have to be COIVD related).
  + Monthly is good (any longer in between would be too long).
  + Notes from the meetings are helpful.
* Just started year two of our two-year funding cycle. Currently funds are distributed to 31 nonprofits in the tri-states that support health, education, and income.
  + New competitive funding cycle in January 2022.
* Over the Edge event on Friday September 10th. Sign up to go Over the Edge or become a sponsor. <https://dbqunitedway.org/over-the-edge> This fundraiser is extremely important to help support our community impact fund.
* COVID immunizations, call Sleeve’s up 563-587-4950 or <https://www.cityofdubuque.org/2965/COVID-19-Vaccinations>
* Continue to work with COAD’s Long Term Recovery Group to distribute Disaster Relief Funds for relief locally (see below update).
* 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/>
* Please be sure your agency information is updated and accurate in the 211-information system. It is important that 211 can give out accurate information to those calling in. <https://www.211iowa.org/>
* Professional Clothes Closet is open in the basement of NICC (downtown DBQ) and full. Please feel free to send people over. There is a variety of sizes and options for all people.
* Juneteen Celebration facilitated by Multicultural Family Center Saturday 6/19 at Comiskey Park. <https://www.mfcdbq.org/>
* **Next meeting June 17th (third Thursday)**

**COAD – Long Range Planning Committee**

Peter Supple

* Meting every other week.
* Applications slowed down significantly. One application since last meeting:
  + VNA – COVID Immunization incentives

**Community Foundation**

Alex Baum

* Would like to get special requirements food pantry set up, if AARP money comes through.
  + Need for people with special dietary needs as well as culturally relevant foods.
* Good uptick in vaccines in several our immigrant populations.
  + Marshallese population is doing well – they work closely with Crescent Community Health Center
  + Fair amount of success with our Latino populations especially because of Gisella and Lee.
  + Good progress with our Guatemalan Mayan population.
  + Vaccine rates with our black populations has not been as high.
  + There have been some recorded Q & A sessions, one in Marshallese, one in Spanish, and one with African American doctors and community members.

Cynthia Wehrenberg – Every Child Reads

* Our Focus has been on attendance. Working with the school district to create awareness around this, especially preschool, kindergarten & 1st grade age group as they have the highest chronic absenteeism rates
* 2nd book is in the works. Turning out well! Still need to find funding for it. IF that happens, hoping to push out Aug/Sept. to be ready for attendance awareness month and complement the roll out of what the school district doing around attendance.
* Transportation – continues to be an issue. Writing a grant, not a lot of criteria. Write for how to improve our childcare system if we had transportation. Early conversations being had and kicking around ideas. This is a long term, not going to happen overnight.

**VNA**

Sara Herzog

* Vaccine at the Mall winding down.
* VNA is at the mall on Fridays for walk in clinics through July as well as on site at VNA.

**Catholic Charities**

Stacy Sherman

* Coordinated entry process has really come together in the last 6 months. ECIA has been leading the group and facilitates the Homeless Hotline: 833-587-8322
  + Not just people who are homeless, also for those who are at risk of homelessness (can’t pay rent or behind on rent).
  + To streamline the process people only have to call one agency instead of multiple.
  + ECIA does an initial assessment and determines the best process for them. Puts them on prioritization list through coordinated entry or on a community homeless prevention referral list.
  + Many organizations working together on this list to meet the needs of the community.
* We are accepting new clients for counseling.
  + Offering in person and telehealth appointments.
  + To make an appointment for counseling 563-588-0558, we do not turn anyone away for their inability to pay.
  + Encourage people that need brain heath support to reach out.

**St. Mark**

Kaitlin Schmidt

* Offering summer programing in person. Seeing lower numbers but keeping ratios the same to allow for social distancing and smaller group sizes.
  + Having about 120 for Dubuque (90) and Dyersville (30).
* Extended our typical ½ day program to longer, for full day.
* Utilizing some space at the Boys and Girls Club
* Wrapped up school year with about 6 weeks in person (DBQ). W. DBQ we were in person for the majority of the time.
* Saw higher needs in students for social emotional support at the end of the school year.

**HACAP**

Ron Axtell

* Continue to take applications for the Head Start program, 3 and 4 year old’s for the fall. Contact our office 563-556-5130.
* Working with IA Finance Authority on Iowa Rent and Utilities Assistance Program. Helping them process applications. Additional Information: <https://www.iowafinance.com/iowa-rent-and-utility-assistance-program/>
* Finished VITA, ended May 17th.
  + 758 Free Returns Completed for Delaware, Jackson, and DBQ
  + Majority was 2020, but did have some for 2017,18, & 19.
  + Generating over 1 million in federal refunds. That includes $187,000 for federal earned income tax credit and $238,000 in stimulus payments.
  + IA State refunds totaled $260,000.
  + Some AARP volunteers helped HACAP. Because they are very knowledgeable, they could do advanced returns. They were able to process a handful of IL & WI returns. IL returns over $5000 & WI over $2000.
  + This year was a bit of a cumbersome process as it was not in person. Everything was drop off/drop in. There was a lot of back and forth. All returns had to be reviewed by a certified volunteer, which added to the process.

**NEI3A**

Lisa Wetzl

* Slowing returning back to normal.
* In the process of getting the hot home delivery meals back out.
* Doing a soft opening at senior centers as long as we can meet all of the guidelines in place.
* Some in person classes resuming at some locations (Thai chi and matter of balance).
* Seeing a lot of issues around social isolation. May see some long-term impacts.

**Iowa Workforce Development**

Lisa Farley

* If any agency needs a volunteer, I have someone who would like to do some volunteer work.  She didn't specify what she'd like to do, but she has some work experience in customer service.  If anyone needs a volunteer, please have them contact me by phone or email:  563-556-5800, extension 48119 or [Lisa.Farley@iwd.iowa.gov](mailto:Lisa.Farley@iwd.iowa.gov).
* Our office is open to assist job seekers!  No appointment is needed.  Virtual workshops are also being offered. If a person doesn't have the ability to use Zoom at home, he/she can come to our office for that also.
* Here are reminders from the IWD website:
  + Effective June 12, 2021, the State of Iowa will end its participation in federal pandemic-related unemployment benefit programs. Iowa will continue to pay regular unemployment claims.
  + IWD will resume charging employers for all COVID-related unemployment insurance claims filed after June 12, 2021.
* **Find new employment opportunities posted daily at**[**www.IowaWORKS.gov.(link is exter**](https://www.iowaworks.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx) IowaWORKS.gov helps job seekers upload their resume, apply for jobs, chat with workforce advisors, and more! Employers can also post job openings and get assistance from IowaWORKS staff. Create an account at [**www.IowaWORKS.gov**](https://www.iowaworks.gov/vosnet/Default.aspx)**.**

**City of Dubuque**

Equitable fines and fees – survey from Loras College to collect data for the City of DBQ. Please share this far and wide. <http://cityofdubuque.org/equitablefinessurvey> Ends on June 30th

**Next Meeting: July 15th**